

The Weather: Tonight and Friday, cloudy to partially cloudy, with occasional rain. South to west winds.

IF YOU HAVE NOT QUITE MADE UP YOUR MIND LOOK OVER THE JOURNAL'S LIST OF ADVERTISERS TODAY.

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CHARRED BODIES FOUND IN RUINS

Chinatown Swept by Disastrous Fire Which Causes Loss of Life—Several Persons Yet Missing.

Many Thousands of Dollars Believed to Be Buried in the Debris—Celestials Claim Much Coin was Stolen—The Property Destroyed.

THE DEAD. Mark Yuen, aged 40, employed in a cannery. Ho Lung, 45 years of age, keeper of an opium joint at the rear of 21 Second street. Aged man supposed to be Ah Fae, but not yet positively identified. THE MISSING. At least four or five unknown Chinamen were missing this morning and it is believed other corpses will be found in the ruins. MONEY DISAPPEARS. A large sum of money, variously estimated at from \$5,000 to \$10,000, is missing. This was in gold and silver coin and represented the savings of the Chinese laborers who hoard their wages. THE FIRE LOSS. Damage to Bacon building \$7,000. Damage to Sherlock block 7,500. American Typefounders Co., water damage 9,500. Chinese lodgers and merchants 10,000. Chinese Joss house owned by Chein Co. 5,000. Water damage to surrounding stores 3,000. Total \$42,000. INSURANCE. The two blocks were well covered by insurance as was the stock of the American Typefounders Co. The merchants in the neighborhood are also protected against the water damage.

Portland's Chinatown is in mourning as the result of a disastrous fire, which gutted the Bacon and Sherlock buildings running from 21 to 25 Second street, shortly before last midnight. Three bodies have been taken from the ruins and it is generally believed that at least a half dozen other unfortunates are buried under the tons of debris lying in the midst of the burned structures. At least four Chinamen are reported missing, but up to noon no other bodies were found. The firemen worked 12 hours, and this afternoon a systematic search of the ruins for bodies and valuables was begun. Worst Blaze in Chinatown. This is the worst blaze that has ever visited Chinatown in Portland. Some years ago the Sherlock building at Second and Oak streets, was damaged by fire and, while the loss was heavier than at present, there were no lives sacrificed to the flames. It is believed that those who lost their lives became bewildered in the labyrinth of passageways and were overcome by smoke. Buildings a Chinese Beehive. The buildings where the disaster occurred were occupied entirely by Chinamen. Along the street were stores and commission houses. Back of these were gambling dens and opium joints. On the upper floors were the meeting places of various societies, a joss house, quarters for a few Chinese families and hundreds of small rooms, probably not larger than five by seven feet, most of them occupied by two or more men. While it was certain that some had perished in the flames it was not positively known until about 2 o'clock when the firemen discovered the bodies of the man supposed to be Mark Yuen, who was lying in a normal position in his bed on the second floor of No. 27 Second street. His corpse was not burned and it is supposed that he was suffocated. The body was removed to the morgue. Dies in Great Agony. A most ghastly discovery was made about 7 o'clock this morning when Capt. Ed Davey of hose company No. 1, found the charred remains of two other foreigners lying in the ruins back of No. 22. Both bodies were twisted, and by the position it is known that they must have undergone untold agony before dying. The faces of both men were unrecognizable and portions of the limbs of both were missing. Their fists were tightly clenched, showing that they had suffered terribly. Their legs and arms were distorted and altogether the sight

