

LARGER TAX LEVY

Wanted for Portland's
Public Schools.

NEED \$100,000 MORE

H. Wittenberg Reviews the Situation and Points Out What Is Required.

One hundred thousand dollars is the amount of money Mr. Herman Wittenberg, manager of the Pacific Coast Biscuit Co., and a member of the school board, would like to spend next year in erecting new school buildings and repairing old ones.

People generally do not appreciate the congested condition of the schools in Portland today. Mr. Wittenberg has given the matter close study, not only as a member of the school board but as a progressive Portland citizen and the father of children in school. He talked freely with a Journal reporter yesterday on school matters. He struck straight from the shoulder, and paid his respects in no uncertain terms to that class of citizens who always stand in the way of progress and advancement, that class of chronic kickers to whom the almighty dollar is paramount to everything else. In the course of the conversation he said:

MORE ROOMS NEEDED.

"I feel that the public school system of Portland is not receiving the proper attention and consideration it should from the taxpayers. There is too much of a disposition to cut down the tax levy to such a point that it is difficult to give the children the proper equipment, and such comforts as they should have to get the best possible results. One of the things I realize is the fact that Portland is growing rapidly in population and that more school rooms must be provided than in former years. I am satisfied there will be a large increase in the population of Portland within the next three years and some provision must be made for this increase.

"At the last annual meeting of the taxpayers at the high school building I made the statement that if I was in a position I would spend \$100,000 for school purposes and I believe that anyone who will investigate the situation will see that my statement was justified.

INCREASED ATTENDANCE.

"The increase in attendance over that of last year, up to the present time, is nearly 800. Let us figure 40 scholars to the room, which is a fair average (and we have 30,000 scholars in the city), and it means, if it means anything, that we should have at least twenty new rooms for school purposes. Add to this about twelve rooms which we have rented from private parties and it makes it necessary to build at least thirty new rooms to accommodate present demands, saying nothing about the immediate future. This, in addition to repairs that should be made to put present ones in the condition they should be, easily makes the total I stated should be spent.

"Our citizens watch the tax levy and expenditures more closely than any other department of the city, county or state government. Why this should be the case is hard to understand. Certainly every parent is desirous of good, comfortable school buildings, they want them properly heated and ventilated that the danger to their children's health can be minimized as much as possible. They cannot be blamed for the continued policy of keeping the tax levy down to the lowest possible point which produces only money enough to barely pay the running expenses of the schools.

VISIT THE SCHOOLS.

"If the taxpayers who are interested in the schools and the welfare of the children attending them, will take the time to visit the schools and note their overcrowded condition and see the discomforts which the scholars and teachers are subjected to, I am satisfied they would be more liberal in voting money for school purposes. I respectfully ask them to visit the Atkinson school and note the existing conditions, and likewise the Harrison, Fulton, Woodlawn, and Highland schools, and the discomforts at all those places. They will find fifty pupils in some rooms which are only large enough for thirty-five. Does any sane man believe that children can be healthy or do good work where they are so crowded?

"I believe that if a taxpayer will take sufficient time and interest in the matter to investigate existing conditions, it will not be hard to convince them that we need more money for school purposes.

SCHOOLS ARE REPRESENTATIVE.

"In my opinion public schools are a good representative of a community. Portland is growing. We are branching out, and we are going to have a big fair here in 1905 to show the world what we have and invite people to come and make this their home. The first thing a man with a family is going to ask is: 'How are your schools?'

"We should not be playthings, nor continue the present policy of penny wise and pound foolish. We should not only have money enough to put present buildings in good repair, but should have enough to erect new, modern school buildings which will give pupils and teachers alike the greatest possible comfort, and thus will the best results be obtained.

HITS THE MOSSBAGS.

"I have no sympathy with such people whose sentiments are expressed in an Oregonian editorial this morning on the 'non-essentials in the public schools.' There are too much vacuum in such people's craniums to be worthy of notice. Their limited brain is too befogged with cobwebs to appreciate the fact that it is only intended to teach the rudiments of music and painting with water colors. It is not only furnishes a pleasing recreation for the children, but gives a chance to show if they have any talent in that direction.

"What we want is good schools, and we are going to have them if my efforts will prevail."

WILL ENTERTAIN THIS WINTER

The Star Course of the Y. M. C. A. Begins on October 31.

