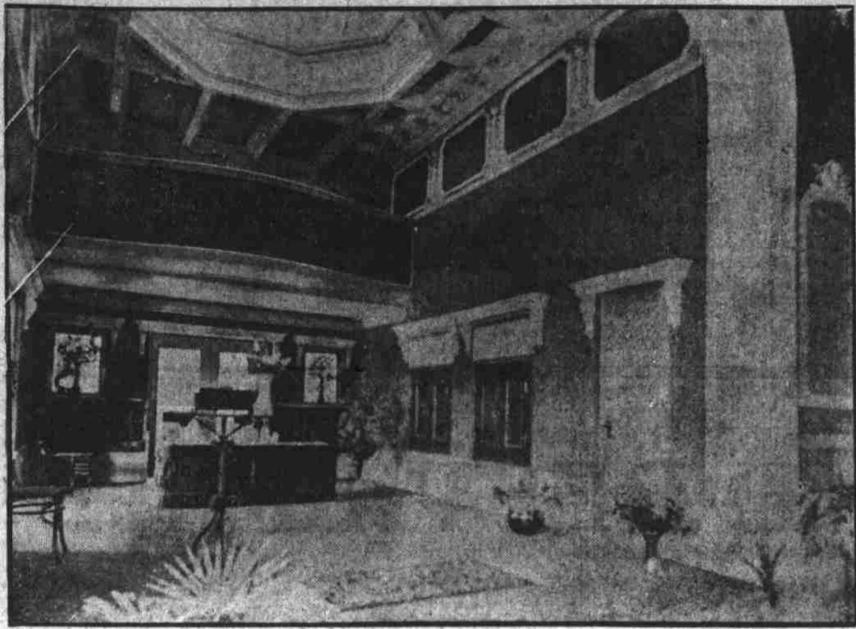
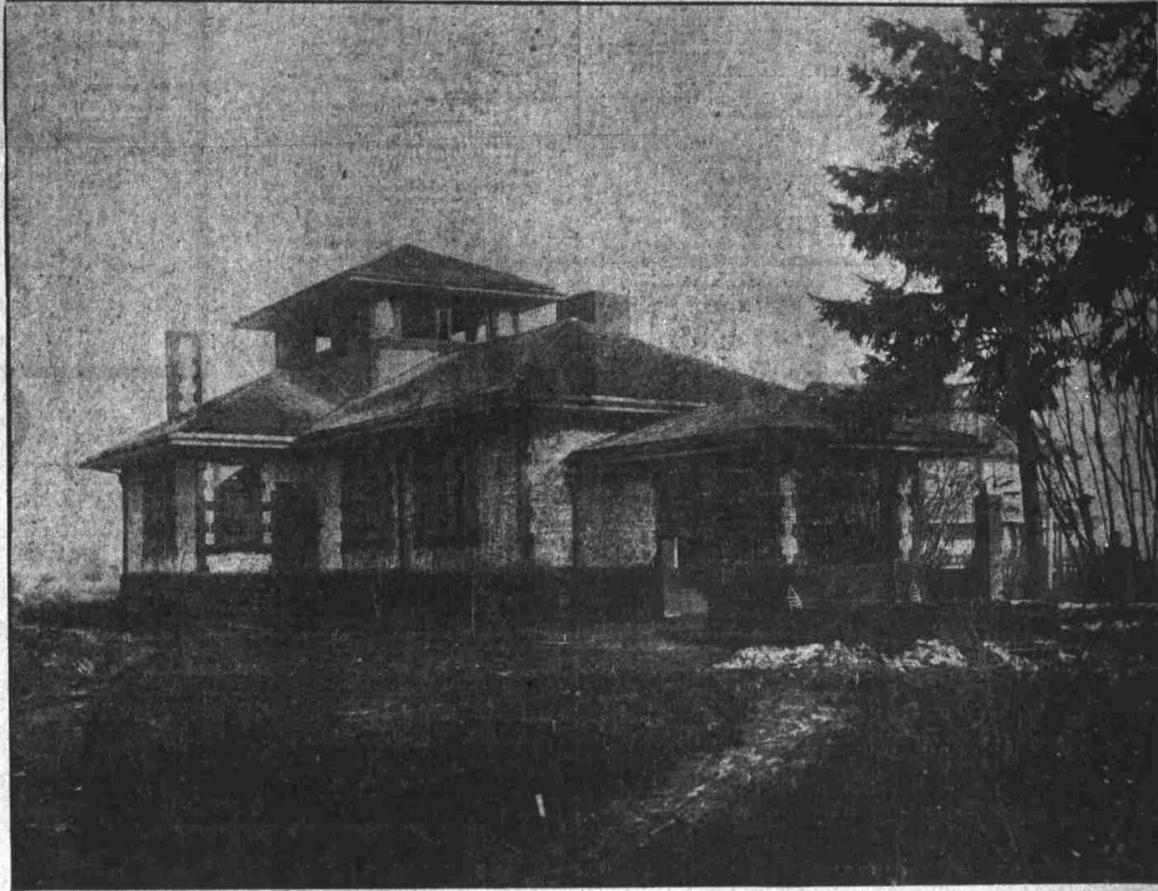


