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

This City Has Opportunity to Put in Her AFTER THE SCALP OF 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!

wrangling over the securing of the freight contracts of the United States Quartermaster's Department, they are overlooking 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 letting of Army transport contracts by the War Department will depend in the future, to a very large extent, upor the facilities that a given point has for handling men destined to, and bound from the Philippines. For this reason was made public by Secretary Root the time of the visit of the committee from the San Francisco Chamber, of Commerce to Washington that Portland, Or., owing to the excellent military post at Vancouver, Wash., nine miles from the city, was seriously considered as a place for the harboring of recruits destined for service in the islands and for

This matter was brought up in private conversation with representatives of the Army War Department at the time of the are range

military posts in the country. The for men whose health has been underthe trying climate of the Philippines and who must revive their waning strength in a more equitable temperature, not subject to sudden and violent changes. Seattle is not regarded with much favor on account of its lack quarters for troops and the Govern-

men, healthfully situated and within easy access by sea and land, was regarded as a very creditable competitor of the big Government reservation at San Fran-

QUESTION OF ABANDONMENT. It is not probable that the Government will abandon altogether its own Army transport service. The handling of troops by a private line is impracticable and will prove a very expensive task for the concern that undertakes it. But wherever the bulk of the Government freight is handled the transport service will send

at least some of its troopships.

Portland's bid on freight, which is the same as that of Seattle, \$4.50 per ton, will be considered by the War Departnent at Washington Just as favorably as

MINISTER BUCK

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 Long administration was a little over \$11,000.

The real benefit that has been derived

Philippines is from the purchase and business has not been done through the Army Transport Service, but through armade nents rival back at Washington of General Bird.

General Superintendent of the Army
Transport Service.

Vancouver Barracks is one of the finest

Vancouver Barracks is one of the finest sary stores handled by one or more pri-vate 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 firs advocated that the goods be carried by private contract.

The government would not be averse o making of Portland and Vancouver Barracks the receiving points for troops coming from the Philippines. It is not generally known that at one point of the life of the transport service, the War Department officials discussed the advisability of maintaining a triangu for troops, the shipping point to be San Francisco and the receiving point Portland. This matter was brought up be cause of the exposed position of the Pre-sidio and the cold fogs which are, as aforesaid, bad for men returning from a tropical climate. One of the most serious detriments to this move was the main-tainance on the Presidio reservation at San Francisco of one of the finest mili-tary hospitals in the world. It was argued that as the transports always brought home a large percentage of sick it would not be well to have them landed at any place not thoroughly equipped for

andling many sick soldiers.
One of the principal sources of revenue derived by San Francisco from the trans-port service being there is the immense Seattle's bid. Portland stands well with amount of money paid to troops return-

REED IS STILL NEAR TO DEATH DROPPED DEAD

U. S. Representative at Doctors Hope to Avoid Japanese Court.

Stricken by Heart Disease Yester- Fear, in His Present Condition, the day While Duck Shooting---Was an Able Diplomat.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 .- Japanese Minisfer Takahira called upon Secretary of State Hay today and notified him that United States Minister Alfred Buck, at The States Minister Alfred Buck, at time. Tokio, had fallen dead from heart failure while duck shooting yesterday. Buck was appointed minister to Japan in 1897, and has been at the capital of that country

News of the death of Minister Buck' caused great sorrow in this city, where he is well known. Since going to Japan his work has been highly satisfactory in every way and it was mainly through his influence that friendly relations remained perfectly to the satisfaction of both countries during the newspaper contraverse over the exclusion of Japanese. troversy over the exclusion of Japanese from the Hawaiian Islands. Mr. Buck was recognized as an able diplomat and energetic worker. The body will be returned to the United

WHEAT MARKET.

CHICAGO, Dec. 4.-Wheat-7314@7314c.

an Operation.

Patient Has Not Strength to Survive It.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.-The condition

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.-Ex-Speaker Reed passed a comfortable night and Doctors Gardner and MacDonald now have hope of avoiding an operation They say that the patient's condition is such that he might not survive the shock. His condition is critical and there may be a change for either better or worse at any time. The most serious feature of the case is Bright's disease of the kidneys. Mr. Roof is unaware of this condition. His family is constantly at his bedside.

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. He is rapidly improving and was taken out for a drive this after-noon, as his physicians say this will do him good.

SECRETARY MOORE



troops will go where the freight contracts go, but the troops may never be handled Private Irrigation Men Making Trouble in the Board of Trade.

in army affairs say that President osevelt is trying to carry out the plan of predecessor. PORTLAND SHOULD HEREFORE STER INTO THE FIGHT.

