

SCHOOL TAX LEVY HEAVY NEXT YEAR

Children Are Housed Between Brewery and Gas Plant--Manual Training and Kindergartens Proposed--Comparisons with Portland.

"For once, at least, let us put the responsibility of the schools on the shoulders of the taxpayers," said Chairman Wittenberg of the board of education yesterday during a discussion of the question of what action the board should take in connection with the improvements to school buildings.

"I think that now is the time to make these repairs and improvements," explained Mr. Wittenberg, "for unless prompt action is taken the job will grow to monumental proportions. The Atkinson school, for instance, in my opinion, has long outlived its usefulness and the location is extremely bad. There should be a new school in a new location. At present the children are housed between a brewery and a gas plant, and it is inimical to their health to be cooped up in such quarters."

Other Buildings as Bad.
Director Williams interrupted to say that he believed the Couch and Felling buildings to be just as bad as the Atkinson, and the chairman urged that as another point in favor of letting the people decide the question to suit themselves.

"I think we would be derelict in our duties to the people and to the schools if we did not do so," he urged again. "If we let the people determine just what they want, we will not be responsible for any mistakes, but if we fail to take that course, the blame can justly be laid to our doors. I think we ought to recommend to the people that these talked-of improvements should be made. Then, I have no doubt, they will adopt our suggestion."

Oppose Expensive Policy.
Directors Beach and Williams acknowledged themselves to be among the conservatives when it came to considering a policy of expensive school improvements, and while not actively protesting, they nevertheless failed to acquiesce in the chairman's suggestion about recommending such a course to the taxpayers.

"If we can get along without any big expense, I think we should do it," explained Mr. Williams. This elicited the reply that if the board didn't take some action now, when the buildings could be repaired one at a time, they would have a whole lot of school buildings on their hands at one time. It was further pointed out that the situation was as yet well in hand, and the schools could be looked after without any great expense, comparatively speaking, but if things were allowed to go on as they had done, some day in the future the people would be called upon to face an enormous expense.

The directors are divided, and on the one item of expense. To make additions and alterations considered necessary by some would require in the neighborhood of \$175,000, while the conservatives see in this an expense that is not absolutely required. They want to get along with just as small expenditures as can be figured on.

Increase in Salaries.
Yesterday's session was mainly devoted to the consideration of routine ex-

penses in the items of the estimates submitted. There will be an increase made for both teachers' and janitors' salaries, but the actual figures were not made public.

It was decided to hold another session tomorrow at 3 o'clock, and also to postpone the taxpayers' meeting, which was scheduled for that evening, until January 11 or 12. The complete reports and estimates will be published some time in advance, so the citizens may have a chance to absorb all the information possible concerning the condition of the schools and funds before making up their mind as to what action to take if the bonding proposition comes up.

Atkinson Will Be Rebuilt.
Without taking into consideration the matter of general improvements, there seems hardly any doubt that a new school will be erected to take the place of the Atkinson building, and on a new location in the district. A committee from the board and a committee from the taxpayers' league are making an inspection of the structure this afternoon, and the complaints have been so long-continued and numerous that the board, it is thought, can hardly do otherwise than agree upon the plan of putting up an entirely new school. The arrangements of the building are defective, and, in the words of a board member, "it has long outlived its usefulness."

Chairman Wittenberg's annual address, with the exception of the paragraph devoted to advocating the bonding plan for the schools, was as follows:

Chairman's Annual Address.
"To the Taxpayers of School District No. 1, Multnomah County, Or. Ladies and Gentlemen--As chairman of the board of education, I deem it a matter of duty to present to you a few ideas and suggestions which might be of some benefit to you in our efforts to further improve the present efficiency of our public school, as well as, possibly, to find a way of meeting any additional expense with the least possible hardship to the taxpayers of this district."

"For your information I would state that singing and music is not now being taught in our public schools; nor has it been for the past year. In my opinion, this is not a wise plan, and music and singing should again be re-instated in the schools."

