

# LUMBER MILLS COMBINE AND MULCT TAXPAYERS

### Councilmen Aver Municipality Is Compelled to Pay More Than Individuals Are Charged by Them.

#### Matter to Be Investigated and Taken Up for Consideration at the Next Meeting of the Council—Mayor's Veto of Franklin Avenue Improvement Ordinance Overridden at Last Night's Meeting.

◆ The council last night dis-  
 ◆ covered that local saw mills  
 ◆ have entered into a combination  
 ◆ whereby the city is required to  
 ◆ pay higher prices for its lumber  
 ◆ than are charged individual  
 ◆ buyers.  
 ◆ The city is the greatest buy-  
 ◆ er of lumber in the city, but the  
 ◆ mills do not regard this as a  
 ◆ consideration.  
 ◆ Members of the council will  
 ◆ consider the matter for a few  
 ◆ days and at the next meeting  
 ◆ take steps to protect the city,  
 ◆ perhaps by asking bids for lum-  
 ◆ ber.  
 ◆ The mayor's veto of the  
 ◆ Franklin avenue improvement  
 ◆ ordinance was overridden last  
 ◆ night, Mr. Lebeck alone voting  
 ◆ against the ordinance. The  
 ◆ council is determined to give  
 ◆ the Third ward a chance to  
 ◆ prove its assertion that the cost  
 ◆ of the work will not fall heav-  
 ◆ ily on the city.  
 ◆ Mr. Nordstrom says he will  
 ◆ vote against an improvement  
 ◆ that will throw more than \$1-  
 ◆ 500 of the costs onto the city.  
 ◆ The fire and water committee  
 ◆ has convicted Louis Cordes and  
 ◆ asked the council to ratify its  
 ◆ action. The matter will be  
 ◆ brought up at the next meeting  
 ◆ for disposal.

◆ tant price for lumber. He said it had  
 ◆ come to his knowledge that, notwith-  
 ◆ standing the city is by far the largest  
 ◆ buyer of lumber, the mills require it  
 ◆ to pay greater prices than are charged  
 ◆ individual buyers and outside parties,  
 ◆ and he was of the opinion the council  
 ◆ should take some action to protect the  
 ◆ taxpayers who keep up the streets.  
 ◆ Mr. Hansen (acting mayor)—That  
 ◆ is a matter which rests with the street  
 ◆ committee.  
 ◆ Mr. Belland—I am of the opinion the  
 ◆ council should authorize the commit-  
 ◆ tee to advertise for bids for lumber, or  
 ◆ take some action that would make it  
 ◆ impossible for the mills to mulct the  
 ◆ taxpayers.  
 ◆ President Hansen—A resolution is  
 ◆ necessary to carry out your idea in  
 ◆ this matter. I believe the suggestion  
 ◆ is a good one and that some action  
 ◆ should be taken.  
 ◆ Mr. Nordstrom—It seems to me the  
 ◆ mills ought to give the city the prefer-  
 ◆ ence. We buy the greatest quanti-  
 ◆ ty of lumber, and warrants are above  
 ◆ par. This should be a consideration.  
 ◆ Mr. Leinenweber—It appears to me  
 ◆ we could accomplish nothing by ad-  
 ◆ vertising for bids, in view of the fact  
 ◆ that all of the saw mills are in a com-  
 ◆ bination which has for its object the  
 ◆ regulation of prices. The mills have  
 ◆ agreed to make the city pay more for  
 ◆ its lumber than individuals are re-  
 ◆ quired to pay.  
 ◆ Mr. Burns (chairman of the street  
 ◆ committee)—It occurs to me that the  
 ◆ mills are not going to bid against each  
 ◆ other in this matter, and it is my opin-  
 ◆ ion we would merely be out the cost

of advertising if we adopted that plan.  
 Mr. Robinson—The mills are selling  
 lumber for less money to outside con-  
 cerns than the city is compelled to  
 pay. I deem it a great injustice.  
 Mr. Nordstrom—That's true; the  
 city pays more than private parties.