To amuse and educate the young and old seems to be the object of the Portland branch of the Young Men's Christian Association. This is definitely proven by the various features of this association. One of the chief attractions this year in this line will be the Star Course. This course, which begins on October 31, will not only tend to entertain and amuse but will also tend to elevate the minds and morals of the persons lucky enough to attend it.

The course commences with the Jott Concert Co., on the 31st of October. This company has with them the popular choral talk artist, J. Franklin Caveny, Agnes Pringle, violinist, and Charlotte Sellick, harpist.

The second number will be a novelty in the form of a liquid air entertainment, showing experiments of this wonderful power. Professor W. B. Patty, sometimes called "Wizard Patty," will bring with him a large shipment of the coldest thing on earth to mystify his audience. This is liquid air, which has been shown in Portland.

Clara Louise Thompson in "The Chinook," a picture play, the only drama of its kind, will be seen on the evening of December 12.

SCENE FROM "HELD BY THE ENEMY."



AT THE BAKER THEATER NEXT WEEK.

December 12. Miss Thompson reads the dialogue, assuming the characters. Coincident with the reading of the dialogue, the audience is shown a scene from the play, representing the characters in the attitude suggested by the lines. With the fading away of one exciting incident another takes its place.

The Euterpean Male Quartette will occupy the stage on Wednesday, December 21. The quartette is assisted by Miss Sibyl Conklin, contralto; Miss Blanche Williams, pianiste. The quartette is composed of J. P. Dupuy, F. E. Ney, L. Zimmon and F. W. Wallace.

The last numbers on the list are Dr. Lyman B. Sperry, in his lecture on "Gumption and Grit," on March 30, and Dr. A. A. Willets in his lecture "Sunshine," on May 26.

GUEST AT NOISY PARTY KILLED

Lively Times at a New York House Gathering.

NEW YORK, Oct. 30.—Louis Schultz, a barber of 124 Attorney street, and his 14-year-old son Samuel, were held to await the action of the coroner yesterday in the Essex Market police court on suspicion of being implicated in the death of Wassell Kromourk, of 146 Rivington street.

On Friday night, Kromourk attended a party in a flat above Schultz's apartments and so much noise was made that the other tenants objected. A delegation broke in the door and a free fight followed. Kromourk, in trying to get away, either fell or was pushed down a flight of stairs. His skull was fractured and he died on Saturday night in Gouverneur hospital.

Schultz and his son, it is alleged, headed the invading party, and when the police heard a story that Kromourk was pushed down the stairs they arrested father and son. Both deny their guilt.

MORGAN GOT CIGARS "ON TICK."

Felt in Both Vest and Trousers Pockets; All Empty.

"Let me have two good cigars," said J. Pierpont Morgan, to the man at the cigar stand of the Arlington hotel on the occasion of one of his recent visits to Washington.

"And, by the way," he added, "I have no money."

The man behind the counter smiled, thinking that the great financier was perpetrating a little joke.

But the man of millions ran his fingers through his vest and trousers pockets and repeated, "I mean just what I say, I have no change." The clerk at the desk will pay you.

Saying which, Mr. Morgan lighted one of the cigars and moved off. The clerk at the hotel desk paid the bill and added it to Mr. Morgan's account. The 50-cent place has since been hung up behind the cigar stand as a souvenir—Brooklyn Eagle.

AN HONEST "DARKY."

In a rural justice court in Georgia recently, an old negro, whose testimony had been questioned by a lawyer, said in his own defense: "Jedge, I'm a good man. I been a-livin' round here ten years. I ain't never been lynched; on de only two I ever stole throwed me in broke my two legs!"

WILL USE OIL EXCLUSIVELY

Southern Pacific System Prepares to Change All Locomotives.

MAY INFLUENCE OTHER LINES

Oil Tanks Being Built In All Towns On Oregon Road.

One of the greatest innovations in the railroad world will soon be instituted in the mechanical department of the Southern Pacific.

This is the change from wood and coal burners to that of oil burning engines.

Changes on the farm can be quickly made. The expense is not a barrier.

Changes in smaller lines are attended with very little cost or ceremony.

But to begin at the foundation of a great railway system and rebuild one of its first principles is no small task.