THE GOVERNOR AND MAYOR SPEAK WITH ENTHUSIASM OF THE FUTURE

By Gov. George E. Chamberlain. OREGON was never in a more prosperous condition than at the present time. It may truthfully be said that "she flies with her own wings." Whatever has been accomplished in the past has been done because our soil, our climate and our resources have invited hither whatever of foreign capital has been invested here and whatever of increase there has been to our population. North of us, Washington has had the assistance of the best efforts of the Northern Pacific Railroad company, while the Southern Pacific has worked steadily, in the past at least, for the development of California. Oregon is not destined to be isolated much longer, and already not only the eyes of the Eastern and foreign capitalists are looking this way, but the railroads themselves are putting forth efforts to assist in the industrial and commercial development of Oregon, such as they have never done before. An examination of passenger traffic of the transcontinental roads will show that up to about one or two years ago, the greater proportion of Western immigration spread out over the Dakotas, Montana, Idaho, Washington and the fertile sections in the British possessions. Conditions recently have been changing, however, and now the tide of immigration is setting toward Oregon. And why shouldn't it? We have every diversity of soil, resource and climate. Practically, Oregon has been an undeveloped country and there are fields for enterprise here that cannot be found elsewhere. I have every reason to believe that in the past 15 months 25 per cent has been added to our population, whilst a careful estimate, based on the figures at hand, from the assessment rolls of 1903, will show that the assessment for 1903 will exceed that of 1902 by from 15 to 20 per cent. It will thus be seen that not only has our population increased, but with it has come a large increase in property valuation, caused doubtless by increased acreage under cultivation and increased development of industrial enterprises. How about the future, do you ask? Judging by the past four years, which ought to be a safe criterion, an era of unprecedented prosperity will soon be upon us. An important agency to accomplish this end is the Lewis and Clark exposition. Its importance cannot be overestimated. True, it has not as yet been generally advertised in the East or elsewhere, but the railroad companies centering here, men who have financial interests in this section, and the reading public know all about the importance of the exposition and have it in mind. With the advertising that is to be done in the near future, there is no doubt but that there will be an influx of men and capital such as has never been known here before. But one result can follow these conditions, and that is an increase in population and wealth, and an increase in a rapidly growing trade with the Orient. Taken all together, the future has in store for Oregon more, in my estimation, than it has for any other state in the Union.



MAYOR GEORGE H. WILLIAMS.

By Mayor George H. Williams. IN A REVIEW of the past year, Portland's varied manufacturers and industries show a big gain along all lines. The lumber industry is becoming one of giant proportions and our exports are highly gratifying. The city's trade, coastwise and with the Orient, Europe and the Southern hemisphere, is continually increasing. The four business has increased at least 125 per cent. The state of which this city is the metropolis and trade center possesses the vast variety of natural advantages and is becoming known everywhere for the inducements it holds out to prospective settlers. The work of the government in deepening the river channel and cutting out the bar will be greatly beneficial and means much for the prosperity of Portland. Schools show a steady increase, and this is gratifying from the standpoint of an enlarged population. Educational matters are in a high state of efficiency and receive every impulse and advancement possible from the constant efforts of the instructors. The system of education is cheerfully and liberally supported, both public and private. Our climate is a standing aid, and has the advantages of an equable and even temperature. The salmon industry is continually gaining and to the fisheries of the American Pacific coast. As yet more than 23,000,000 acres of lands are vacant and awaiting settlement and much more is reserved in the existing and proposed forest reserves. The tide of immigration has set westward and the Columbia River basin offers more and more opportunities for the prospective settlers. Portland has grown from a village in the wilderness to become the metropolis of a largely settled district. The story of its evolution from a small settlement to the American Pacific coast is the story of its evolution from a small settlement to a big city combined with the characteristics of the American Pacific coast. This same enterprise is always at work for Portland and Oregon and the entire Northwest and is achieving wonderful results.

POSTAL FRAUDS

Heath and Beavers Scored as Responsible for Post-office Irregularities.

OTHERS ALSO TO BLAME

Abuses Are Old-Time Ones—Statute of Limitation Allows Some Offenders to Escape Punishment—Brislow's Report Insufficient.

Washington Bureau of the Journal. Washington, Dec. 17.—The charges made by S. W. Tulloch, formerly cashier of the Washington postoffice, against the administration of that institution, were investigated by Messrs. Conrad and Bonaparte, who have made public their report. The responsibility for the abuses are laid at the door of several already accused, among whom is none less prominent than Perry S. Heath, the ex-first assistant postmaster-general, George W. Beavers, who at the time of the abuses was chief of the salaries and allowance division, is another, and those named are: Charles Emory Smith, ex-postmaster-general; James P. Willett, ex-postmaster of Washington, now deceased; John A. Merritt, his successor in the said office, and its present incumbent; Robert J. Trucewell, controller, and Henry A. Castle, auditor of the postoffice department. The report is one of the strongest documents that has been handed into any government department in years and is in the greater part as follows: "Sixth—The evidence laid before us suggests the possibility and even probability, but does not prove, that abuses may have continued both in the administration of the postoffice subsequent to the early summer of 1900, when we lost sight of them, and in connection therewith criminal acts may have been committed within the period of limitations. "Fourth—The report of the Hon. Charles E. Heath, relating to the claim of George W. Beavers, above set forth, indicate the possibility that similar conditions may have existed both within and beyond the period of limitations in the New York postoffice. "Fifth—The persons primarily responsible for the above-mentioned abuses and the resulting scandals appear to have been Perry S. Heath, then first assistant postmaster-general, and George W. Beavers, then chief of the salaries and allowance division, neither of whom is now in the service of the United States. "Sixth—Charles Emory Smith, ex-postmaster-general; James P. Willett, ex-postmaster of Washington, now deceased; John A. Merritt, his successor in the said office, and its present incumbent, Robert J. Trucewell, controller, and Henry A. Castle, auditor of the postoffice department, all appear to have shared in some measure their respective responsibilities; the ex-postmaster-general for his seeming failure, notwithstanding repeated warnings, to appreciate the gravity of their misconduct, and the consequent necessity for its prompt and adequate punishment; the two postmasters for toleration of these abuses and obedience to plainly improper orders without exposure or, apparently, protest, and the auditor and controller for acting upon lax and arbitrary principles in the administration of their respective offices, whereby the payment of illegal and seemingly fraudulent claims by the treasury was rendered possible. "Seventh—The employment of subordinates in postoffices about to become classified for the purpose of thus securing their admission without examination into the classified service was a practice