Mr. Belland—I called attention to  
 this matter so the members of the  
 council might give it some considera-  
 tion and determine upon a plan of  
 action by the next meeting night. I  
 believe it should be considered later.

This view of the matter was gener-  
 ally shared and no definite action will  
 be taken until a week from Monday.

#### Mayor's Veto Overridden.

When the veto of the mayor, who  
 had disapproved the Franklin avenue  
 improvement ordinance, was called up  
 Mr. Nordstrom rose to explain why the  
 veto should not be sustained. He said  
 the mayor had been opposed to the  
 city paying \$2500 for the street for the  
 property owners and for that reason  
 had vetoed the bill. So far as he was  
 concerned, he, too, opposed any such  
 expenditure out of the general fund,  
 and he declared he would be the first  
 to vote against the improvement if it  
 would cost the city more than \$1500.  
 But, in order to ascertain just what  
 portion of the expense would be thus  
 thrown upon the city, he demanded  
 passage of the bill.

"None of us knows what the work  
 will cost until the lowest bid is re-  
 ceived," said Mr. Nordstrom, "and the  
 only way we can get bids is to pass  
 this ordinance. All I ask, gentlemen,  
 is fair play."

Mr. Burns expressed himself in a  
 similar vein, saying he regretted the  
 mayor had seen fit to veto the ordi-  
 nance. He would oppose too great an  
 appropriation for the work, but he de-  
 sired accurate information.

Mr. Burns displayed a plat which  
 had been prepared, showing the pro-  
 posed increase in the valuations in the  
 district affected by the contemplated  
 improvement. He said Assessor Cor-  
 nellius would increase the total valua-  
 tion from about \$11,000 to \$14,000, and  
 as the work would cost only about  
 \$400, the property would stand all the  
 expense of the work.

The matter was then voted upon, and  
 the only negative vote cast was that of  
 Councilman Lebeck. The vote was on  
 the passage of the bill notwithstanding  
 the veto of the mayor. The veto had  
 been overridden, and Third ward di-  
 plomacy had once again outwitted the  
 democratic majority.

#### Stubborn Voting Contest.

The council was deadlocked for half  
 an hour last night over the matter of  
 appraisers. The council has deter-  
 mined to condemn property for the  
 Duane street connection and Mr. Han-  
 sen presented the necessary resolu-  
 tion, without, however, giving the  
 names of the appraisers. The follow-  
 ing gentlemen were nominated: Geo.  
 A. Nelson, Asmus Brix, S. S. Gordon,  
 ex-Mayor Bergman, C. C. Utzinger and  
 P. A. Trullinger.

Five votes were necessary to a choice  
 and on the first ballot Mr. Brix re-  
 ceived six. Four other gentlemen re-  
 ceived four and one received two. The  
 second ballot was without result so  
 far as the other two appraisers were  
 concerned, and on the third ballot the  
 count showed an even distribution be-  
 tween Messrs. Nelson, Gordon, Berg-  
 man and Utzinger, each of whom re-  
 ceived four votes. There were five bal-  
 lots with the same result, but finally,  
 on the eighth ballot, Messrs. Nelson  
 and Bergman were chosen, each re-  
 ceiving five votes, to the others' three.

The property to be condemned is  
 owned by P. L. Cherry and Joseph  
 Schamberger.

#### Mr. Cordes Found Guilty.

The committee on fire and water  
 submitted the transcript of the evi-  
 dence in the Cordes case and a re-  
 port in which the driver is said to  
 have been guilty, in the opinion of the  
 committee, of the charges preferred  
 against him by Fire Chief Stockton.  
 The committee asks the council to  
 ratify its action in dismissing the driv-  
 er from the service.

Mr. Burns could see no particular  
 reason for rushing matters and asked  
 that the report go over until the next  
 meeting for consideration. This was  
 agreed to. The report is signed by all  
 the members of the committee—Lein-  
 enweber, Morton and Nordstrom.

