

CITIZENS' BUREAU OBJECT IS DEFINED

Chamber of Commerce Secretary Says Check Will Insure More Efficiency.

RESULT ELSEWHERE CITED

While One Man Has Offered to Stand Expense of Department, Mr. Hardy Thinks It Should Be Borne by Taxpayers.

BY GEORGE E. HARDY, Executive Secretary Portland Chamber of Commerce.

Efficiency and co-operation are words that have been much in use and considerably misused during the past six or eight years. However, such things are a reality and not a dream.

"Playing Politics" Found Harmful. True it is that nearly all men in the higher public offices are earnest, sincere, honest and zealous of rendering service that will give maximum results and general satisfaction.

The great need of the day is more business efficiency in public office and less political inefficiency. But we are tied to customs long established and deep rooted, regardless of the change from time to time in forms of government.

Does the citizen—the average citizen—co-operate in the affairs of municipal government? Is he sufficiently interested and does he bring to bear his public affairs to co-operate intelligently with his officials in City Hall or County Courthouse?

The average citizen is too much inclined to think that he has discharged all of his duties as a citizen when he votes once a year or once in every two years. The chances are that he proceeds to mark his ballot without a very clear understanding of a majority of the propositions he is to vote upon.

A bureau of public efficiency and economy, the function of which, in part, will be to give to the public in graphic chart form and in clear, understandable statements the facts and figures regarding the expenditure of public money, and many other matters of concern to the "stockholders"—the taxpayers.

Good Profit Predicted. Can you think of any activity that will pay bigger dividends? What will it cost? Perhaps \$10,000 the first year and \$15,000 a year thereafter.

The cost of maintaining a bureau, during a period of three years, would be returned to taxpayers many times over, if the experience in other cities is repeated.

In New York, in the first or second year of the work of the Bureau of Municipal Research, a saving of \$2,000,000 was made in the operation of the water works department.

In Cincinnati, a "sleeper" was taken out of a paving specification after a fight of two years. How much that meant to the citizens can hardly be calculated. It prevented many paving jobs being "shined" as had been a practice quite general in that city.

In Los Angeles it was found that \$300,000 a year was spent for a certain part of street cleaning. A survey or check on the work being made showed clearly a waste of 22 per cent. Nearly all of that waste has been eliminated. But the Los Angeles bureau is a part of the municipal government. Its director is regarded as a part of the official family and is made to feel the pressure of the crowd in office.

Citizens' Agency Favored. How much better results could be obtained if the bureau were a citizens' agency, free and clear of all City Hall and Courthouse influence? A bureau in charge of a director, an expert, from out of the city, independent of all political, financial or friendly ties. A director of experience, making him an authority in matters of government and in matters concerning the expenditure of public money. There would be much less complaint about taxes, if the taxpayers were better satisfied with the returns for money expended.

Work of Bureau Analyzed. Again, what is a bureau of public efficiency and economy? It is a taxpayers' or citizens' service agency to study and to promote efficient and scientific management of municipal affairs. The purpose is twofold: First, to get things done for the community, through co-operation with persons who are in office, by increasing efficiency and eliminating waste.

Should we have, in Portland, a Bureau of Public Efficiency and Economy? We should! The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce has endorsed the idea and referred the matter to its bureau of taxation and legislation with the request that a plan be worked out.

Having faith in our men and women of Portland we feel confident that means will be provided to guarantee the financial support of a bureau for three years. A number have volunteered to support, and one of our most public-spirited men, who has already done much for the city and county, stands ready to furnish all the money needed.

THEATER STARS TO APPEAR IN NEW YEAR'S MIDNIGHT MATINEE.



Ed B. Hanson.

Vaudeville acts from the Pantages and Empress theaters, a special act by the Baker Players and a musical comedy in a nut shell from the Lyric will be but a few of the diversified attractions at the ninth annual midnight matinee on New Year's eve.

The Emmett Children will take part, and a new figure, Ed B. Hanson, a clever interpreter of Swedish roles, is also scheduled to appear. On December 25 tickets will be on sale at the theaters and at Huntley's drug store. All the funds collected will be devoted to the needy stage folk.

Wenatchee Shipments Jump. WENATCHEE, Wash., Dec. 18.—(Special.)—Since the Wenatchee district began in 1902 to raise enough fruit to be assembled and shipped in straight carloads, 25,748 cars had been shipped to February 23, according to complete records of the Great Northern Railway.

O. A. C. Class to Erect Fountain. OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Dec. 18.—(Special.)—The senior class at the Oregon Agricultural College has voted to donate a drinking fountain to the college as a class monument.

New Suit Enters Into Land Tangle. PENDLETON, Or., Dec. 18.—(Special.)—As a sequel to several suits which have been brought against Mrs. Georgiana A. Skinner by Leroy Furnas and others Mrs. Skinner today filed suit in the Circuit Court against Furnas contesting title to a piece of land in

Practical and Useful Xmas Suggestions - MAHOAGANY - J. G. MACK & CO. Furniture and Floor Coverings. Fifth Street, Between Oak and Pine.