(Continued on Page Two.)

BANDIT SURRENDERS ON BEING WOUNDED

Riverdale, La., Dec. 17.—Alfonso Reeves, who shot and killed a deputy sheriff yesterday, when the latter attempted to serve papers and then barricaded himself in his home, surrendered this morning after defending his home the entire night. Fifty deputies surrounded the place when Reeves refused to surrender and kept up a fire with rifles and shotguns. This morning the officials made a sally and attempted to smash the door. Reeves appeared upstairs and fired a shotgun at the invaders. No one was seriously injured. Reeves received a charge of buckshot in the face and a few minutes later surrendered. Reeves is believed to be insane. It is noted that he wrote numerous letters threatening the life of Roosevelt.

WOMEN USHERS ARE VOTED A SUCCESS

New York, Dec. 17.—The women who succeeded the men ushers in the majestic theatre last night seemed to do the work just as well, if not better than the men. The management says the women are being tried merely as an experiment, but if they continue to do as well as they did at both performances yesterday, they will be kept. They began work at the matinee, and the women and children whom they showed to their seats voted the experiment a success. Each woman wore a big red ribbon over her shoulder to distinguish her from the women in the audience.

COLOMBIAN FORCES ARE IN THE FIELD

Panama, Dec. 17.—The Atlanta has returned from Colon and reports she saw about 500 Colombian soldiers north of the Atrato river.

TURF TIPSTERS ARE UNDER SUSPICION

Washington, D. C., Dec. 17.—A fraud order was issued today against Max G. Gay, turf tipster, who is charged with having caught many suckers through extensive advertising.

ATCHISON SELLS BONDS

New York, Dec. 17.—The Atchison railroad has sold \$10,000,000 worth of mortgage bonds to Morgan to provide funds for new equipment and construction of roads for next year.

COMMERCIAL CUBA GAINS FREEDOM

Washington, Dec. 17.—The Cuban reciprocity bill was signed by President Roosevelt at 1 o'clock this afternoon. The president used the same pen in signing the bill that was used by President Pro Tem. Frye of the Senate and Speaker Cannon of the house, and the pen will, on the request of the Cuban minister, be sent to Havana and placed in the Cuban museum as an historical relic of great importance. Minister Quezada has notified his government, the Cuban, that the bill has been signed by the president. When the president learns that Cuba is prepared to carry out the provisions of the measure he will issue a special proclamation which will be signed by the president. The measure will be signed by the president, and the entire machinery of the customs and government revenue establishments will be started in such a way as to be in operation by the end of the year. Political observers here who have kept in close touch with the Cuban situation believe that this proposal will greatly facilitate the establishment of more pleasant relations between the United States and Cuba. The measure will be signed by the president, and the entire machinery of the customs and government revenue establishments will be started in such a way as to be in operation by the end of the year.

MR. MITCHELL'S GREAT SPEECH

OREGON'S SENIOR SENATOR BRINGS FORWARD AN IMPOSING ARRAY OF FACTS AND FIGURES TO UPHOLD THE JUSTICE OF OREGON'S CLAIM.

Washington Bureau of the Journal. Washington, Dec. 17.—Most of the time of the senate today was taken up with an elaborate and eloquent argument by Senator Mitchell of Oregon in behalf of the bill appropriating \$2,125,000 for the participation of the government in the Lewis and Clark exposition to be held in Portland in 1905. In the course of his long address he went exhaustively into the history of the Oregon country, which now comprises the three great states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho and a part of Montana and Wyoming.

