

WHILE SEATTLE AND SAN FRANCISCO WRANGLE OVER TRANSPORT BIDS, PORTLAND SHOULD ACT

This City Has Opportunity to Put in Her Claim for Part of the Business With the Philippines.

Has Long Been Favorably Looked Upon as the Place Where Returned Soldiers Could Be Well Taken Care of.

Portland's bid for handling freight for the war department was \$4.50, Seattle's bid was \$4.50. Seattle claims a victory before it is won. Let Portland do a little intelligent and effective work. Act now!

While San Francisco and Seattle are wrangling over the securing of the freight contracts of the United States Quartermaster's Department, they are overlooking the fact that Portland has just as much chance of securing her share of the Government contracts to be given as any city on the Coast.

The War Department as a transfer point for troops and freight, and this fact is known to all Army officers and to the merchants of San Francisco. Portland should lose no time in making good her claim to recognition in this matter, for the bids just let are only a series of similar tenders that are to be called for during the future years of Government service in the Philippines.

INACCURATE STATEMENTS. A great many inaccurate statements have been made concerning the amount of business that the Army transport service brought to San Francisco. The expense of maintaining the vessels of the transport service during the most extravagant year of the General Louis administration was a little over \$1,000,000.

The real benefit that has been derived by San Francisco from the war in the Philippines is from the purchase and handling of commissary supplies. This business has not been done through the Army Transport Service, but through arrangements made with transport vessels in service and contracts with the regular line of steamers. The War Department is aiming to have all of the quartermaster's stores and the commissary stores handled by one or more private lines. The transports have been handling a deal of the quartermaster's shipments and it was for that reason that the merchants of San Francisco at first advocated that the goods be carried by private contract.

ing from the islands. Millions are spent annually at the Bay City by returned soldiers who have to buy all of their clothing and general equipment on returning to the private life of citizens, from the San Francisco stores.

BUSINESS WORTH HAVING. If Portland can get control of a part of the freight business with the islands, it would not be a very hard task for her to secure a share of the regular troopship service. Part of the transportation of troops will go where the freight contracts go, but the troops may never be handled by private companies, as Root has repeatedly opposed such a measure.

THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO help all coast cities with business accruing from the development of the Philippines with the people's money. This was President McKinley's policy and those who are well up in army affairs say that President Roosevelt is trying to carry out the plan of his predecessor. PORTLAND SHOULD THEREFORE STEP INTO THE RING, AND STAY THERE TO A FINISH. IT WILL MEAN MILLIONS TO HER IF SHE WINS.

AFTER THE SCALP OF SECRETARY MOORE



JAMES M. MOORE, Secretary Portland Board of Trade.

Private Irrigation Men Making Trouble in the Board of Trade.

An echo of the recent irrigation convention is being brought into the affairs of the Board of Trade by representatives of the private irrigation companies. For the past week meetings have been held and meetings held. Star-chamber proceedings have been the order of the day.

The reason for all this is that the private irrigation companies do not wish to re-elect James M. Moore, secretary of the Board of Trade, for another term. On this hangs a story.

When the first murmur about irrigation escaped from the lips of Congressman

"PHANTOM JACK" IN VERY TIGHT BOX

Funny Politics That Have Caused Split in the Republican State Central Committee—More Rumors.

ONLY A SILLY SUBTERFUGE. (From the Astorian, Astoria, Ore.) Whether or not Jack Matthews has resigned as chairman of the State Republican Central Committee is a question that has been interesting the people of Oregon for some days past.

W. F. Matthews is the master of his own political destiny. He holds in the palm of his hand the option of a chairmanship, and he does not intend to let go of it.

Jack Matthews is a real Jack-in-the-box, ready to spring into political prominence at the slightest provocation.

THE TWO DRAGONS. A special dispatch from Astoria to the Journal has it that Secretary Harrison Allen of the phantom State Central Committee refused to make answer to inquiry as to the whereabouts of Mr. Matthews.

When it was decided to hold a convention of all the irrigators of Oregon, the private irrigation men said: "Yes; that's what we want."

LEADERS OF THE FIGHT. The leaders in the fight for Moore's scalp are W. A. Laidlaw, C. Hitchinson, A. Idelman and A. King Wilson.

ALLEGED INCAPACITY. The outward reasons given for the opposition to Mr. Moore are that he is not capable and that his accounts are not kept straight.

THE ORIGIN. "From what I can learn, the fire started in the rear of the building on the second floor. This probably accounts for the escape of guests who occupied the front rooms on the upper floors.

AWFUL SIGHT. When the firemen finally managed to make their way into the rooms the sight that met their gaze was appalling.

THE ANNUAL MEETING. At the annual meeting the report of the secretary will be read and a bid time likely, as the active irrigators will

FOURTEEN ARE DEAD AS RESULT OF CHICAGO FIRE

Sleeping Watchman Did Not Warn Guests in a Crowded Hotel and Many Were Overcome by the Smoke as a Result.

CHICAGO, Dec. 4.—A leaking gas jet and a negligent night watchman caused the death of 14 guests of the Lincoln Hotel, between 6 and 7 o'clock this morning.

