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WILL INVESTIGATE

Council Will Look Into Barry-Goodin Deal.

SUSPICION OF GRAFT FOUND

Contractor Goodin Presents a Sworn Statement to City Fathers Alleging He Gave Barry Rake-off for Influencing Council Committee's Decision.

That neither graft nor any suspicion of municipal crookedness shall exist in any department or in any official of the city of Astoria, was firmly decided by the city council last evening, when in relation to the matter of street Inspector Barry and Collector W. A. Goodin, wherein the latter alleges in a sworn statement that he paid Mr. Barry the sum of \$20 to use his influence with the street committee of the council to obtain an exorbitant price for certain extra improvement work, a committee of three was appointed to investigate the charge and ascertain whether any crime had been committed and the city defrauded out of rightful funds or not.

According to the allegations of W. A. Goodin, in a sworn statement presented to the city council last night, it was privately agreed between himself and Inspector Barry, that if the inspector would use his influence with the street committee to obtain the best price possible for doing the extra improvement work on exchange street between Sixth street west to Fifth street, then south on fifth to the drain also some work relating to the extension of the drain, he would divide whatever profits accrued therefrom with the inspector. It is further alleged that Barry induced the committee to allow \$95 for the work and after the work was completed, the profits amounting to \$40 Barry was paid \$20 his share of the boodle. The money according to the statement was paid in the form of a check for the said amount drawn on the Astoria Savings bank.

The above is the gist of the charge brought against Inspector Barry. The matter came before the council last night when a resolution awarding a contract to W. A. Goodin for the improvement of Birch street came up. Councilman Hansen arose and stated in no uncertain terms that he believed in view of the charge made against Inspector Barry by W. A. Goodin, and of the present unsettled status of the matter, it would not be politic to award Mr. Goodin the contract. A heated discussion was at once provoked, some councilmen thinking one way and some another. Councilman Morton was opposed to taking any cognizance of the charge made by Contractor Goodin. He said, "In my opinion this matter is nothing for the council to consider. If as I understand it, a complaint will be filed in the courts in a short time by the city attorney, then we should wait until the court has acted. Then right has anyone to look into this matter, which is simply a private transaction between Mr. Barry and Mr. Goodin? City Surveyor Tee having gained permission to be heard on the subject stated that no limitation of the charge had been made to him, and he believed if any charge was made, it should have been presented direct to him. "There is collusion between the city attorney and the contractor. It is all a scheme," he said, "and I consider shrilly shrilly said, "and I can substantiate my words." Inspector Barry, who was seated in the rear of the room, here interjected a few heated remarks to the effect that it was all a put up job to oust him. He blamed City Attorney Smith. Things were becoming quite warm, and for a minute it looked like something more strenuous and forcible than words might occur between the inspector and City Attorney, had not the Mayor interposed with his gavel for order. Other councilmen spoke on the all absorbing question and as matters seemed to be getting worse instead of better, Mayor Wise suggested a committee be appointed to investigate the subject, and report to the council. Acting on this advice Councilman Stangland moved that the Mayor appoint a committee of three to investigate. This motion was passed, and after considerable labor, as no one seemed anxious to serve on the committee, Councilman Morton, Lebeck and Belland were appointed. The city attorney was mentioned to serve also, to advise the committee in their action. There was some slight objection to this, as it was intimated that the attorney was interested in the outcome. What will be the end is not yet determinable, though it is a forgone conclusion that the whole matter will be thoroughly sifted and the guilty parties, if any brought to account.

The Sluicing Test.—Contractor E. A. Gerdin is making a test of the utility of sluicing as the quickest and least expensive system of reducing hills to hollows. He has a contract with Frank Lemmeweyer to reduce a hill on the latter's land on Harrison Avenue, between Tenth and Eleventh streets, and as he owns a couple of sunken beds adjacent is moving the bulk of the hill onto his own property by sheer force of water from one hydrant at a cost of \$5.00 per day for water, besides the wages of three men. A number of other contractors are watching the process with a good deal of interest, as it may mean a good deal in the outcome, though of course, it is not always the case that the point of reduction and the point of filing are so natty contiguous as in this particular case.

From the Sublime to the Ridiculous—Valentines at Svenson's.

