

FRANCHISE UP IN COQUILLE

CITY COUNCIL THERE WILL MEET TONIGHT TO PASS ON BELL'S APPLICATION FOR ONE.

COQUILLE, Ore., Dec. 26.—The Coquille city council will meet this evening to act on the application of Seymour H. Bell for an electric lighting and power franchise. Judging from expression of leading citizens, no franchise will be granted tonight and none will be granted until some radical changes are made in the franchise as submitted by Mr. Bell.

The Coquille Sentinel yesterday had the following story on the franchise:

"At a meeting of the citizen's of Coquille held in the court house Tuesday evening, for the purpose of ascertaining the public sentiment in regard to granting a twenty-year light and power franchise to Seymour H. Bell it was decided that the people are not in favor of granting the franchise drafted by Mr. Bell.

"Mr. Bell presented a request for a franchise at the last meeting of the city council. The council, not feeling like granting this franchise without hearing the sentiment of the public on the question, postponed action on it. For the purpose of ascertaining the public sentiment in regard to the matter they called a meeting of the citizens to be held in the circuit court room at the court house.

"Owing to the storm and the short notice the attendance was not large but the voice of those who were there was decidedly not in favor of giving away such a valuable thing as a franchise upon the terms desired by Mr. Bell. It was general sentiment that it would be advantageous to the town to have Mr. Bell's company operate here but that the town should not pay the price asked by him for the privilege of having his company operate here. The principal objection to the franchise desired by Mr. Bell was in regard to the arc lights to be paid for by the city. As the franchise is drafted the city would have to pay \$7.50 per month for each arc light no matter if they use ten or fifty. It was suggested that the city council employ expert legal advice and draft a franchise that the city could afford to grant the company and if they wanted to accept that the public would support the new company to the best of its ability."

WOULD HELP HERMANN.

Bill in Senate Benefits Indictees Who Cannot Get a Trial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 26.—Senator Borah, of Idaho, introduced a bill requiring Federal courts, unless a good cause to the contrary is shown, to dismiss indictments against persons who through no fault of their own are unable to obtain a trial during the term of court following that in which the indictment was returned against them.

The bill further stipulates that when a defendant objects to postponement or demands a trial ground for continuance on the part of the government must be set forth in a sworn statement and a copy served upon the defendant five days before the motion for postponement is to be heard.

This bill is aimed at what Senator Borah regards, and what President-elect Taft believes, to be one of the greatest evils in our judicial system—the delays in bringing criminal cases to trial.

This bill affects such cases as that of ex-Congressman and Land Commissioner Hermann, of Oregon, who for three years has been under indictment in Oregon, but up to this day has not been tried. Borah's bill is not retroactive, but would, if passed, guarantee Hermann a trial at this term of court, or else result in dismissing indictments against him. It would have the same effect on the Williamson case and other land cases long pending in Oregon.

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Hunters' licenses expire Dec. 31. RENEW them at THE GUNNERY.

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Have you tried The Times' want column?

ANOTHER BANK FOR COQUILLE

ORGANIZATION OF FARMERS AND MERCHANTS WITH \$25,000 CAPITAL IS PERFECTED.

COQUILLE, Ore., Dec. 26.—At a meeting this week the organization of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank which was started last year was consummated. The company was organized about a year ago but for various reasons the project was not carried to a conclusion. The original members of the company decided to carry out their plan and while some of the stockholders disposed of their stock the company is practically the same. The company is incorporated at \$25,000.

The foundation for a building was laid last year on the corner opposite the Hotel Coquille on Main street, but that was as far as the building was constructed. While the company owns this corner it has not been decided whether the bank will be located there or not.

The board of directors is composed of R. S. Knowlton, G. A. Robinson, R. H. Mast, E. E. Johnson and Geo. Bellino.

The officers are R. S. Knowlton, president, G. A. Robinson, vice president and R. H. Mast, cashier.

BULL ELKS BATTLE FOR SUPREMACY OF HERD

Have It Out in Golden Gate Park—Fight of Half an Hour Ends Fatally to One.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26.—The herd of a dozen elk in Golden Gate Park has been reduced by one and the head of the vanquished bull will be added to the natural history collection in the Memorial Museum.

Two great bulls fought for more than half an hour for supremacy, and he beaten one, fleeing, was gored in the flank by his pursuer and so terribly wounded that he had to be killed.

The two bulls, after many calls of defiance, began the fight which ended in the death of one. When one bull gained a decided advantage, the weaker animal tried to escape from the paddock, but the victor pursued him. Driven into a corner, the victim, before he had time to turn, was gored twice in the flank, the huge antlers of the antagonist ripping great holes in the flesh.

The fatally wounded bull was killed a short time afterward by order of the park superintendent. The head is now being prepared for exhibition in the museum.

WHAT BECAME OF THE FROG THAT CAUSED THE RUCTION?

Couple Jump Into Well to Escape Bear Chasing Them as Their House Is Burning.

HARDY, Ark., Dec. 26.—Mrs. Maud Peepoon, wife of Henry Peepoon, a farmer on Blue Clay Creek, got up the other morning and proceeded to search her husband's trousers, as was her usual custom, but instead of finding the customary collection of small change, she grasped a giant bullfrog.

Her wild shriek woke her husband, who leaped from his bed, intending to tell her it was all a joke, but she already had rushed out of the door and into the adjoining woods, still screaming.

Peepoon pursued her, and both might have been running yet had not their wild flight been suddenly halted by a big black bear rushing ferociously at them from the opposite direction.

The Peepoons whirled instantly and rushed for their dwelling, the bear after them and gaining. Just as they neared the clearing they noticed their house was on fire, probably due to the overturning of a kerosene lamp in their hasty exit.

To escape the bear both jumped into a well, from which, almost dead, they were rescued after neighbors shot the bear. The dwelling was burned to ashes.

HOLIDAY SNAPS.

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