"I believe that manual training would be a splendid addition in various grades, and would lead to a development of ideas of the pupil which would be a great benefit in after life. All schools of the most modern type have introduced manual training, and we should not be behind the times."

Favors Public Kindergartens.
"You are also aware that the kindergarten department has not in any way been connected with the public school system. I believe that anything that will take the little waifs and children off the streets, and out of some of the abodes which are called homes, is often a benefit to the child. And, as the foundation of character is often laid in the earliest years of the child, for that reason, in my opinion, the kindergarten is

a splendid adjunct to the public school and should be made a part of same, and serious consideration should be given to this matter."

"Another improvement which, in my judgment, would add greatly to the efficiency of our schools, would be to diminish the number of pupils assigned to a teacher for instruction. This number is greater in Portland than in most progressive cities, and is shown by their reports, and while we save in the amount expended for teachers' salaries, we do so by sacrificing the interests of the children."

Lacking in Manual Training.
"I desire to call your attention to the large number of private schools existing in our midst. In my opinion, the real reason for this is that our public schools are not up to the standard demanded by a large number of our people. We may feel that our public schools are the best in this country, but, as a matter of fact, such is not the case. We are lacking in a great many directions in efficiency and equipment. Two of the principal items I have already mentioned, being kindergarten and manual training."

Baths in New York Schools.
"In New York today new schools are being built with baths attached for the poorer children; also lunch rooms, and I beg to call your attention to the fact that even in the old country there are public schools which, in my opinion, are superior to our own. In Stockholm, Sweden, is one of the largest schools in the world, accommodating 2,870 pupils and in the basement are 100 bath rooms where children are required to bathe, if the teachers think that they are not taught cleanliness at home. Soap and towels are furnished free by the city and a wholesome dinner is furnished to the poorer children at noon, if they need it. This same custom prevails in Norway. This insures every child, at least, one warm meal each day."

Not a Towel in the Schools.
"How does this compare with our boast of superiority? Certainly, we have nothing of this kind in this city. Not a towel can you find in our schools, for the use of the children, furnished by the district. Even the convenience of toilet paper is being objected to, and was not in use in any of our schools up to the present term, and was only introduced in three schools a short time ago. Conveniences of the kind that I have mentioned in the foregoing drive children to the private schools, making a double burden of taxes on parents, who pay their school taxes to assist in maintaining the public schools and at the same time pay tuition to private schools. Let us improve the efficiency of our public schools so as to make it unnecessary to make use of the private schools and the high ideal of our public schools will have been reached."

"For the coming year, in my opinion, it will be absolutely necessary to levy a tax of 3 1/2 mills for building purposes alone. Next year will certainly be fully as much to keep up with the large increase of population. Therefore, the tax levy will be heavy for building purposes. My plan would be to issue from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 worth of 5 per cent bonds running for 30 years. The directors to be empowered to sell whatever amount of bonds would be necessary for the construction of new school buildings and the purchase of necessary grounds. In this way Portland could be supplied with the proper buildings for housing its children, and the yearly burden would be reduced to an amount that would not prove a hardship at any time to the taxpayers, as my plan would be to each year levy a tax of not to exceed 1 mill for the retiring of a portion of these bonds. This would distribute the amount of payments in such a way as to make it a very light load to carry as compared with our present plan."

SHOT BY VAN HOUTEN

(Continued from Page One.)

Mrs. Minnie Van Houten, wife of the man now in the city jail charged with murder in the first degree.

Friends of Van Houten yesterday said that they were more than surprised that the state husband did not take the life of his wife. They said that he was so insanely jealous, so maddened by what he thought to be the wrong inflicted upon him and his family by Young, that he might have been expected to commit wholesale murder.

Before the shooting Sunday night Van Houten called upon his wife at the place where she works. He asked to see her but she happened to be out with her cousin at the time. Van Houten, during the last two months, since Mrs. Van Houten took her present position, has called upon her several times. But it is against the ruler of the house for women employees to receive male company, and Van Houten was ordered away. Sunday night he appeared nervous.