To Extend System.—First Vice-President Louis Glass, and Division Manager J. H. Thatcher, of the Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph Company, were in the city yesterday looking over the ground preparatory to the entire rehabilitation of the company's plant here. It is proposed to change the system to a central energy plant, and install all the newest accessories in line and office service, and to put the Astoria plant on a footing with the best and latest service in the state, using the aerial cables where the trench cables are not permissible, and employing copper wire in place of iron. The plans and specifications are all drawn and approved at headquarters and construction will be begun in a very short while and it is expected the first of August will see the new plant in full operation in Astoria. The officials returned to the metropolis on the 6:10 express last evening.

If you are looking for cosy suites of rooms go to "Hotel Irving." The hotel is equipped with all modern conveniences. Well prepared and daintily served meals can be had at 25 cents.

Taken to Salem.—Edwin Johnson the man who was committed for insanity by Judge Trenchard on Saturday last, has been taken to the asylum at Salem.

Took a Spin.—A team hauling milk for Mr. Baumgartner took a down hill run yesterday morning from the summit of Fourteenth street and brought up on the premises of Captain Geo. A. Wood with few cans, no milk and some scratches on the horses and a wagon badly battered. It is fortunate neither horse was killed, for it was a dangerous route and a dangerous pace.

Send her a valentine—Svenson's Book Store sells them.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Mrs. D. E. Pease and daughter of Skipanon, are visiting friends in the city.

J. A. Abbott of Warrenton, was in the city yesterday, looking up the matter of putting in a bid on the construction of a road from Lewiston to Warrenton.

Mrs. Samuel Elmore and Miss Floretta Elmore leave today for California, where they will remain for several months.

H. J. Lango, the piano man is in the city from Portland.

For any disease of the skin there is nothing better than Chamberlain's Salve. It relieves the itching and burning sensation instantly and soon effects a cure. Sold by Frank Hart and leading druggists.

TAKES POISON.

Prominent Banker Takes Drug and Is Found Dead.

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—A special to a morning paper from Kingston, says: Roderick Mackenzie, banker, was found dead on the Grand Trunk tracks near here. His death resulted from a drug which he had taken, the bottle being found in his pocket.

Mackenzie has been in the service of the Bank of Montreal since 1867, at Cornwall, Halifax, Newcastle, St. John and Kingston, where he was the manager.

CHANGE OF TIME

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Commencing Sunday, November 19, train No. 6, the Royal Blue Limited, will leave Grand Central passenger station, Chicago at 5 p. m., instead of 3:30 p. m. and will arrive in Pittsburgh at 6:35 a. m., Washington at 4:40 p. m., Baltimore 6:50 p. m., Philadelphia, 8:10 p. m. New York 10:40 p. m. the same as with the old schedule, thus reducing the time one hour and thirty minutes. No excess fare will be charged on this fast limited train. All other trains will arrive and depart the same as formerly. Stop-over is allowed at Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, not to exceed ten days, at each place, on all first-class through tickets.

EEL RIVER SALMON

Eureka Times Sets Up Suggestive Interview.

PROMINENT PACKER TALKS

Normal Catch Not Attained and the Reasons For It—Pacific Supply Threatened—Growing Steadily Less—Drought Interferences With Spawning.

The following article taken from the last issue of the Humboldt Times, (Eureka), under date of January 28th, will be of interest to many in the salmon industry here, especially when its authenticity is considered:

According to statements from an authoritative source, the salmon catch in Eel river last season was smaller than in years.

Mr. Sidney Starbuck, of New York who throughout the last season has been the financial authority in charge of the Port Kenyon Packing Company at Eel river, said at the Vance Hotel last night to a Times man: "While the catch for the season ending January 1, 1906, does not show a financial loss, it was, however, abnormally small.

"In proof of this statement it need only be recounted that up to December 15, 1905, we had packed but 150 tierces of fish, whereas, under ordinary conditions we should have by that time packed 500 tierces.

"As it was we only packed 500 tierces during the whole season up to January 1, 1906, when we shut down. Ordinarily the pack would have been at least 800 tierces, or about 654,000 pounds of salmon."

"Does that mean that your Eel river packing house will show a loss?"

"No, not a loss, but not so great a gain as the company should expect after the establishment of a \$25,000 plant."

"Is your company's stock owned in the east?"

