

NEW RETIRING FUND COURSE IS IN DOUBT

Neither Teachers Nor School
Board Has Plan Yet.

SYSTEM NOW ON ROCKS

Whether Directors Will Favor or
Oppose Increase in County
Aid Is Still Debatable.

Neither teachers of the city schools, who are prospective beneficiaries under the pension plan, nor members of the district school board are prepared at present to outline the course that must be taken if the bankrupt Teachers' Retirement Fund association is to be restored to solvency.

That the association fund was inadequate, through the growth of membership, to care for its eventual demands, has for some time been considered certain by both teachers and school officials. But the serious nature of the deficiency could only be ascertained at the actuary's report was received, showing that the fund is only 12 per cent solvent.

Board Attitude Debatable.

Whether the school board will favor or oppose an increase in county aid for the fund is debatable. Director Newill has expressed the opinion that the district should not appropriate more than the present 3 per cent of the school fund, which is fixed by legislative act. Director Woodward believes that readjustment should include a larger fixed subvention, as well as materially increased dues from the teachers.

"We were opposed to putting any more money in the fund unless there was a reorganization," said Mr. Newill. "I am not prepared, however, to say just what my vote would be until I have more thoroughly surveyed the situation. We feel that we should do all we can, but we also feel that the members of the association should do everything they can to insure its financial stability."

District Support Urged.

Director Woodward, though unprepared to estimate the increased appropriation, said that the district should be backed by the district with an increase of the school fund percentage, provided the teachers materially advanced theirs.

"I never thought the amount of subvention would be sufficient, as the force of teachers was augmented," said Mr. Woodward. "The purpose of the fund is laudable, and I believe that the appropriation should be increased, with an additional measurable increase in the amount contributed by the teachers. It would be too great a burden for them to carry alone, and at a time when the pension system is merely deferred compensation."

Legislature Amends Law.

At the recent session of the legislature an amendment to the teachers' retirement fund act was presented and passed by the suggestion of the school board and with the approval of the teachers. Devised for the protection of the school fund as well as for the security of the pension system, this amendment provides that the board may withhold its appropriation if the fund is shown to be below the actuarial limit, as it now is.

Leona L. Larrabee, president of the pension association, who has been reorganizing meetings for April 2, is of the opinion that the adjustment will be carried before the next session of the legislature, praying for an additional appropriation to insure the stability of the fund. Unless the district aid is increased, believes Miss Larrabee, the dues required to maintain the system will prove too burdensome for the teachers, inasmuch as they will aggregate several times the amount now contributed.

FLEGEL GETS COMMISSION

Young Portland Man Now Captain
in Regular Army.

Earl Flegel, son of Austin F. Flegel Sr., president of the Jackson club, has received a permanent commission as captain in the regular army, according to word received here. His commission was confirmed recently by congress, to date from July 1, 1920.

Coincidentally with the news of his promotion, his family received word that Captain Flegel had completely recovered from an attack of tuberculosis, from which he had been suffering for 18 months. He has been assigned to the 38th infantry, regular army, and ordered to El Paso, Texas. He was appointed temporary captain nearly a year ago, but was reduced to the grade of first lieutenant July 1, when wholesale army reductions were made.

Before entering the army Captain Flegel was a prominent athlete at Jefferson high school and Willamette university.

WHITE TEMPLE IN RACE

Membership Contest With First
Baptist of Seattle Is on.

Members of the White Temple Baptist church, as the result of their entrance into an attendance contest with the First Baptist church of Seattle, are striving daily to enlist new members, overcome Seattle's present lead and thus obtain the challenge cup, which will be awarded the winning church.

The award will be based on each church's increase in average attendance during the last six months, and the race, which started the first Sunday in January, closes a week from today.

The Seattle Sunday school, it was learned yesterday, leads by 24 members. However, since the inauguration of the contest the lead has shifted from one school to the other.