A Letter and An Affidavit.
A letter, supposedly from Young to Mrs. Van Houten, and an affidavit, made by a resident of Aberdeen, Wash., named Van Houten's mind until he was insanely desperate, say his friends. The affidavit was presented to District Attorney Manning, but it showed that a crime, if there was any, was committed in Aberdeen. It sets forth that in October, 1902, Young, who was then keeping a saloon in the Gray's Harbor city, roomed over a certain dance hall. At the time there lived a woman professing to be his wife and the affidavit states that in every particular she answers the description of Mrs. Van Houten.

The letter, which appears to have been read and reread until the paper is frayed and worn at the edges, was written at Aberdeen April 21, last, and was received at the postoffice at Marshfield, Or., by the husband, although the missive was intended for Mrs. Van Houten.

The letter, Minnie, I have just received your most kind and welcome letter. Minnie, at the same time, Dave came in just wild, hunting for you, talking fight all the time. To convince him I had to show him every room in the house to satisfy him. He accused you of being here with me. I changed his mind before he left. He accused me of sending you an express package, which I did not own up to. He said he got posted in Portland about you being here with me. I think he has changed his mind now about looking me like a hind-sight. I had no trouble with him whatever. Talked very nice to him and took him up to Lulu and she told him the last letter she got from you was from Marshfield. He was a little quieter after that. Now, Minnie, if he goes to see you, he may try and tell you I told him that you lived here with me. Do not let him get anything out of you, for I throwed him off on everything. Now, my dear, if I was you, I would go to Portland and get your divorce at once, for he may cause lots of trouble for us both. I know you know how to handle him without me telling you.

"To show you how excited he was, he never saw your picture on my vest. He thought to scare me right on the start, but I would not scare for him, so he changed his mind. When I see you I will tell you the whole. Now I am writing you right away, so to post you when he goes."

"Now, dear, he wanted to know if I ever was to his house in Portland. I told him I was not. Well, that was no lie. That was not his house, was it? I was just as smart as him. I am glad you got that bracelet. Do not tell him who sent it to you. Tell him it was Lulu. Do not let him get any catch on

us. I am going to try and see Lulu and tell her to say she sent it. He claimed he had his fortune told and you was here with me and that I sent you the package and that I was a married man and was keeping you, too. He was bound I should show him my wife. I told him he was up against the wrong thing now and someone was making a fool out of him, which is the truth. Now, honey, try and settle the affair if you can. After the divorce I will show him that, not write now. I will close, hoping to hear from you soon. I remain as ever, your old fellow.

"Lots of love and kisses."

Mrs. Van Houten's Story.
Mrs. Van Houten, prostrated and almost distracted, was unable to see anyone until late yesterday. She left her place of employment last evening and went to her aunt's home in East Portland. She indignantly denies all the charges made against her, accuses her husband of extreme cruelty and says that she knew Young simply as a passing friend. She asserts that her husband wanted her to agree to a scheme to blackmail Young and became angry because she refused.

At the time she is alleged to have been in Aberdeen with Young Mrs. Van Houten says she was sick in bed at the home of her cousin at Marshfield. She says it was then he went to Aberdeen in an attempt to blackmail Young. The couple was married in February, 1894, he being then 28 and she 16. They have never lived happily, according to her story. She says that Van Houten is a spendthrift, late tempered, overbearing and quarrelsome. She asserts that he has often abused and threatened to kill her, and once said he would kill both Young and herself.

For two months after their marriage, they lived at Mount Taftor, in Yamhill county for two and a half years, at Oregon City for an equal length of time and finally came to Portland. Mrs. Van Houten kept a rooming house here. Almost a year ago she left Portland for San Francisco and at the time says she gave her husband \$500. He followed her to the Bay City and in a month they returned to Marshfield. Van Houten never "broke," she asserts, and then she gave him \$200 more. While at Marshfield the wife says her husband drove her into such a frame of mind that she attempted suicide by taking poison. Several weeks ago he again induced her to give him \$100 but later she determined to sue him for divorce.

