

STAMP CLERKS HAVE TROUBLES

ONE PATRON OBJECTS TO PAYING MORE TO SEND PAPERS THAN THE PUBLISHER DID—ANOTHER DEMANDS TO BUY STAMPS AT "NET" RATES.

Because he thought the clerk was trying to charge him more than was really due, Axel Sorenson wanted to battle with the stamp force of the postoffice Thursday. After much talking and persuasion he was convinced that he wasn't the victim of a conspiracy on the part of the government and trouble was averted.

Sorenson had received a paper through the mails from New York which had been sent as second-class matter. He wanted to return it and found that it would cost six cents. He had only paid a nickel for the paper and he couldn't see why he should be compelled to pay six cents when for less than that amount the publisher had printed the paper, paid the postage and made a profit.

"You are simply grafters, you people out here in the west," he said, "and even the postoffice tries to beat its customers."

Then he threatened to report the clerk, start an investigation and cause no end of trouble if the paper were not sent at the rate he thought a reasonable rate. By means of a book of postal regulations and a pair of scales he was at last shown that no effort was being made to separate him from his money and he desisted in further arguments. He went away grumbling, however, declaring that every one was trying to give him the worst of it and the government was no exception.

"Yes, indeed, even we clerks have our troubles just like every one else," said Clerk Godfrey, who waits on customers at the stamp window. "It looks sometimes that we have more than most persons for lots of people seem to think that they know just as much, and perhaps a little more, about rates of postage and similar things than we who are supposed to know."

"The fellow yesterday, for instance, was just a sample of the class that thinks they know and who feel that every one is trying to beat them. He actually wanted to make trouble if I didn't agree to send his paper for the amount he offered to pay. The paper weighed so much and the regulations specify the amount that shall be charged, so there is nothing we can do but charge the amount required."

"He swore vengeance and said that he had entered into a conspiracy to rob him and that he wouldn't stand for it. I tried to explain how a publisher was able to send his papers through the mails cheaper than he could send one copy, but he wouldn't hear or understand. It was simply an excuse, he said, that I was trying to make an attempt to impose upon his intelligence."

"We have few of that class, though one of his kind is about as much trouble as a score of ordinary complainers. One of the most trying clerks is the saving woman who thinks she ought to buy stamps cheaper when she buys them in quantities. Attempts to explain that the government makes no reduction no matter how many stamps are purchased are futile. She seems to think that the local office gets them at wholesale rates and is making a profit on her purchase. She usually ends the discussion by buying a dime's worth and going away angry."

"Then there is the class that tries to work its bad pennies off on us. They think apparently that we are so busy that we don't have time to notice each piece of money that comes into our hands. Uncle Sam, you know, can't use bad money any more than the ordinary individual can, so we politely refuse to make the exchange. Of course we never let the customers think for a moment that the attempt was anything but accidental, but after it is tried by the same person several times we have pretty good reason to believe that there might have been some design in his actions."

"Another class is the reckless and careless person who always forgets to wait for his change. He throws down a piece of money calling for a certain number of stamps, and rushes off. We have to call him back of course, or if we can't overtake him, keep the money till he calls. It is quite troublesome in remembering faces well enough to recall him the next time we see him, but after you have been in the office for awhile it is fairly easy to remember a face when once you see it."

"It is rather strange, perhaps, but it is true that the Chinamen and Japanese patrons of the stamp window give about as little trouble as anybody. They may have trouble in making you understand what they want at times, but they rarely complain and are never annoying if they can avoid it."

CUSTOMERS CONDEMN THIRST FOR FEES

"It would be an excellent scheme for the boss barbers of the city to instruct their employes to be less eager for tips," said a well-known professional man of Portland today. "A barber is supposed to cut hair, shave, shampoo—in fact, to wait upon customers. He is supposed to receive from his employers sufficient salary, either in percentage or wages, to live."

"I know a man who went into a local barber shop this week for a shave, haircut and shampoo. He handed the boss a dollar to pay for the work. The boss asked what should be done with the change, and was told to give it to the barber. But the boss gave it to the customer instead. The customer returned two days later for a shave and told the barber he would make good on a tip that time."

"I think I see you giving some one money," replied the barber, sardonically. "I'll bet you have three handkerchiefs tied around your purse to keep the coin in." The customer made up his mind to cut out that shop in the future, but the chances are he will find another just as bad, or maybe worse. It seems to be it is high time the barbers were attending more strictly to their business and treating customers with consideration."

BAKER MAN DRAGGED BY A RUNAWAY TEAM

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Baker City, Or., April 14.—David Fliske, an elderly man, had his team standing in front of a store yesterday when it started to go home. Fliske jumped for the lines, which were wrapped about the whipstock, and was crushed against the wheel of a wagon standing near. He became entangled in the lines, was dragged several blocks on his back, his clothes torn from his body and his head and body bruised. He is still unconscious and may die.