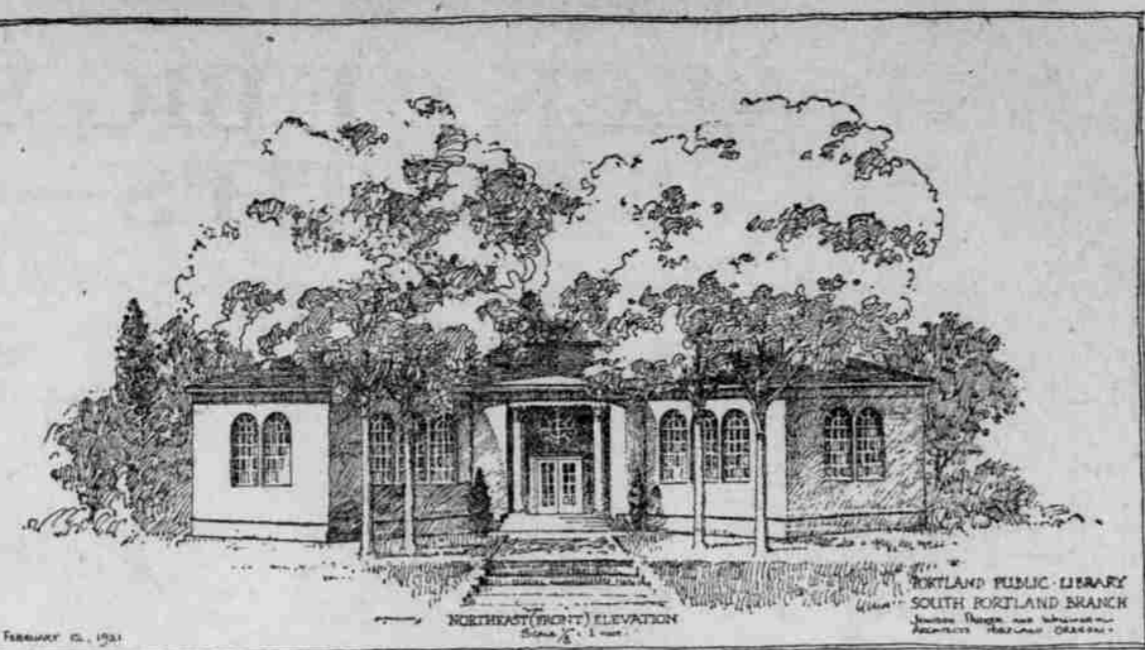
THUMB PRINT SUFFICIENT

Application for Motor Vehicle License Unusual One.

OLYMPIA, Wash., March 19.—(Special.)—Sylvester Wapato of Yakima county holds the record for the most unusual application for a motor vehicle license ever received at the secretary of state's office. Wapato, evidently unable to write, resorted to a modern method of signature when he placed his "right thumb mark" as his signature to the application for an automobile license. William Van Slack of Yakima county acted as his witness.

Secretary of State Hinkle points out that this method of application for a motor vehicle license might be a great aid to officers in pursuing automobile thieves. This is the first application of its kind ever received by the secretary of state.

NEW BRANCH LIBRARY BUILDING TO BE ERECTED IMMEDIATELY IN SOUTH PORTLAND.



STRUCTURE COSTING \$15,000 TO STAND ON CORNER OF OLD COUNTY HOSPITAL GROUNDS.

Work is to be started immediately on the new branch library to be erected on a corner of the old county hospital grounds at First and Hooker streets in South Portland, and it is expected to have the building ready for occupancy by September 1.

Plans for the building, which is to cost \$15,000 have been drawn by Johnson, Parker & Wallwork, architects of this city.

The money to be used in erecting the building is the remainder of the \$50,000 given the Library association of Portland in 1912 by the Carnegie corporation of New York for the erection of branch library buildings. The branches at Gresham, St. Johns and Arleta were built with this fund, but during the period of the war no building was done, so that this money was left to the credit of the Library association.

The plans for the new building have been approved by the Carnegie corporation, so that there is now nothing to prevent an early start of the construction work. The building will occupy the northwest corner at First and Hooker streets. The county hospital will be disposed of as soon as the new hospital is ready for occupancy and the lot will then be turned into a park with the library on one end and the nurses' home on the other.

The work of the library in South Portland has long been carried on under unsatisfactory conditions. The building used there has been too small and the work has grown to such an extent, according to library authorities, that for some time it has been difficult to carry it on in the present quarters.

MULTNOMAH SENATOR MAKES SELF SOLID WITH TEACHERS

Gus C. Moser Is Unable to Fight Them Because He Married One.
Informal Angles of Portland Citizens Glimpsed by Writers.

GUS C. MOSER, a senator from Multnomah county, former president of the state senate, etc., in a recent address at Lincoln high school, gave the big crowd present quite a thrill when he shouted forth that "I love all of the school teachers of Portland."

There was an audible gasp from the crowd of men and women and each looked inquiringly at the other, but when Mr. Moser finished his sentence, it wasn't really as bad as it sounded at first.

"Especially one of them—for I married her," was the concluding part of the sentence.

"Oh, that's all right, then," announced some woman from the many present.

"The idea is," continued Mr. Moser, "that I'm not naturally doing much fighting of teachers." And for some reason, everyone laughed at that.