A VISIT TO THE PORTLAND CREMATORY



ORGAN LOFT AND SACRISTY.



THE CREMATORY OF THE PORTLAND CREMATION ASSOCIATION.

The story of cremation in Portland, like the story of any sanitary or other reform, is that of slow progress, worm-like progress almost for a certain period, and then a general and sudden change in public opinion that makes the thing abhorrent yesterday, desired tomorrow.

The first incineration was made in a local crematory August 23, 1901, when a test body was cremated in the retort at the plant of the Portland Cremation association. The crematory was opened for regular work in October of that year, but work was not really begun until the following year. In 1902 the association cremated 37 bodies; so far this year 82 have been cremated, and the increase of 120 per cent is expected to be equaled next year, the association anticipating the cremation of at least 125 bodies.

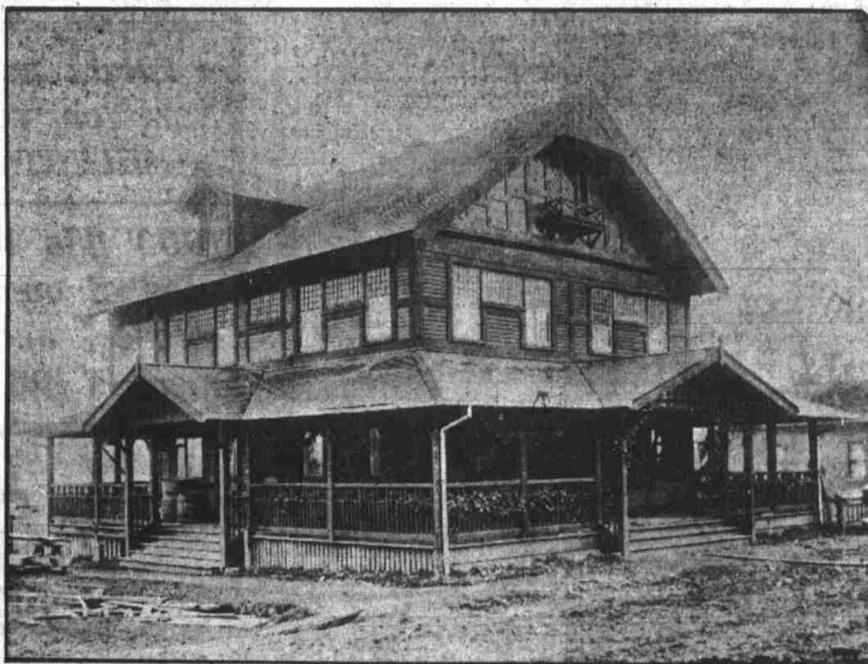
This record is simply that of every other crematory ever built in the country. The San Francisco plant, was started in 1892 and during the first year cremated 42 bodies, in 1900, 642 bodies were cremated, and the past three years have shown an increase in the number of bodies annually cremated in San Francisco. When the crematory started there it had no competition, but drew from the entire west; now many of the California towns have their own crematories and the work has grown to such proportions that almost a third of the city dead is cremated instead of buried.

