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BURTON PROMISES TO TRANSFER \$25,000 FOR COOS BAY DREDGE

Chairman of Rivers and Harbors Committee Agrees to Plan Desired Here.

SAYS IT HAS BEEN INSERTED IN BILL

Balance of Appropriation For Jetty Can Be Utilized In Operating the Dredge.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 13.—Representative Hawley, who has been persistently urging the river and harbor committee to authorize the use of the unexpended balance of the Coos Bay jetty appropriation in operating the new Government dredge in Coos Bay, has received written assurance from Chairman Burton that his committee had made such provision in its bill. In urging this legislation, Hawley pointed out that local interests had raised \$15,000 for operating the dredge, and indicated that the unexpended jetty appropriation, now lying idle in the treasury, might profitably be expended in dredging.

MURDERS CHILD AND THEN SHOOTSELF

San Francisco Laborer Slays Ten-Year-Old Girl When Driven From House.

(By Associated Press.) SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 13.—Dorothea Mankoff, the ten-year-old daughter of Russian parents, was shot and instantly killed by Emelcy Broughousen, a middle aged laborer who had been driven from the Mankoff household because he persisted in paying too much attention to the child. Broughousen then shot himself in the head and will die.

MORE QUAKE SHAKE MEXICO

Showers of Ashes and Cinders In Many Cities—Start Forest Fires.

(By Associated Press.) MEXICO CITY, Feb. 13.—Rumbblings and earthquakes continue to be felt in the vicinity of Mount Colma and the eruption has not ceased although the cinders are not spreading over such large areas. During the eruption, ashes and cinders fell on the towns of Colma, Tuxpan, Capotlan and other towns in that vicinity and forests were set on fire by the discharge from the smoking mountain.

HAS NO DOUBT OF THE ELIGIBILITY OF KNOX

Taft Says Senator Is Capable of Holding Office of Secretary of State.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 13.—President-elect Taft has telegraphed Senator Hale urging congress to remove all doubt of Senator Knox's eligibility to the office of Secretary of State and saying that the loss of Mr. Knox from the cabinet premiership would be a public misfortune.

FIVE FIREMEN HURT

Others Missing As Result of Serious Blaze In Milwaukee.

(By Associated Press.) MILWAUKEE, Feb. 13.—Two companies of firemen are fighting a fire in the John P. Manville steam pipe warehouse today. An adjoining building fell into the lower floor when the roof collapsed. Five firemen were injured. A number of others are still missing.

That Street Railway Franchise

SOME OF THE CITIZENRY of Coos Bay criticize the course of The Times in not treating the Bell street car franchise with sufficient seriousness. The Times pleads gully to a sense of humor in other things than comedians and clowns. The best jokes never get into the joke book or the funniest things into the funny papers. If a pompous individual should arrive in Marshfield and after a careful survey of the city and its buildings should search out J. W. Bennett, tell him that he admired the Bennett bank building and being desirous of making some investments on Coos Bay he would give him \$500 for it, would pay \$5.00 down and \$5.00 per month until paid for it may be that J. W. Bennett could maintain a calm exterior and enter into business negotiations with the man but before the deal was finished there would be more mirth in the vicinity of the "genial Joe's" presence than any place this side of a cage of Barnum's monkeys. Just pause a few moments and consider these features of the Bell franchise that are presented to the council in all seriousness and approval asked therefor:

IT MAY RUN ONLY ONE CAR EVERY NINETY DAYS AND STILL LEGALLY HOLD ITS FRANCHISE FOR THIRTY-FIVE YEARS. THERE IS NO LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF TRACKS IT MAY CONSTRUCT ON EACH STREET. IT MAY CROWD A STREET FROM CURB TO CURB WITH TRACKS SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OPPORTUNITY FOR OTHER BUSINESS AND LAUGH AT THE PEOPLE IF THEY PROTESTED.

There is no specification as to how often cars shall run or from what point in North Bend to what point in Marshfield.

ANOTHER PECULIAR FEATURE OF THIS LEGAL DOCUMENT IS THAT WHILE IT MAKES STATEMENTS AS TO CERTAIN ACTS THE CORPORATION WILL PERFORM THERE IS NO PENALTY PROVIDED FOR VIOLATION OF AGREEMENT OR FAILURE TO PERFORM SUCH ACTS. THERE ARE NO FORFEITURE CLAUSES. WHAT IS THE USE OF PROVIDING FOR VIOLATION OF FRANCHISE IF THERE IS NO WAY OF ENFORCING IT AND THERE IS NONE UNDER THIS PROPOSED FRANCHISE.