Have you seen the White Elephant?

FATHER KRUG WELL KNOWN IN AMERICA

(Journal Special Service.) Washington, April 15.—The report from Rome that the Rev. Father Boniface Krug, abbot of the famous Benedictine abbey of Monte Cassino, province of Caserta, Italy, is to be appointed papal nuncio at Berlin is of special interest in the United States, for Father Krug is known personally to thousands of Catholics throughout this country. The abbot, though born in Germany, was brought up and educated in Baltimore. When he was a boy of 6 years his parents started to emigrate to America, but his father died at Bremen and was buried there. The mother continued the journey and settled with her children in Baltimore. When the boy was 10 years old Rev. Boniface Wimmer, who had shortly before introduced the Benedictines into the United States and founded St. Vincent's abbey, near what is now Latrobe, Pa., paid a visit to Baltimore. Young Krug was pointed out to him as a boy of great promise, and Abbot Wimmer, after a talk with the mother, obtained permission for him to return with him to St. Vincent's abbey and study to be a monk.

At St. Vincent's young Krug showed much aptitude for study. After a course of about 10 years he made his first vows in the order, in 1861. A few months later he was drafted to serve in the union army, and in order to escape military service he obtained permission from Abbot Wimmer to go to Europe. After a few months in Rome he met a Benedictine from Monte Cassino, who induced him to go to that famous abbey and complete the vows which he had first taken on this side of the ocean. Some

years later he became the prior of Monte Cassino, and during his occupancy of this post restored the chapel in which are buried the bones of St. Benedict and his sister, St. Scholastica. St. Benedict died in the year 543.

Six years later Father Krug was made abbot of the Benedictine monastery at Casena, an old abbey famous as the residence for many years of Pius VII. Seven years ago he was made president of the Cassinese congregation, which includes the associated Benedictine abbeys of Italy. The celebrated abbey of which he is now the archabbot is on Monte Cassino, about 50 miles north of Naples. The monastery is a massive pile of buildings, more like a palace than a church. The monks located there are noted for their scholarship and their medical skill.

Four years ago Father Krug made an extensive tour of the United States for the purpose of raising funds for the restoration of the tomb of St. Benedict, in which object he was eminently successful. Father Krug has a sister, Theresa, who is mother prioress of the Benedictine sisters in Chicago. Another sister is Mrs. Frances Kuper, of Baltimore, and still other relatives and intimate friends reside in Milwaukee and elsewhere in this country.

His appointment to the Berlin court will be regarded as particularly good politics on the part of the Vatican, for Father Krug is a personal friend of the German emperor, by whom he is held in high esteem. It will be remembered that on the occasion of his visit to Rome last year Emperor William went to much trouble and personal inconvenience to pay a visit to Father Krug at Monte Cassino.

UNUSUAL INCREASE IN POLICE FINES

There is a difference of \$24,700.45 in the amount of receipts in the municipal court during the years 1903 and 1902.

Municipal Judge Hogue filed his annual report with City Auditor Devlin, which shows the receipts for last year were \$47,182.45. The report does not show the amount of money saved for the city by Chief Hunt's kangaroo court, but this is so small that it was not considered worth bothering with.

The municipal court receipts for 1902 were only \$22,482. One reason that is given for the remarkable increase in revenue from the municipal court is the present method of fining gamblers. This method is to arrest the leading gamekeepers of the city twice a month, allow them to put up a cash bail for their appearance in the municipal court the next morning, and the men never appear to answer the charges. Owners of rooms where poker is played are arrested once

a month. The number of fines for minor offenses also increased.

Following is a summary given by months of Judge Hogue's report:

January	494.70
February	1,331.89
March	2,313.50
April	2,829.40
May	1,862.50
June	2,304.60
July	2,674.50
August	5,174.00
September	5,772.50
October	5,131.00
November	6,112.00
December	8,190.95
Total	\$47,182.45

The difference between this amount and the amount shown in the auditor's report (\$74) is accounted for by the crediting of the December, 1902, receipts (\$506) in January, 1903, and \$732 of the December, 1903, receipts in January, 1904.

FIRE BOAT READY IN THREE WEEKS

"The fireboat George H. Williams will be ready for commission May 7, according to contract," said Architect Fred A. Ballin yesterday. "We may not have the monitor in place by that time; but, if not, the boat can be used anyway."

This positive statement by Mr. Ballin is the first assurance from any official source that Portland's fireboat will be ready for commission by May 7, the contract date. At the last meeting of the executive board a petition for one month's extension of time was presented by the Willamette Iron Works company, and the petition was referred

to the purchasing committee with power to act.