"Oh, no, we have about \$25,000 worth of stock held by Finnish people, who, despite the best means, seemed satisfied."

"What made the season so unusually poor?"

"Low water. Throughout December the conditions in Eel river were not only unusual, they were abnormal. There was no water for the fish to get up in, and there was no fresh outflow to the sea. This last was a great factor. The flow of fresh water from Eel river spreads out when it strikes the ocean and attracts the salmon that are searching for spawning places. It is like bait thrown broadcast. If it is not sent out the salmon do not come up to spawn. This season it was not sent out. There were no rains, and the fish that were attracted by the small flows that did exist could hardly get over the bar, much less up the river to the spawning places."

"What proportion would you say this season's catch in Eel river has to the average catch?"

"About five-eighths, or little more than half. That is what the catch amounted to when we shut down on January 1st. Since that time have come the rains and attendant floods, and thousands and thousands of fish have come surging up the river. However, these have been kept out of the spawning beds by the drought, and we could not use them even if our packing plant was running. Their spawn is over-ripe, their flesh growing pale in color and their condition altogether unsatisfactory."

"Are they not being used at all?"

"Yes, I understand," said Mr. Starbuck, "that many of them are being shipped to San Francisco as fresh fish. We do not handle fresh fish at all. We pack in mild pickle and transfer to cold storage. Except the short

time taken for transferring our pack is not exposed at all until it reaches Germany, where practically all our pack is sent, and there it is smoked for local consumption."

"Mr. W. A. Wilcox, agent for the United States Bureau of Fisheries, said in the Times a few days ago that the Eel river salmon crop showed an enormous increase. How do you reconcile that with this poor showing?" asked the Times man.

"Easily, for that estimate was based on four years. I read Mr. Wilcox's statements and looked up our records as to shipments from this coast, finding that the two agreed very well."

"For all that," added Mr. Starbuck, "I believe that despite the state and federal efforts at propagation and the general establishment of hatcheries, the supply of salmon on the Pacific coast will grow less, not greater. The waste in such cases as I mentioned resulting from the late freshets is something hardly believable."

Mr. Starbuck is the father-in-law of W. E. Tallant, the President of the Port Kenyon Packing Company of Eel river, and the Tallant & Grant Packing Company of the Columbia river. When the storm of last week hit Eel river, Mr. Starbuck was marooned by the flood. "It did not rain," said he, "It was a succession of cloudbursts, and when I looked out in the morning, except for the tops of the surrounding hills there was nothing but water to be seen."

After being taken out of his front window in a boat, Mr. Starbuck was wrecked on a snag and saved himself by clinging to a fence post in a current that tried his strength. He was again rescued and taken to a place of safety. The site of the packing house and Mr. Starbuck's narrow escape is on Salt river, three miles above its junction with Eel river. He describes the ranch fences as washed away for miles and agricultural conditions seriously injured.

The manager of "Hotel Irving" wishes to announce that the hotel dining room is now open to the public. Good cooking and splendid service. Price 25 cents per meal. Special rates to permanent guests.

YOUR NEXT.

Never have to wait long at the Occident Barber Shop. A. E. Peterson, proprietor.

Success is stamped on every package. It is the most successful remedy known. It makes you well and keeps you well. That's what Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea does. 35 cents. Tea or Tablets. Frank Hart, druggist.

N. A. Ackerman, 421 Bond St., does all manner of taxidermy, furniture upholstery, carpet cleaning and laying, mattress making a specialty and all work guaranteed.

MASSAGE, FINNISH METHOD.

Miss Olga Landen, Finnish graduate, room 6, Pythian building. Gives massages, steam and hot baths. Phone Black 2165. Will call.

NEWS ITEM.

The agricultural and horticultural resources of the Grand Valley, Colorado, are most enterprisingly set forth in an attractive booklet, "The Little Empire of the Western Slope," now being distributed by the passenger department of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad.

A GOOD THING TO KNOW.

The stranger within Astoria's gates should know, as does every home citizen, that the one place to properly feed one's self is the Palace Restaurant. The service, at the desk, in the dining room, in the kitchen, is as perfect as means and experience can make it, and available, day and night, the year round. Private dining rooms for ladies and parties. Banqueting equipment unsurpassed. Call once, call always. Commercial street, opposite the Page building.

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