These are some of the absurd and ridiculous provisions of the Bell franchise and why The Times has opposed it. There are also other reasons for opposition to the present proposed franchise. There are evils of omission as well as commission. If Seymour Bell is really desirous of giving the people of Marshfield a square deal, here are some provisions that should be incorporated in a franchise that seeks to be fair alike to the public and the franchise seeker:

Sec. 2.—Provides for erection of poles but does not state where they be placed. Such poles and posts should be on the sides of the streets and not in the center.

Sec. 3.—Rails should be of standard uniform railroad gauge and not less than 85 pounds to the yard.

Sec. 4.—This section is a gem. It should be framed as an exhibition of the nerve of men who are seeking a valuable concession as a free gift from the city and then enumerating conditions under which it will be accepted. Here is a literal extract from the franchise itself.

"Cars shall be run upon the railway maintained and operated by authority of this ordinance, every day from six o'clock A. M. to nine o'clock P. M., except in cases of riots, strikes, accidents, the act of God or judicial interference, or by defective or obstructive bridges or streets, and if discontinued upon any line of railway during any consecutive ninety days, except in case of inferences above stated, the common council may by ordinance declare forfeited the franchise, rights and privileges hereby granted."

Read that over and let it soak in. It provides that in "cases of riots, strikes, accidents, the act of God, or judicial interference" it may have years of idleness without any liability, which is only a natural provision probably incorporated in many franchises, but when it continues exclusive of these extraordinary cases and during normal conditions demands that the company may continue to hold its franchise by operating only one car every ninety days, it is exceeding all precedent. To quit for a week is a long time. The idea of ninety days is preposterous. Twenty-four hours is a usual provision.

Sec. 5.—Should provide that the corporation keep harmless through electrical discharges or current, electrolysis or otherwise, watermains of the city, gas pipes or telegraph and telephone wires, and electric wires.

Sec. 6.—Should provide that in case Marshfield is consolidated with any other municipal corporation, that such fare of 5 cents shall be the fare for such enlarged corporation, from limits to limits.

Such police and health regulations as the city council may deem necessary from time to time should be adopted. Policemen, health officers and United States mail carriers shall be carried free while on actual duty.

Sec. 11.—Should provide who shall regulate and determine the reasonableness of switching rate. The old United States Railway Commission has power to determine what a reasonable rate was but not to enforce it. Some provision regulating this matter should be enacted, either that where railroads coming into this city desire to use the tracks for transporting or switching cars, that the making and enforcement of a reasonable rate shall be subject to the State Railroad Commission, or some method of enforcement lodged in the city council.

The chief object of the present franchise seems to make a logging road of it for the transportation of logs, running from 11 p. m., until 6 a. m.

Here are some additional provisions that should be incorporated in a franchise to make it fair to the public:

Any child under 6 years of age attending or with any person over that age shall be transported free.

School children to and from school should be carried at half rates.

City council should provide by ordinance proper penalties for failure to comply with the terms of the franchise and in case of failure, except for the causes mentioned in franchise, as riots, strikes, judicial interference, etc., to operate the road for 24 consecutive hours, then the franchise should be subject to be declared null and void at the option of the city council.

This franchise is asked for a long term of years and in its present condition absolutely unfit for a city which hopes to expand.

Wherever and on whatever streets this franchise is given, means that it is but the beginning of several more. Section 1, of the proposed franchise, has in its last phrase provision that street intersection can be made to connect up with all other lines granted. The whole purpose is ultimately when business justifies to get franchises on as many streets as deemed necessary. One franchise obtained the rest will be easy.

The Times is desirous that a street railway be built and it is favorable to giving a franchise to Seymour H. Bell, but it is not in favor of presenting Mr. Bell with a warranty deed to all the streets in Marshfield for a period of 25 years to have and to hold without a qualification or provision for the protection of the public. Let us treat it as a business proposition and act accordingly. If Tom Nicols simply desires to get an expression of the people let them be consulted. Why shouldn't Mayor Straw appoint a franchise commission to draw up a franchise

RIO GRANDE TRAIN HELD UP AND ROBBED OF MAIL

DEBATE WON BY COQUILLE

Myrtle Point High School Team Goes Down to Defeat In Forensic Battle.