An echo of the recent irrigation pen- of the day. The reason for all this is vention is being brought into the affairs that the private irrigation companies do of the Portland Board of Trade by repre- not wish to re-elect James M. Moore. panies. For the past week mutterings other term. On this bangs a story, have been heard and meetings held. Star-

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.

death of 14 guests of the Lincoln Hotel, between 6 and 7 o'clock this morning. This loss of life is made all the more wonderful from the fact that the buildupper floors fought with one another to force a passageway through the narrow halls. Night Watchman Weber has been arrested, as it is believed he was asleep.
Fourteen corpses have been recovered from the two stories that hurned, and are ranged in a row on the pavement for identification. Many of these were simply, evercome by smoke.

annually at the Bay oldiers who have to

clothing and general equipment on re-

BUSINESS WORTH HAVING

the freight business with the islands,

If Portland can get control of a part of

would not be a very hard task for her to

secure a share of the regular troopship service. Part of the transportation of

by private companies, as Root has re-

The government intends to help all

coast cities with business accruing from the development of the Philippines with

AND STAY THERE TO A FINISH.

peatedly opposed such a measure.

from the San Francisco stores.

THE FIRST ALARM. It is not known how long the fire had been burning when the police discovered it, between 6 o'clock and 6:39 this morning. A leaking gas jet is supposed to have filled one of the rooms on the second floor, and this accumulation of gas be-came ignited. No explosion was heard, but the fire had gained great headway when found. The firemen responded promptly to the call and assisted nobly in the work of rescuing those still imprisoned in the upper stories. A strong fight was made against the flames, and they were confined to the third and fourth floors, and finally subdued. The less has

not yet been estimated. GREAT PANIC. When the alarm of fire came, hundreds awakened from a sound sleep and rushed for the stairs. The cots that had been placed in the halls tripped the would-be escapers and piled them in confused and struggling masses. Many men and several women were trampled under foot and badly hurt. Others rushed to the

windows and jumped to the pavement.
When the flames were subdued many were found still in their beds, where they had been smothered to death by the fumes of the burning wood and clothing below. Others had been suffocated and then their bodies had been frightfully muti-lated by the slowly licking flames that partially consumed them.

A MOTHER'S SACRIFICE. Cut off from all chance of descending the stairs held a prisener by the flames on the third floor, Mrs. Shepherd, of Davenport, Iowa, sacrificed her own life to save that of her 7-year-old son. Taking the boy in her arms she clambered into an open window and jumped to the street below. Her body struck the roof of a restaurant and caromed to the paver She was injured internally and will die, but so well did she protect her boy that he was found to be unburt when rescuers picked him up.

Not one of the guests of the hotel had time to dress, and several hundred persons came scrambling into the open street

CHICAGO, Dec. 4.—A leaking gas jet and to face the cold winds of an Illinois Win- pet in the hallway on the second floor. negligent night watchman caused the ter with nothing but their night clothes. The smouldering fire filled the building to shield them from the weather. . with a heavy, suffocating smoke. SUFFERING INTENSE.

The suffering of those who reached the open and scantily-clad men and women gathered about the stoves and shivered. 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 unfortu-nates were made comfortable.

Three of the 13 persons injured will probably die.

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

The Lincoln Hotel is in the downtown district, and is a very popular, medium-priced resort. There is never a time when it has not a comfortable supply of patrons, and during the stock show it has been crowded to a greater extent than ever before in its history.

THRLLING ESCAPES. J. E. Herbert, of Salineville, 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. His right leg was broken and he suffered internal injuries. He was taken to the county hospital. 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 failing to the street. He managed to make his way to the fire escape and climbed to the ground. Pre-vious to Thomas' escape, from 25 to 30 persons had climbed down the fire es-care to the street. All were in their night

Bo far as identified, the dead are: H. K. WOODS, Lebanon, Ind. P. V. SLOCUM, 29 years old, Oconda, Ill. SAMUEL YOCUM. I. C. YOCUM, believed to be a brother

of the above; Davenport, Iowa.
EDWARD TORNER, 30 years old, Milwankee; identified by a letter found on VAN FLEET, Richardson, Ind.

N. N. FARDY, Janesville, Wis. GEORGE MORRIS, Richmond, Wis. 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 car-

PERILOUS DESCENT.