In a burst of generosity, H. B. Van Dusen, president of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, got reckless and handed over two fine cigars to

Julius Meier, president of the 1925 exposition in Portland, at a noon luncheon the other day. Mr. Van Dusen, by gesticulation, indicated to Mr. Meier that one of the "smokes" was for him and the other should be tossed across the table to George W. Joseph, state senator, and attorney for Mr. Meier.

Instead of tossing the cigar to Mr. Joseph, however, Mr. Meier stuck it in his own vest pocket, while Mr. Joseph looked longingly toward "Van" and while "Van" registered a "well-I'll be" expression.

The high cost of living has no terrors for W. P. Turner, president of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle railway. He says so himself—and there's a reason. "My wife is a first-class business woman," says Mr. Turner, "and to her is entrusted absolute control of purchase, supplies and operation of our home. She receives a regular allowance for the conduct of her branch of the partnership. She supervises all expenditures and runs the house and I run the railroad. Even when both branches were under government control, I had no worries regarding her end of the business, for all went smoothly there."

According to R. L. Parkhurst, owner of the Crater lake park resort concessions, Californians have developed "a great silence" concerning certain bad roads leading to some of their scenic spots, but "make all kinds of noise about a little dust from ours."

Mr. Parkhurst was recently speaking at a luncheon where were present A. B. C. Dohrman, president of the Yosemite park company, and O. B. McCormick, a vice-president of the Southern Pacific company, and took occasion to "show up" the California trail.

"I have found from experience," said Mr. Parkhurst, "that people from California let out an awful wail when they have to stand a little dust from our roads, but they have developed a great silence concerning certain of their own roads, which they have to eat dust. You'd think to hear them that all California roads were hard surfaced."

Whereat Messrs. Dohrman and McCormick laughed heartily.

"California people know when to advertise," retorted Mr. Dohrman, to the amusement of all.

There is a small fortune awaiting the individual who can tell Hal M. White, secretary to Mayor Baker and manager of the municipal auditorium, how to attract to his Sunday afternoon concert a crowd such as jammed the big city building recently when Mary McSwiney, sister of the late lord mayor of Cork, Ireland, spoke there.

"Oh, if only I could collect from a crowd like that," sighed Manager White, as he watched the stream of humanity pouring in through every entrance. "Just think of it—4,200 tonight, and 527 here at the concert this afternoon! Oh, boy!"

Hence, if anyone has a scheme that

will "produce" in a case like this, Manager White will be happy to see the individual and receive the plan.

Isaac Staples, state senator and well-known business man of this city, at a recent meeting, told a large crowd that a certain individual who recently spoke from the same platform in criticism of himself and others reminded him of a fellow who strayed into a small town in Minnesota years ago, "broke" hungry and dejected. The tramp sauntered into the hotel and asked the clerk for a room.

"Whatcha going to do here?" asked the clerk.

"Start a bank," was the reply.

It so happened that the town had long wanted a bank and, as the stranger presented a fair appearance, he soon had everything coming his way and in due time he really did have a bank in operation. He was monarch of all he surveyed for a time, but hard times came and crash went the bank. The president was chased by an angry mob into the top of a four-story building and, as a last resort to save himself, explained just how he came to start the bank.

"Now I have nothing—not even pay for my work," said he. "But, if you folks insist of cutting me up and each taking a piece of my body, it's all right with me."

At that statement, an old codger who was standing by pushed his way to the front and announced: "When you cut him up, just give me his gall."

A reporter who called John M. Scott, general passenger agent of the Southern Pacific, by telephone one night recently, was puzzled for a time at the reply to his question. Mr. Scott had just arrived home from a trip to southern California. It was after 10 o'clock at night.

"Anything new?" queried the reporter of Mr. Scott.

"I'll be in my office at 10 o'clock," was the reply.

"Tonight or tomorrow?" asked the reporter.

"Today," came the reply.

"I confess, I hardly get you," said the reporter.

"Oh, I beg pardon," said Mr. Scott. "I had just been dreaming I was on a Pullman and it was just about 8 o'clock in the morning, with the train nearing Portland."

And then Mr. Scott related the excellent service the Southern Pacific is giving tourists and the general public, but added "I guess that's nothing new."

Tax Laws to Be Discussed.

The plan and purpose of tax laws pertaining to Multnomah county, enacted by the recent session of the legislature, will be discussed Monday noon at members' forum of the Chamber of Commerce by Herbert Gordon, chairman of the house ways and means committee. This consideration of a purely local topic, in which great interest is manifest, is counted upon

to summon one of the largest gatherings of recent forum assemblies. The speaking campaign of the community chest fund will also be launched at the forum, when John H. Stevenson, ex-municipal judge, will voice the aims of the huge philanthropic enterprise.

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Half-Pound Tins
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