Van Houten's Story.
"For my children's sake I could not stand the disgrace," said Van Houten as he impatiently walked the corridor of his cell at the city jail yesterday. While he refused to discuss the matter he intimated that he had nothing to repent and did not fear the consequences, believing that he had righted a wrong.

Attorney Dan J. Malarkey has taken up Van Houten's case.

One of the best known lawyers in the city yesterday said: "Men who break up families and lose their lives at the hands of distracted husbands seldom get much sympathy at the hands of a jury. In the present case the fact that the husband followed his wife from one place to another, begging her to return, and then went to her supposed companion asking for an account of her tended to show that he wanted to do what was just. Getting no satisfaction he went to the district attorney, but there got no redress because there was no evidence of wrong doing in this state. With the compromising letter frayed and worn with constantly knifing his heart and disheartened by the thought of the disgrace falling upon his two little daughters, Van Houten, it will be argued, was driven to a state of mental irresponsibility."

The shooting of Young recalls a mysterious killing which occurred less than a year ago at Twenty-fourth and Thur-

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man streets, two blocks from where Young was slain. In this case Henry Myers, a saloonkeeper, was the victim of an unknown assassin's bullet. The murderer was never caught. In his dying statement Myers stated that thugs attempted to hold him up but they were never brought to justice.

Ready to Escape.
Sergeant Hogeboom and Acting Detective Vaughn, who arrested Van Houten at his barn in Montavilla, has information that Van Houten secured a horse and buggy with which to make his escape following the shooting.

After running from Young's saloon Van Houten made a roundabout tour of the northern part of the city. He finally reached a barn where a friend loaned him a horse and buggy. He hid for several hours, it is said, and about midnight started to drive across to Montavilla, reaching his house between 1 and 2 a. m.

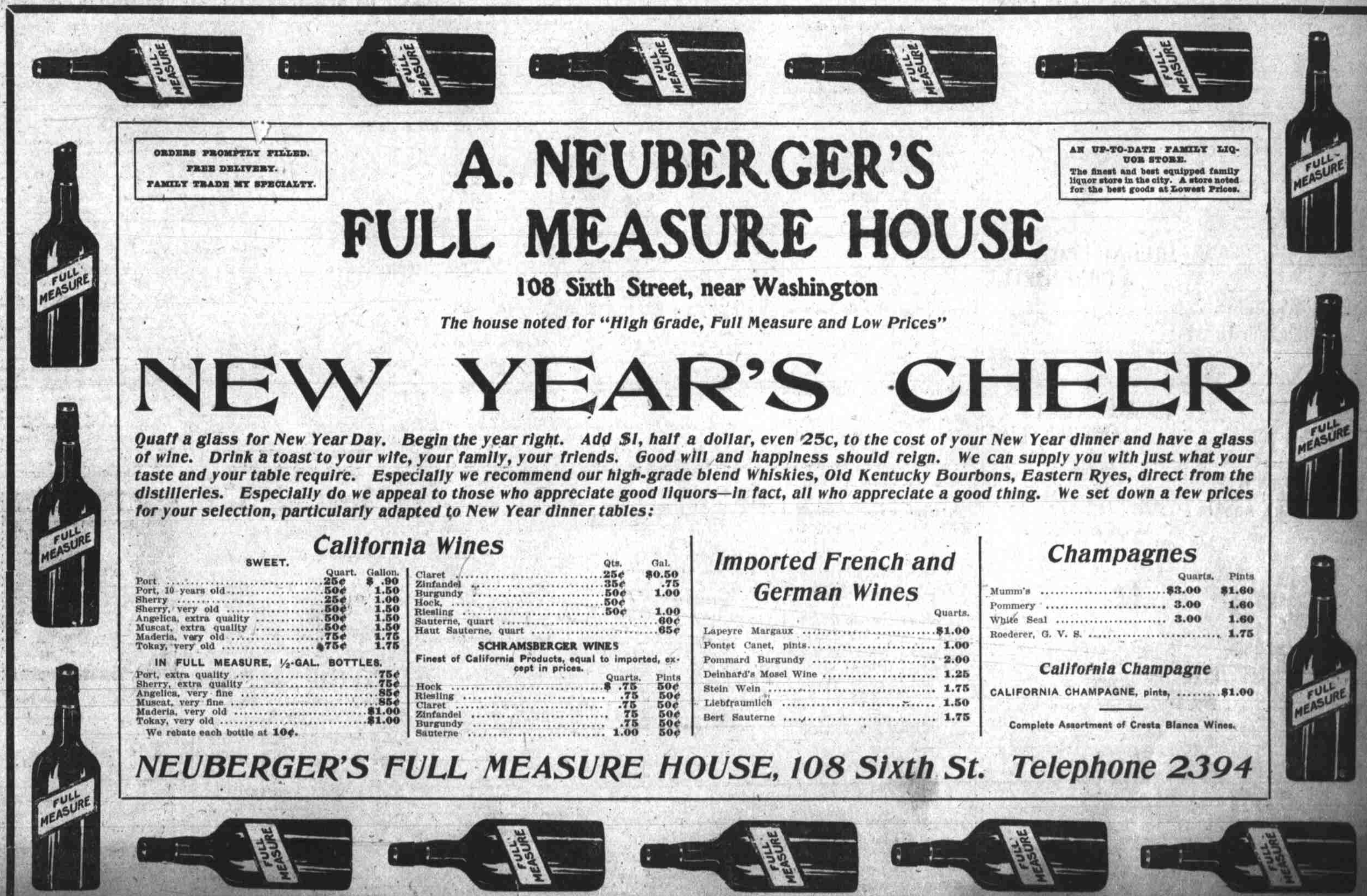
The two officers arrived on the scene about 3:45 a. m., and then lay in wait for a chance to capture their man. Vaughn heard voices in the house. He recognized Van Houten's voice, but he also knew that other men were with him. Fearing that the slayer might have friends armed and might escape in the dark, the officers concluded to conceal themselves in the barn. During the cold morning hours they kept watch of the house to see that Van Houten did not escape.