(Special to The Times.) MYRTLE POINT, Feb. 13.—Notwithstanding the fact that one of the members of its debating team was sick and her portion of the debate had to be read, Coquille High School came off victorious in its forensic battle with Myrtle Point High School at Benson's Opera House here last night, the Coquille team taking the affirmative in a discussion of the question: "Resolved, that Greece has done more for the world's civilization than Rome."

Mr. Knowlton and Miss Sherwood debated the question from the affirmative side and the remarks of Miss Slocum, the member of the team who was sick, were read. The local team, which suffered defeat, was composed of Miss Hall and Messrs. Haines and Sumerlin. All are members of the Coos County Debating League.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney L. A. Liljeqvist and Rev. H. I. Rutledge, of Marshfield, and Attorney Mullen, of North Bend, acted as judges and their decision was two to one in favor of the affirmative.

A large delegation of Coquille residents was present at the debate to witness the victory of their team, and a number of persons were here from other nearby towns.

The program of the evening opened with a song by Miss Josephine Thom, sung in excellent voice, and she was followed by H. O. Anderson and the Misses Smith and Sweet in a vocal trio. Others who appeared on the program were Miss Mabel Houghton in a recitation, Flentje Perkins, a vocalist, and Forrest and Lola Greene in an instrumental duet.

The report of the judges of the debate was made at the conclusion of the program.

ENDS TROUBLE WITH VENEZUELA

Commissioner Buchanan of United States and Caracas Officials Sign Protocol.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Special Commissioner Buchanan today telegraphed the state department that he had signed a protocol with the Venezuelan government for a settlement of the disputes between that country and the United States. He will leave Caracas for home Tuesday.

TAFT LEAVES NEW ORLEANS.

Will Return to Washington Via Cincinnati.

(By Associated Press.) NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 13.—President Taft after spending two days in New Orleans, left for Cincinnati this morning. He will leave Cincinnati on Tuesday for Washington. Mrs. Taft accompanied her husband.

A large crowd was at the depot to witness the departure of the president-elect.

That would be acceptable to the city and the people; then let it be submitted for their approval.

IN CONCLUSION, THE COOS BAY TIMES DESIRES TO ASSERT AS PLAINLY AND PUBLICLY AS IT IS POSSIBLE TO MAKE IT THAT ANY MAN OR NEWSPAPER THAT ASSERTS THAT THE TIMES IS ANIMATED BY ANY OTHER PURPOSE THAN THE COMMON GOOD AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF COOS BAY IN THE STREET RAILWAY FRANCHISE AFFAIR IS A MALICIOUS AND CONTEMPTIBLE LIAR.

Engineer Compelled to Stop Locomotive Running Fifty Miles An Hour.

CONDUCTOR FIRED UPON BUT BULLETS FLY WILD

Three Sacks of Registered Matter Taken and Bandits Make Escape.

(By Associated Press.) DENVER, Feb. 13.—While passing at the rate of fifty miles an hour, the Denver & Rio Grande passenger train No. 4, from the west was held up early this morning between Fort Logan and Denver. Two bandits appeared from the coal tender and compelled the engineer and fireman to stop the train. They took them from the cab and fired shots to intimidate the passengers. The conductor, who started to investigate the cause of the trouble, was fired upon three times but was not hit.

The robbers compelled the mail clerks to open the mail car and stole three sacks of registered mail. They compelled the train crew to march quite a distance ahead of the train and then escaped in the direction of Fort Logan, but it is believed their real destination is Denver.

The value of the loot cannot be ascertained. Detectives and police are searching the surrounding country.

Estimates of the amount secured by the robbers vary. Both clerks agree that only registered mail was taken but they have no idea of the value. One package is said to contain currency from a Salt Lake City bank, estimated at from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

FRISCO FIRE LOSS \$50,000

Many Have Narrow Escape In Blaze Starting In Branch Postoffice.

(By Associated Press.) SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 13.—Fire originating in the branch postoffice on Valencia street early today caused a loss of about \$50,000 to the building and adjoining stores. A large number of people living in upper apartments narrowly escaped with their lives. In rescuing the inmates several firemen were slightly hurt.

ASIATICS NOT FAVORED.

Montana Solons Against Repeal of Exclusion Act.

(By Associated Press.) HELENA, Feb. 13.—A feature of the session of the legislature here was the introduction of a memorial to congress praying against the repeal of the Asiatic Exclusion Act. It was referred to the Committee on Labor.

WIRELESS FROM FLEET.

(By Associated Press.) NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—The first wireless message received from the Atlantic battleship fleet since leaving Gibraltar comes from the Kankton. The fleet now is about two thousand miles from Hampton Roads.