Frank B. Gibson, manager and superintendent of the local crematory, and who has had an experience of 15 years in the work, having built the largest furnace in the country, and being one of two living men in the United States that understands the construction of

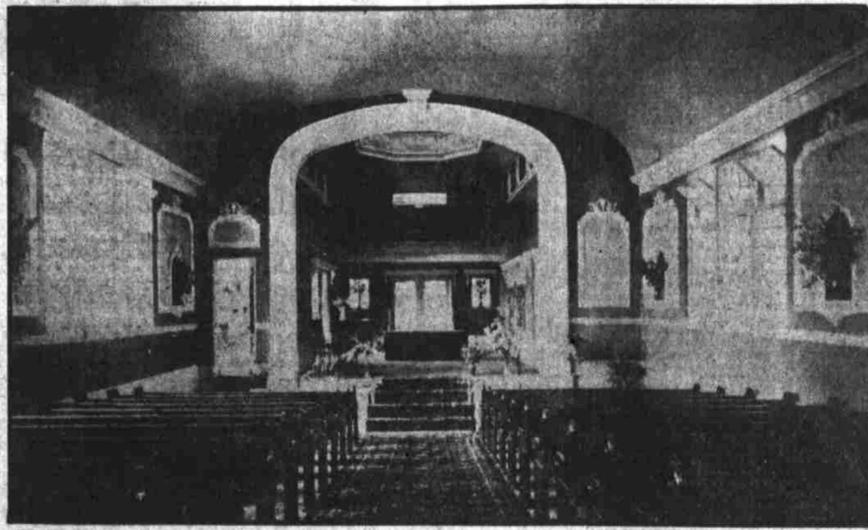
such furnaces, in speaking of the change that had come in public sentiment during the past 15 years, said: "There was a time when the ministers were solidly arrayed against us. Five years ago all sorts of antique notions were advanced against the change. Today the clergy is our firm supporters, and we have been aided greatly by its most unpleasing features of body burial is the removal that is often made. Years may have passed and the body, unless in the most expensive of coffins is at best a mass mingled with clay and rotting boards deep in a pit. In the funeral urn the ashes remain forever intact, countless generations can do honor to them in the family vault, as did the ancient Egyptians, and any

By the process of cremation the necessity for an expensive coffin is saved, as a plain casket is the best for the work. The ashes are placed in a simple urn, which may be buried in a cemetery lot or left in a niche at the crematory, until the final abiding place of the wife or mother is decided on. One of the most unpleasant features of body burial is the removal that is often made. Years may have passed and the body, unless in the most expensive of coffins is at best a mass mingled with clay and rotting boards deep in a pit. In the funeral urn the ashes remain forever intact, countless generations can do honor to them in the family vault, as did the ancient Egyptians, and any

The average funeral costs between \$400 and \$500; it is the heaviest drain the widow has to face, and in her newfound wealth with perhaps \$1,000 insurance money, she feels it almost incumbent on her to choose an expensive coffin, buy a fine cemetery lot, employ an undertaker to do the best in his power and further provide for the perpetual care of the spot where her loved one rests. This is touching and beautiful, but the buried husband probably would feel easier if he knew his wife had the \$1,000 to aid her in her battle with the world than to know that she had divided this and placed half in the grave with him.



SUPERINTENDENT'S RESIDENCE, OFFICE AND GENERAL WAITING ROOM.



THE CHAPEL.

needed change of burial can be made easily.

One of the horrors of burial, the fear of ghouls and their practices, is taken away entirely by the cremation of the body, for ashes bear no attraction to either the medical student or the robber, and countless despoiled graves might have been kept inviolate had their masters not been adverse to stepping out of the old path of burial.

The popular idea that the entire body is consumed by direct contact with the flames is entirely wrong. The process is one of distillation, not of consumption. The coffin is placed in a big retort heated to a temperature of 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit. This intense heat first makes charcoal of the coffin, which falls away and, dropping through the grate, leaves the body, which is gradually evaporated. The gases pass up through the hot blast and finally the entire body crumbles into an ash, the bones last remaining. A strong blast of air forces the body ashes to a pocket near the door, and these are removed and placed in the funeral urn after the iron

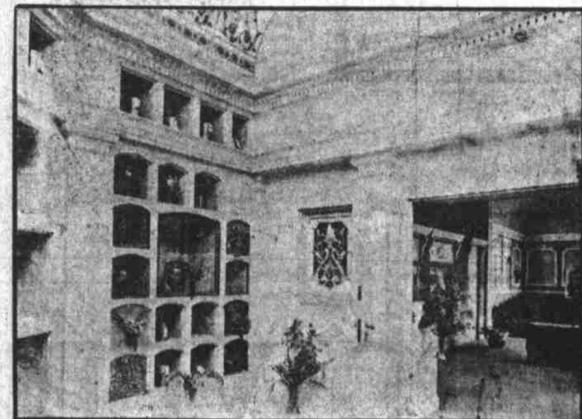
and steel articles, such as buttons, hair pins and the like, have been removed by a magnet. The urn is hermetically sealed and will preserve the ashes until the end of time.