CUBAN RECIPROcity MEASURE HAS PASSED

Washington Bureau of the Journal. Washington, Dec. 17.—The senate yesterday passed the Cuban reciprocity bill by the large majority of 57 to 18. The treaty provides for a reduction of 20 per cent in the duty now prevailing under the Dingley law on all articles imported into the United States and a reduction of from 20 to 40 per cent on all articles imported into Cuba from the United States.

GENERAL WOOD MUST WAIT

Washington, Dec. 17.—The senate military committee has decided to postpone action on the Wood nomination until January 4.

PHILIPPINE LAND DEAL

Washington Bureau of the Journal. Washington, Dec. 17.—News that Taft and the Philippine friars have reached an agreement on the sale of lands on the islands is confirmed by the department.

TEARS FLOW IN THE POWERS CASE

MRS. MARY POWERS WEEPS MUCH WHILE TESTIFYING AGAINST HER SON IN THE LAND CONTEST, BUT SPOKES UP CONSIDERABLY ON CROSS-EXAMINATION.

Albany, Or., Dec. 17.—Old, aged and gray, bent and bowed down with the weight of years, with tears streaming down her wrinkled cheeks, Mrs. Mary A. Powers, the plaintiff, listened to the arguments of counsel yesterday afternoon and this morning while her attorney sought to prove, through the testimony of her son, S. B. Powers, the defendant, that her son had forged and misrepresented upon his commanding mother.

When court adjourned shortly after 5 o'clock last evening the plaintiff had finished her case in the suit of Powers vs. Powers and the defendant had introduced two witnesses. The battle was a long, hard one between the opposing attorneys, and almost every question met with an objection. While on the witness stand the plaintiff did not appear nervous, but when under the heavy cross-examination she would titter at times and the answers were short and sharp.

Her husband, William M. Powers, who is defendant's father, related how he had been abused by his son at divers times, and admitted a great dislike for him. Letters written by the witness to the defendant were introduced in evidence by the defense to show the ill-will and hatred harbored in the mind of the witness toward his offspring. Unkind terms and even scurrilous names were used, and disclosed a very unfriendly spirit. Mrs. Izelle Springer, daughter of the plaintiff, was examined in behalf of her mother, but did not appear to know much about the transactions. She said that the first she knew about the deed, which was executed in 1890, was told her by her brother, the defendant, in August, 1902. G. D. Burdick, Hon. S. A. Dawson and Hon. J. J. Whitney were examined as to the value of the land, which was variously estimated to be worth from \$40 to \$45 per acre. Frank Powers, another son, who resides in Portland, was called, but his testimony did not have much bearing on the case. The defense opened its case by introducing Hon. J. M. Williams of Eugene and John Sutherland, handwriting experts, to testify to the genuineness of the signature of John Simpson, one of the witnesses to the deed. Court adjourned until 9 o'clock this morning when the trial was resumed.

MOTHER AND GIRLS CREMATED IN BLAZE

Philadelphia, Dec. 17.—Three persons were cremated in a fire at the home of Harry Smith at an early hour this morning. The victims were Mrs. Smith and her two children, 12 and 14 years of age. The woman became confused by the smoke and stood at an upper window, seemingly helpless. Her two children were trying to drag her from the flames when the floor gave way and all three were buried in a mass of fire. The bodies were burned to a crisp. Mrs. Sholmers, the wife of a policeman, while going to the rescue, was seriously and perhaps fatally burned. The tragedy occurred in full view of many spectators, who were helpless to render assistance.

ORDERS FOR THE JOURNAL May Be Given to THE CARRIERS or sent to Telephone 500

Tried to Kill WITH A COCKTAIL

(Journal Special Service.) San Francisco, Dec. 17.—Leon Neate, one time a hotel clerk here, planned to poison a man, whose evidence may send him to the penitentiary. The criminal was arrested just as the intended victim was about to lift a cocktail to his lips that contained a dose of strychnine. Neate had been robbing rooms in the Hotel Plymouth and was selling the goods to a pawnshop broker named Carr. Neate had learned that detectives were on his track and as Carr would be able to give evidence for his conviction, planned to poison him. He went to his pawnshop and talked glibly for a while. Finally he asked him to come and have a drink. Carr could not leave his store and Neate went to a saloon and got two cocktails and returned. Just as Carr was about to drink the detective, who had been trailing Neate, arrived and seized him. The cocktail was set aside. Neate's pockets were searched and a package of poison found. The cocktail was afterwards analyzed and found to contain enough poison to kill five men.