JITNEY MEN ASK FOR AID

MAYOR INVITED TO HELP OUST RECKLESS DRIVERS. Union Seeks to Eliminate Objectionable Features by Revoking Licenses of Offenders.

The Portland Jitney Drivers' Union will seek to force reckless jitney drivers out of business. A. A. Thielke, president of the union, had a conference yesterday with Mayor Albion when he proposed to have recommendations of Portland officials to Secretary of State Elliott that the licenses of drivers convicted of reckless driving be revoked.

Umatilla County over which there has been much controversy. First Furnas brought suit against Mr. Skinner which was thrown out on account of the property being in the name of Mrs. Skinner. Another suit is pending. The land is in the west end of the county near Echo.

MORALS TALK SCHEDULED

Mrs. Baldwin Is Invited to Work With Jitney Union. To secure the support of the jitney drivers in weeding out the members whose conduct with young girls is not above reproach, Mrs. Lola G. Baldwin, superintendent of the Municipal Bureau for Protection of Women, will address a meeting of the Chauffeurs' Union, Local No. 163, at the Labor Temple tomorrow night.

Hotel Men to Junket. OREGON DELEGATION TO LEAVE FOR SEATTLE TOMORROW. Luncheon Ride to Navy-Yard and Banquet Are to Be Provided for Guests Who Are Returning Call.

Contract Release Asked. Property Worth \$200,000 Is Involved in Suit by Lessees. Property fronting on Stark street between Tenth and Eleventh streets, estimated to be worth \$200,000, is involved in a suit brought in Circuit Court yesterday by the Crown Company against the heirs and trustees of the late Clara Friendly.

NATIONAL CAPITOL SNOWBOUND FOR FIRST TIME THIS WINTER.



SCENE AFTER SNOWSTORM OF DEC. 12. This picturesque photograph of the Capitol at Washington, D. C. was taken after the snowstorm, December 12. Official and other folk of Washington were surprised to find the city under a blanket of snow when they awoke in the morning. This view was taken at the Capitol grounds and shows the Capitol in the distance.

THE problem of the selection of the handsomest and most useful Christmas gift is most happily solved by THERMOS. Bottles—Carafes—Jugs—Jars or Kits—For Thermos serves them right—Food or drink—Hot or cold—When, where and as they like.

HOTEL MEN TO JUNKET

Oregon delegation to leave for Seattle tomorrow. Luncheon ride to Navy-Yard and banquet are to be provided for guests who are returning call.

Portland Headquarters for THERMOS

All styles of Thermos Bottles, from the half-pint size (illustrated) at \$1.75 to the Thermos Auto Kits at \$45 and \$60, will be found at Meier & Frank's.

CONTRACT RELEASE ASKED

Property Worth \$200,000 Is Involved in Suit by Lessees. Property fronting on Stark street between Tenth and Eleventh streets, estimated to be worth \$200,000, is involved in a suit brought in Circuit Court yesterday by the Crown Company against the heirs and trustees of the late Clara Friendly.

THERMOS BOTTLES

We know no more sensible, more serviceable or more practicable gift than one of these world-famous Thermos Bottles. This store, which always specializes in standard merchandise, carries a full line of Thermos Bottles.

California Worm Proves Undoing of Oregon Fruit.

The news has finally leaked out. The acute discernment of a California worm wrested from Oregon growers the highest award at the late Panama-Pacific Exposition for superiority in apples.

Thermos Bottles

All sizes and prices. Just the thing for all occasions. Woodward Clark & Co. ALDER STREET AT WEST PARK - MARSHALL 4700 - HOME 6171

Tiny Nibbler That Favored Best Apple Is Hamed for Loss of Prize at Fair.

When the awards were being made at the exposition the Oregon display was seven points ahead of all other growers. "Let's take as a final proof of the excellence of the Oregon apple a single fruit, chosen at random," said one of the judges.

Another New One at \$5.50 the Pair

Side Button, Imported Velvet, Blue, Brown and Black, Long Vamp, Plain Toe. KNIGHT SHOE CO. Morrison Street, Near Broadway.

WOMEN INSTRUCTORS TO PLAY BALL.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Dec. 18.—(Special.)—Women members of the Oregon faculty are planning to have a basketball team and hope to compete with the various co-ed classes. During the holidays the faculty players are going to put in some strenuous practice.

Marriage Annulment Sought.

PRINEVILLE, Or., Dec. 18.—(Special.)—Mr. and Mrs. Seavers, of Richmond, are endeavoring to have the marriage of their daughter, Marceline, to Jay Parsons annulled. The young couple were married in Prineville a few days ago. In obtaining the license the girl's age was given as 20 years, but is only 16.

Rationalists Meet Tonight.

"Schopenhauer's Life and Philosophy" will be discussed before the Portland Rationalists Meet Tonight.

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