Coal has been used so long and so extensively that it forms the basis of all mechanical calculations. Its uses are so thoroughly intermingled with every part

of the system that its replacement by oil is a task of no small magnitude.

The compound engine is taking the place of the simple engine on the western roads. New engines are mostly all of the compound type. On account of the economy of fuel and water and their fun use of all the steam generated they are growing in popularity and use.

Oil tanks are being built in all towns on the Oregon road.

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275 PER CENT. DUP ON LENSES

Decision of General Appraiser Lunt of New York Overruled.

The full Reappraisal Board of the United States General Appraisers has ordered a decision recently, in the protest case of Voigtlander & Co., advancing values on imports of lenses 25 per cent.

The lens cases, including those of Quers & Co., Voigtlander & Co., have engaged the interest of importers, domestic manufacturers of lenses and customs officials for nearly a year's time.

When the Guers case was decided by the board in favor of the importer, the extraordinary advance ranging between 300 and 400 per cent, made by Appraiser Wakeman and General Appraiser Lunt, were reduced to within the seizure point, which is 50 per cent.

Following the Guers protest came the Voigtlander importation on which Appraiser Whitehead increased value 25 per cent.

VOIGTLANDER'S APPEAL.

Voigtlander & Co., appealed from Mr. Whitehead's advance of 25 per cent and the case went to General Appraiser Lunt for decision.

Lunt took the case under advisement, and last summer he not only sustained the extraordinary advance of 25 per cent, but surprised the importing firm by making a reappraisal on the goods, amounting to 300 per cent.

The full board, consisting of General Appraisers Fischer, De Vries and Howell, acting on information procured abroad by Mr. Fischer, has now reduced Mr. Lunt's 300 per cent advance on the Voigtlander lenses 25 per cent, the effect of which is to sustain the original appraisal of Appraiser Whitehead, the latter official having made an advance of 25 per cent.

ATHLETES IN
A BALLROOM

Multnomah Athletic Club Gives a Most Successful Dance.

Once more the Multnomah Amateur Athletic Club has scored a triumph. The clubhouse last night under the patronage of Mrs. Henry McCracken, Mrs. F. A. Nitchey and Mrs. R. F. Prael.

The 250 guests danced in the gymnasium amid a decoration scheme that had transformed the large room into a warm and cozy and brilliantly lit ballroom. Tinted autumn leaves, festooned with streamers of red and white, the club colors, and the whole decked with a myriad electric lights, made a fitting background for the host of beautiful women who moved to the rhythm of Parson's orchestra.

The entire clubhouse was thrown open, and the many rooms all held their quota of guests until all the street cars had gone to bed. The billiard room, profusely decorated with flowers and palms, was used as a supper room.

The committee in charge of the affair, consisting of Messrs. Irving Rohr, W. A. Robb and F. Friedlander, is entitled to the greatest credit for the successful outcome of their efforts.

TRANSPORTATION
ADVERTISED FOR

Quartermaster Wants Bids for Moving Soldiers and Freight.

The Quartermaster's Department of the United States Army is advertising for the furnishing of transportation of passengers and freight for the army and from San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Tacoma and Manila, until June 30, 1903. The bids will be entertained for one or all the points mentioned and will be opened at noon, November 13.

The supplies to be shipped consist of horses, mules, forage, building material, miscellaneous quartermaster's stores, subsistence stores, ordnance stores and ammunition, medical stores, furniture and household goods of officers, etc. The rates for enlisted men must show the exact character of sleeping accommodations and subsistence furnished; subsistence should in all respects equal that furnished soldiers at military posts in the United States.

Some of the requirements to be complied with by the successful bidder are that every passenger be allowed the customary amount of free baggage allowed the traveling public. Cubic air space allotted to each passenger to be at least 100 cubic feet. If less, should be stated. A guaranty of not less than \$75,000 must be furnished to the United States for the purpose of fulfilling the contracts.

SURE CURE.

Epilepsy Is No Longer Dreaded—A Recent Discovery.

CARBONDALE, Ill., Oct. 30.—A remarkably successful treatment for epilepsy has just come to light as a result of the recent discovery of Prof. Geo. H. French, of the Southern Illinois State University, of a parasite which in many cases causes the disease.

Several months ago the professor found a small child at Chester afflicted with an unknown parasite.