SUFFERING INTENSE. The suffering of those who reached the ground in safety was intense. Ten injured by jumping were carried into a drug store, near by, and given the best possible attention until the ambulances began to arrive.

THE FIRST ALARM. It is not known how long the fire had been burning when the police discovered it, between 6 o'clock and 6:30 this morning. A leaking gas jet is supposed to have filled one of the rooms on the second floor, and this accumulation of gas became ignited.

GAVE UP THE STRUGGLE. A number of dead found in the hallways evidently where they had been obliged to give up the battle for freedom after having worked their way through the blinding smoke until they had fallen.

THRILLING ESCAPES. J. E. Herbert, of Ballineville, Ohio, jumped from the fourth floor, where he had been sleeping, and struck the roof of No. 178 Madison street, near where Mrs. Shepherd fell.

A MOTHER'S SACRIFICE. Cut off from all chance of descending the stairs had a prisoner of the flames on the third floor, Mrs. Shepherd, of Davenport, Iowa, sacrificed her own life to save that of her 7-year-old son.

to face the cold winds of an Illinois winter with nothing but their night clothes to shield them from the weather.

Table cloths were pressed into service as dresses and a cordon of police was placed about the building to keep back the curious. Later several other hotels extended their hospitality, and the unfortunates were made comfortable.

Three of the 13 persons injured will probably die.

W. J. Thomas, a mail clerk of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, jumped through a window on the fourth floor, and in his blind haste narrowly escaped falling to the street.

So far as identified, the dead are: H. K. WOODS, Lebanon, Ind., 22 years old; P. V. SLOCUM, 29 years old, Ocoona, Ill.; SAMUEL YOCUM.

From what could be learned from persons who escaped from the building it appears that the fire may have resulted from dropping a lighted cigar on the carpet in the hallway on the second floor.

pet in the hallway on the second floor. The smoldering fire filled the building with a heavy, suffocating smoke.

Many of the bodies were found in beds in positions of slumber. Others were found in the hallways, lying face downward, in positions that must have portended how they had vainly tried to save their lives.

When the contractors came and looked the building over, but nothing was done. Last night our 70 rooms were all filled, and I should judge we had about 125 to 150 guests.

When Mr. Moore was seen regarding this matter this morning he stated that his books are open to inspection and that he would like the gentlemen who talk about him to speak to him and not behind his back.

As regards the meeting, it is doubtful whether the private irrigators will carry their point of meeting this afternoon. It is highly probable that Moore's party may come in with a majority, call the meeting to order and adjourn until 3 o'clock this evening.

At the annual meeting the report of the secretary will be read and a bid time likely, as the active irrigators will

attempt to pick it to pieces. This will probably be followed by the election of officers.

The present officers are as follows: F. E. Beach, president; W. M. Killingsworth, first vice president; James Steele, second vice president; Tyler Woodward, treasurer.

Whereas, The Oregon Mining Stock Exchange has been an institution among us for three years, doing a large amount of advertising for the state, and through its efforts Oregon has been given a place among mining states in all the leading journals of the world; and,

Whereas, Through the good work of the Exchange many important mining districts tributary to Portland are fast being brought into prominence, and cannot help but add largely to the commerce of our city; therefore be it

Resolved, That we pledge our co-operation and propose to assist the management in building, as has already been done, the foundation of an Exchange worthy of our city, and worthy of the confidence of our people.

RESOLUTIONS. A resolution was passed urging the commencement of work on the droptail.

Delegates to the Columbia River Basin Board of Trade were appointed. The work of this organization in assisting to reduce freight rates on grain from the upper Columbia and Snake Rivers, by urging the construction of a portage railway, and securing an appropriation from Congress for the construction of locks at The Dalles, has resulted in the setting of thousands of dollars in the farmers in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

and cannot be named, until said meeting is called.

Mr. Allen could not answer. The gentleman occupying an office in which he is answerable to the Republicans of Oregon, refused to talk to the people.

RUMORS OF PROTESTS. It is believed that at the time of Matthews' name being mentioned for political office, about four weeks ago, a number of prominent citizens here protested against the reelection of the politician.

Many people of Oregon appear to believe that Matthews really intended to resign as chairman without having first attached to the office a good-sized political wing.

The following resolution will be introduced, if time permits:

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MINISTER BUCK DROPPED DEAD

U. S. Representative at Japanese Court.

Stricken by Heart Disease Yesterday While Duck Shooting—Was an Able Diplomat.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—Japanese Minister Takahira, called upon Secretary of State Hay today said notified him that United States Minister Alfred Buck, at Tokio, had fallen dead from heart failure while duck shooting yesterday.

WHEAT MARKET. CHICAGO, Dec. 4.—Wheat—73 1/2 @ 74 1/2.

REED IS STILL NEAR TO DEATH

Doctors Hope to Avoid an Operation.

Fear, in His Present Condition, the Patient Has Not Strength to Survive It.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The condition of Thomas B. Reed is much more serious this afternoon and he may die at any time.

PRESIDENT CORBETT ILL. H. W. Corbett, president of the Lewis and Clark Fair, has been confined to his home with bronchial trouble for the past five days.