The plant of the Portland Cremation association at present consists of an artistic chapel, receiving vault and crematorium. There are two retorts of the latest pattern. The time required for the incineration of a body averages about an hour, the time ranging from three-quarters to an hour and a half. The grounds surrounding the crematorium comprise six acres, which will be devoted to park purposes and planted for a cemetery under the lawn plan, including perpetual care, and sold for the burial of the ashes. The grounds overlook the Willamette river from a high bluff and are picturesque.

The officers of the association are: President, C. B. Bellinger, vice-president, E. E. Williams; secretary and treasurer, Julius L. Mator; manager and superintendent, Frank B. Gibson; executive committee, W. P. Olds, Isom White, William C. Eriato.



FAMILY WAITING ROOM.



CORNER IN COLUMBARIUM.

FIRST LEAP YEAR FOR 8 YEARS BEGUN

The girl who in 1896 was a year or so too young to take proper advantage of the customs hallowed by former leap year observance, and who by 1904 was primed for action, only to discover that sometimes eight years passed between leap years, is not aware of the deep scientific and historical significance of the twenty-ninth day in February, nor is she especially intent on the distinction between the solar year and other kinds, such as the ecclesiastical. She only knows that she was a bright, young, careless thing in 1896, that it was a horrid calendar that refused to bring leap year rights to the unchosen bachelor maids in 1900.

The story of the calendar would form a good historical romance, mixed as it is with the doings of Roman monarchs long since embalmed in the calf covers of ancient history. Few busy men know why leap year refuses to leap always on the fourth year and about the extent of the average citizen's information is that the years every once in a while get too long and to fix up the matter so that Christmas and New Year won't collide the extra day is thrown into February. Many who are children who happen to be born on this twenty-ninth day, go through life without a distinct idea why they have only one birthday to other children's four, and even the calendar makers are sometimes dim and misty in their explanation of the innate cause and meaning of leap year.

Away back in the days of real saints and miracles, flourished the noblest Roman of them all, Julius Caesar by name. Caesar found that the popular mind was somewhat confused on the year question, since the pontiffs had the discretionary power to lengthen or shorten the year a quarter day when they thought best, and the resulting mess was bothersome. Julius decided that after subduing the earth he would tackle the solar system and he announced that henceforth the year

would be 365 days long except every fourth year, which would be 366 days in length. This Julian year, which also had two new months added, began on January 1 of the 46th year before the birth of Christ and 708 years after the founding of Rome.

Julius ordered that the first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth and eleventh months should have 31 days and that the other months should have 30, except February, which should have 29 days in ordinary years but 30 every fourth year.

Then came Augustus Caesar. Now Augustus, so history relates, was a proud man and he objected to seeing July, named after his brother, bearing 31 days, while his month, August, had only 30. So forth went another edict giving August also 31 days. To make the totals come out even a day was taken from February, which happened to have no Caesars to support its cause, and given to August. Then Augustus faced the problem of three months coming together each with 31 days. Into executive session went Augustus and finally it was announced that September and November should have 31 days each, and October and December should have 31. Then since February was short of a day by the caprice of Augustus every fourth year the extra day was added to its score, but this year was inserted between the 24th and 25th. This practice is still followed in the ecclesiastical calendar.

But Augustus failed to make the pontiffs, who actively regulated the calendar and kept tally on the sun's movements, understand what his changes had been; so these august potentates put in a leap year every third year instead of every fourth and by the time 36 years had rolled by the earth was three days ahead of itself. Augustus discovered the mistake, went into another executive session and ordered that for the next 11 years no leap years should be marked down on the official score cards and by the time the 48th year was reached all was right again. In general usage it is con-

sidered that this see-sawing and regal monkey business never happened and that all went smoothly from the time Augustus entered the arena.

Though the Caesarian method of adding a day every four years is about right and several generations could depart from the earth before any marked fault was discovered, still the method supposes the year to be 11 minutes and 14 seconds too long. This amounts to a day in 132 years and some system was necessary to perpetually correct the error.

The error was discovered in 1582, or so it is corrected then, when it was found that the equinox that had fallen on the 21st of March in 122 had dropped down to the 11th. The council of Nice devised a plan to preserve this essential feature of the almanac from getting back into the holiday season and Pope Gregory, discovering that the error amounted to three days in 400 years, ordered that leap years be omitted on all century years, excepting those that are multiples of 400.