In the barn were 13 horses, all the stalls being filled. At 7 o'clock Van

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California Wines

SWEET.		QUART.		GALLON.	
Port, 10 years old	25c	1.00	1.00	4.00	10.00
Sherry, very old	25c	1.00	1.00	4.00	10.00
Angelica, extra quality	50c	1.50	1.50	6.00	15.00
Muscata, extra quality	50c	1.50	1.50	6.00	15.00
Maderia, very old	75c	2.00	2.00	8.00	20.00
Tokay, very old	75c	2.00	2.00	8.00	20.00

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Port, extra quality	75c	3.00	3.00	12.00	30.00
Sherry, extra quality	75c	3.00	3.00	12.00	30.00
Angelica, very fine	85c	3.50	3.50	14.00	35.00
Muscata, very fine	85c	3.50	3.50	14.00	35.00
Maderia, very old	1.00	4.00	4.00	16.00	40.00
Tokay, very old	1.00	4.00	4.00	16.00	40.00

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QUARTS.		PINTS.	
Lapeyre Margaux	1.00	1.00	1.00
Pontet Canet, pinks	1.00	1.00	1.00
Pommard Burgundy	2.00	2.00	2.00
Deinhard's Mosel Wine	1.25	1.25	1.25
Stein Wein	1.75	1.75	1.75
Liebfraumlich	1.50	1.50	1.50
Bert Sauterne	1.75	1.75	1.75

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QUARTS.		PINTS.	
Hock	75c	50c	50c
Riesling	75c	50c	50c
Claret	75c	50c	50c
Zinfandel	75c	50c	50c
Burgundy	75c	50c	50c
Sauterne	1.00	50c	50c

Champagnes

QUARTS.		PINTS.	
Mumm's	3.00	1.60	1.60
Pommery	3.00	1.60	1.60
White Seal	3.00	1.60	1.60
Roederer, G. V. S.	1.75	1.75	1.75

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