- Allen Olderf, of Milwaukee, made ing was not entirely destroyed. The ho-tel was overcrowded, and guests on the upper floors fought with one another to possible attention until the ambulances least a dozen persons on the top floor began to arrive. A restaurant was thrown vainly endeavoring to make their way least a dozen persons on the top floor from the building by means of the front stairway.

> Many of the bodies were found in beds in positions of slumber. Others were found in the hallways, lying face downward, in positions that mutely portrayed how they had vainly tried to save their lives. Some were half clad, others wore nothing but night clothing. It was by means of articles and letters in the nockets of what little clothing some of the dead persons were that many identifica-

> F. A. Smith, proprietor of the hotel, "I am certainly not to blame for this awful catastrophe. Three weeks ago the agents of this building were notified to place a stairway in the rear of the around the freight elevator shaft in the the building over, but nothing was done, Last night our 70 rooms were all filled, and I should judge we had about 125

"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. They had an opportunity to reach the stairway before about him to speak to him and not behind flames reached that part of the building, but the occupants of the rear rooms were cut off by the flames. Most of our guests last night were persons who came to Chicago to visit the stock show, and knew little of the building." Chief Musham, of the fire department, said that it was the worst fire he had attended during his career as a fireman,

and that so dense was the smoke that it was impossible to reach the imprisoned guests, who died like rats in a cage. AWFUL SIGHT. When the firemen finally managed to

make their way into the rooms the sight that met their gaze was appalling. Men and boys lay about the floors of the rooms and hallways, where they had fallen in their eagerness to escape.
"The building," said the chief, "was one of the worst fire traps I have ever seen. The floors in places had cracks in

them large enough to drop a penny through, and the smoke just sifted through and suffocated the inmates of the

"PHANTOM JACK" IN VERY TIGHT BOX

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

ONLY A SILLY SUBTERFUGE

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. The Portland Journal has demanded Matthews' resignation of the chairmanship or the United States Marshalship, but it was unable to learn in Portland if Matthews still field both positions. Matthews was quoted by Henry McGinn as saying that he resigned the chairmanship in July last. Yesterday Harrison Allen, secretary of the state committee, was asked by the local representative of The Journal whether, or not Matthews' resignation had been handed in, but he declined to make any statement. He said that any information he had on the subject would be placed at the disposal of the state committee when next it met, but that it would be withheld, so far as he was concerned, until the meeting, Mr. Allen further stated that he would not permit himself to become involved in the fight between Matthews and Croasman. It was learned, however, from another source, that Matthews had tendered his resignation. He handed it in to Mr. Allen for action at the next meeting of the committee. As the time for this meeting rests with Mr. Matthewshimself, he is holding his political position by virtue of a desire to do so. nimself, he is holding his political position by virtue of a desire to do so.

wn political destiny. He holds in the palm is called. 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 promi-nence at the release of a trigger or to remain a passive factor holding down the limited quarters of a United States Marshalship. He says that by virtue of his resignation, "now in the hands of Secretary Allen of the Republican State Central Committee," he is now a political

This is correct, but the State Central Committee cannot accept the resignation until that body is called into session. Mr. Matthews can continue to carry water on both shoulders until he codors the meeting to convene. In other words, if Mr. Jack Matthews is not chairman of the State Central Committee, there is no such thing as a State Central Committee. THE TWO DROMIOS.

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 whether the smooth Mr. Matthews had disposed of himself before disposing of the State Central Committee. The sechad disposed of the State Central Committee, as he, as chairman of same, would have to call its next meeting. Also, that by disposing of himself and allowing no action by the committee, and calling no meeting, new officers had not been named, portant government office.

meeting of irrigation enthusiasts was held, Mr. Moore was also present and was elected secretary of the Oregon Irri-Association, and president. At this meeting Mr. Williamson declared himself against private irrigation of government lands, and was upheld by Mr. Moore and opposed by C. C. Hutchinson. Sharp words were one of the features of the meeting. TROUBLE BEGINS.

When it was decided to hold a convention of all the irrigationists of Oregon, the private irrigation men said, "Yes! that's what we want." But between drinks they plotted to overthrow Mr. Moore—but they made one mistake—they included A. H. Devers, as they considered Mr. Devers and Mr. Moore as very closely connected so they tried to "knock" Mr. Devers at the convention also. This they almost succeeded in doing. They became discouraged at their ill luck and, as the wise ones say, they lost their head, and instead of nominating a man from East-ern Oregon for secretary, they were si-lent, and as a result Mr. Moore was elected unanimously. This was a bitter pill to swallow—but they rallied and then commenced directing their eyes towards the Board of Trade.