He also supposed 10 days from the calendar to allow the equinox time to catch up with its original position on the monthly schedule.

According to the Gregorian rule then all years in which the number is divisible by four without a remainder is a leap year, except the century years, which are only leap years when divisible by four after omitting the two ciphers. Thus 1600 was a leap year but 1700, 1800 and 1900 were common years, 2000 will be a leap year and 2400 will be the next century year with 29 days in February.

All Christian countries except Russia have adopted the Julian method of intercalation as the insertion of an additional day is termed. Russia still adheres to the Gregorian method of reckoning.

The Julian method is to put 29 days in February, except on the fourth year, when the month has 30; his method also being to give January and each alternate month, except February, 31 days and other months 30.

RUSSIA AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

(Journal Special Service.)
St. Louis, Jan. 2.—Plans for the building to be erected by Russia at the Louisiana purchase exposition have just been received by Director-of-Works Taylor. The Russian pavilion will stand directly opposite the Chinese pagoda and east of the hippodrome structures erected by Sweden, and the plans and drawings show that it will add much to the picturequeness of the section of foreign buildings. The pavilion is to be of distinctive Russian architecture and will cover an area of nearly 50,000 square feet. There will be no less than three towers or spires of peculiar Byzantine design, the tallest rising to a height of 123 feet above the ground. The building is rambling in design. It will comprise the main structure and a number of minor structures connected by an arched walk. Each of the towers will be of different design. The highest one, surmounting the main

SPOKANE BOOMED DURING YEAR 1903

(Journal Special Service.)
Spokane, Jan. 2.—Building operations started in Spokane during the year 1903 as estimated by the building permits issued by the city amounted to a total of \$2,510,945. This is a gain of 100 per cent over the previous year. The permits issued the previous year amounted to \$1,321,714. Building operations that are already planned amount to over a million and a half for the coming year without counting any building costing less than \$20,000. A few of the larger buildings which will be constructed are: Government postoffice, \$450,000; street railway depot, \$200,000; school buildings, \$150,000; theatre, \$60,000; Masonic temple, \$60,000; Fort Wright, \$45,000; Norwegian college, \$25,000; Holy, Mason, Marks & Co., wholesale house, \$125,000; office building of Porter Brothers, \$100,000; and five other store and office buildings ranging from \$20,000 to \$60,000. The number of building permits issued the past year has not increased so much as the value of the improvements made. The real estate transfers for Spokane also show a big increase. In 1902 property to the value of \$7,941,601 changed hands, while this past year the transfers amounted to \$9,299,181, as shown by the public records.

The records show increases right along the line. In 1902, 990 couples took out marriage licenses, while this past year

the number was nearly 150 greater, or 1,042. The postoffice receipts of the city increased from \$124,884.85 in 1902 to \$150,881.77 in 1903. The increase in the number of the children born in the city the past year was 308.

In the matter of bank clearings the records are the highest ever reached in the history of Spokane. For 1903 they amounted to \$88,571,342. The past year they increased this by 30 per cent, reaching the total of \$111,335,320. The Spokane chamber of commerce is making arrangements to have the figures showing the big growth put in pamphlet form and sent east for the purpose of advertising the city.

The Red Light District.
Mayor Frank L. Boyd has revoked the order regulating the immoral women of the city that was made by him several months ago and has instructed the chief of police to take such methods of regulating the social evil as he shall deem best. Under the mayor's order the women were confined to a specified portion of the city and a fine of \$15 monthly has been collected from them. The board district has been located in the center of the business portion of the city and recently an agitation was started having for its purpose the removing of the district to some section much farther away. The revocation now made is with this purpose in view. The mayor and chief of police have not announced where they will attempt to send the women.

IOWA'S BIG ANNUAL CORN TEST.

(Journal Special Service.)
Ames, Iowa, Jan. 2.—The department of agronomy of the Iowa state college has completed arrangements for the opening of the annual corn judging school next Monday. The school will last 10 days and will be attended by a large number of farmers desirous of

studying the many points which have to do with the breeding, selection and storing of seed corn. Hundreds of samples of the leading varieties of corn from all sections of the state have been gathered by the college and will be used in the work of judging. A number of prominent speakers will deliver lectures on the best methods of selecting seed corn and methods of harvesting and storing the crop.

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