#### Minor Matters

An application was received from Dr.  
 Nellie Smith Vernon for appointment  
 as city physician. The position is at  
 present held by Dr. Pilkington. Presi-  
 dent Hansen ordered the matter laid on  
 the table until the return of the mayor.  
 The report of the experts was re-  
 ferred to the ways and means commit-  
 tee for examination. City Attorney  
 Smith suggested that he be authorized  
 to institute suit for damages against

bond holders who fail to present bonds  
 when the treasurer makes his call. The  
 matter is to be attended to by the com-  
 mittee.

Councilman Burns offered an ordi-  
 nance regulating the manner of improv-  
 ing streets. The bill went over until the  
 next meeting.

A bill by Mr. Burns requiring the re-  
 moval of obstructions from sidewalks  
 and fixing penalties for violation of the  
 law was likewise offered. It will  
 come up for final action at the next  
 session.

Congressman Hermann, writing to  
 Auditor Anderson, stated that he had  
 presented the council's memorial for a  
 new customs house and postoffice to  
 congress.

The complaint of Dr. Earle was read,  
 with reference to the blocking of the  
 street at which the quarantine tug is  
 landed, together with a communication  
 from the city attorney stating that  
 legislation would be necessary if the  
 complaint were again made. The mat-  
 ter was referred to the committee on  
 wharves and waterfrontage.

## Senator After Slot Machines

### Purposes Introducing Bill for Their Regulation at Next Legislative Session.

Nickel-in-the-slot machines are be-  
 coming altogether too numerous. This,  
 at least, is the conclusion which has  
 been reached by a prominent member  
 of the Oregon legislature, who holds  
 down a seat in the upper house and  
 represents his constituency in one of  
 the large counties of the state.

If reports are to be relied upon, and  
 there is little reason, if any, to doubt  
 them, this gentleman is to offer a bill  
 at the next session of the legislature  
 which will make matters extremely bad  
 for the slot machine owners. The bill  
 will be fashioned after the law now in  
 vogue in the state of Washington and  
 it will be quite as severe in meting out  
 punishment to those who violate its  
 terms.

It will provide that all persons oper-  
 ating nickel-in-the-slot machines shall,  
 upon conviction, be deemed guilty of  
 a felony.

Recently an Astorian talked with the  
 senator who will prepare the bill for  
 presentation at the next session of the  
 legislature. The senator said he had  
 not the slightest idea the measure  
 would not pass; indeed, he seems to be-  
 lieve that there is popular demand for  
 the measure and that it will receive the  
 support necessary to its enactment. He  
 is stated to have been a member of  
 the legislature for a number of years,  
 but explains that he did not previously  
 introduce the bill because the machines  
 were operated only in small numbers.  
 Of late, according to his version of the  
 matter, there have been altogether too  
 many machines. The legislature suf-  
 fered the slot machine owners to do  
 business on a limited scale, but so  
 numerous have become the devices that  
 the need of a law which will cure them  
 is deemed necessary.

Over in Washington they have a very  
 stringent law, and ever since its enact-  
 ment the slot machine business has  
 declined. Operators have kept dis-  
 cretely out of the reach of the strong  
 arm of the law, for they do not relish  
 punishment for violation of the regula-  
 tion, which is specifically provided.

The Washington law has been a suc-  
 cess and the senator with the anti-slot  
 machine inclinations feels that Oregon  
 can do just as much toward eradicat-  
 ing the evil. It was suggested to him  
 that the state might not make any  
 more progress with the nickel-in-the-  
 slot machine proposition than with the  
 anti-gambling measure, but the sena-  
 tor said he did not share this belief;  
 that the bill would be so framed as to  
 leave no possible chance for violation  
 of its terms. Indeed, he said it would  
 make it absolutely imperative upon the  
 state officials to enforce its strict  
 terms.

A more definite announcement as to  
 the terms of the proposed bill is ex-  
 pected shortly.

#### Build the sea wall—do it now.

Manila, Feb. 24.—Paymaster Harry  
 Earl Biscoe, of the U. S. S. Oregon, has  
 been ordered under arrest by Rear-  
 Admiral Evans, in command of the  
 fleet in Asiatic waters. Biscoe, it is  
 alleged, is \$2800 short in his accounts.

#### Oregon Officer Arrested.

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