LEADERS OF THE FIGHT. The leaders in the fight for Moore's scalp are W. A. Laidiaw, C. C. Hutchinson, C. M. Idleman and A. King Wilson. These gentlemen were holding a star-chamber proceeding in the office of W. M. Killingsworth, vice president of the Board of Trade, this morning, and endeavored to win him over to their side. When the matter was broached to Mr. Killingsworth, his reply was that he would have nothing to do with the affair, as he thought Mr. Moore a capable officer. This somewhat nonplussed the irriga-tion people and they repaired to Mr. A. Wilson's office in the Worcester

building to catch their breath. ALLEGED INCAPACITY. The outward reasons given for the op-position to Mr. Moore are that he is not capable and that his accounts are not kept straight.

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

It is understood that the private irrigationists will take advantage of a slight mistake made by Mr Moore in sending out notices for the annual meeting. Instead of stating 2 p. m., as the by-laws pro-vide, he had 8 p. m. The result of this error is that the irrigationists intend to hold the meeting at 2 o'clock anyway. Last reports at 2.30 o'clock state that a few of them are on the spot.
One point that is very much in favor of

the private companies is the fact that President F. E. Beach, of the Board of Trade, was called away on business to Tacoma a few days ago and has as yet not returned.

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

THE ANNUAL MEETING. At the annual meeting the report of the secretary will be read and a hot time is likely, as the activate irrigationists will

tleman occupying an office in is answerable to gon, refused to talk to the people. Pollticians quickly noted his action and were fully aware of his reasons for same. That is why Allen's name has been mention often of late in connection with the Matthews phantom central committee. The result has been a lively row in the mittee and a genral split in the Matthews faction of the Republican party. RUMORS OF PROTESTS

It is believed that at the time of Matoffice, about four parte dgo, a nu prominent citizens here protested against the recognition of the politician by the Washington officials. Now the question arises whether this protest will be reproattorney-general of the United States the Matthews has always been an "offensive

that Matthews really intended to resign as chairman without having first attached to the office a good-sized political wire The Pooh Bah of local comic political opera will have to answer to Washington, it is said, for his making of his public office a public nuisance, as powerfu agencies are reported to be at work to put a stop to the jugglery that has made a farce of a state central committee and a cheap political headquarters of an im-

elect Williamson, a few weeks ago, and a attempt to pick it to pieces. This will meeting of irrigation enthusiasts was probably be followed by the election of

F. E. Beach, president; W. M. Killin worth, first vice president; James Steele, second vice president; Tyler Woodward, treasurer; James M. Moore, secretary.

An attempt will probably be made to posipone the elections if things do not go the right way—the excuse for this will be that new by-laws are being com-piled by Judge Seneca Smith and they may provide for the abolition of some offices and the substitution of others. The following resolution will be intro-

duced, if time permits;

RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED.

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, It is beyond despute that

ment of our vast mineral zones, which was not the case before the Exchange was hunched among us; and, Whereas, Through the good work of the Exchange many important mining districts

tributary to Fortland are fast being brought into prominence, and cannot help but add largely to the commerce of our city; therefore be it ... Resolved, That the Board of Trade of the City of Portland hereby acknowledge the untiring efforts of the management of the Exchange, and urge the contin-

need of that body. And be it further
Resolved, That we pledge our co-operation and propose to assist the management in building, as it has already laid the foundation, an Exchange worthy of our city, and worthy of the confidence our people, SOME HISTORY.

In his report Secretary Moore will state that the Board of Trade was reorganized on January 16, 1902, at which time new by-laws were adopted, changing the transaction of business formerly con-ducted by a board of directors to that of all tts members at open meetings held monthly.

REVIEW OF WORK. The report then reviews the work of the board in the last year, among which ref-erence is made to the following: The co-operation of the Federated Trades in securing a reduction of street

car rates and other matters pertaining united efforts a reduction of over 39 per cent on school children rates was se-cured, and a general movement toward eniminating in an ordinance preventing the laying of wooden walks in the greater part of the city, cement walks taking their place.
A resolution was passed urging the

ommencing of work on the drydork. Delegates to the Columbia River Ba Board of Trude were appointed. The work of this organization in assisting to reduce freight rates on grain from the supper 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 saving of thousands of dollars to the farmers in Oregon. Washington and Idaho,

The formation of a permanent Bureau

(Continued on Second page.)