"The extension of time was asked merely as a precaution," said Mr. Ballin. "Delayed shipments made the completion of the boat uncertain at that time, and to make sure of ample time the petition was presented to the executive board and was granted."

City Engineer Elliott's men are working on the construction of the fireboat dock at the foot of East Washington street, and tomorrow work will be commenced by Mr. Ballin on the house for the firemen.

DOG MAKES MASTER VERY NEAT FORTUNE

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Helena, Mont., April 16.—J. H. Dingley, of Coeur d'Alene has arrived in Helena with \$1,000 in gold, which he deposited in a local bank. He also brought a story and a dog. Last year Dingley and a companion were hunting in Shoshone county, when the dog jumped at a bear, which ran into a cave. Dingley crawled into the hole and killed the bear. Inspection of the cave revealed that

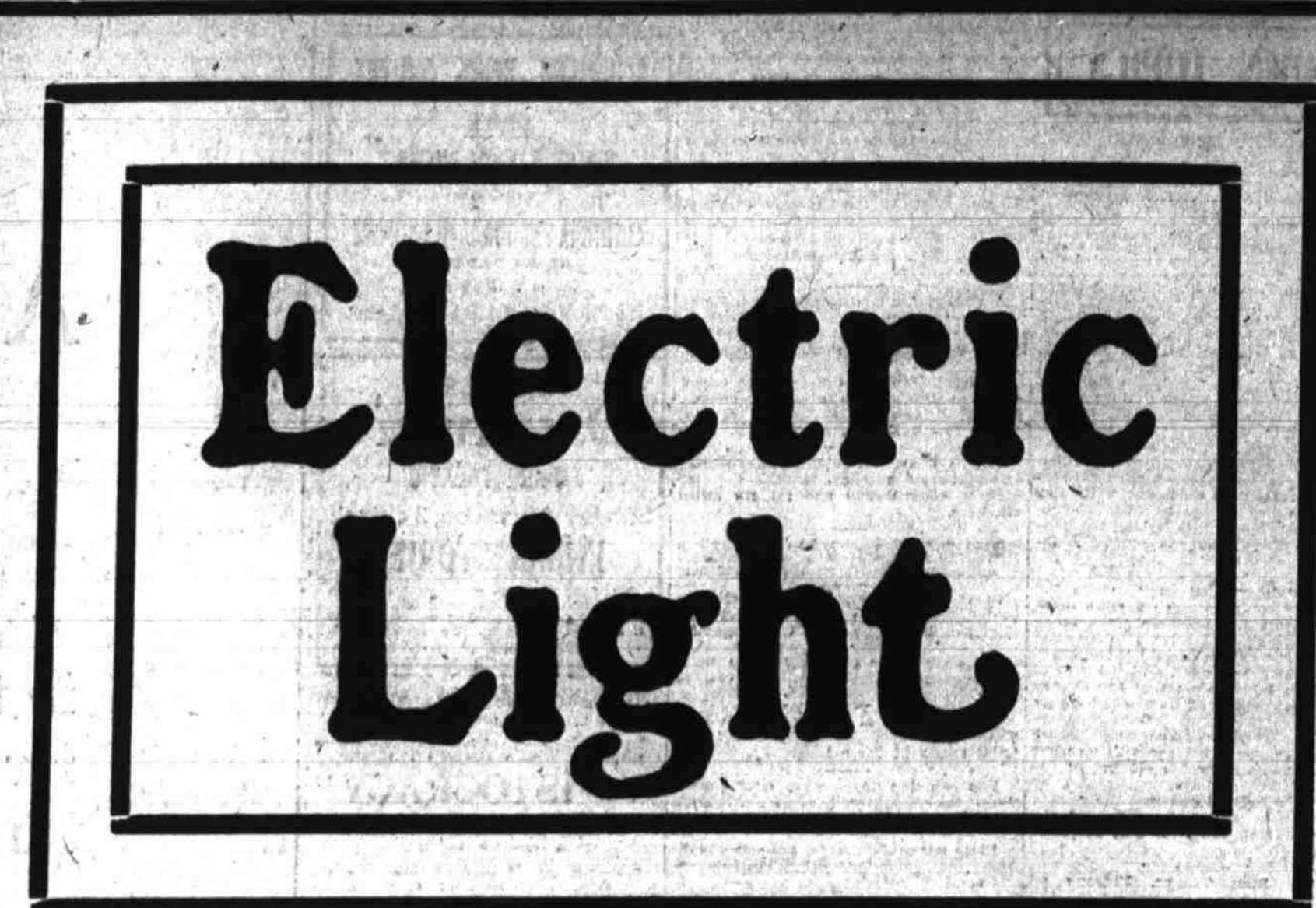
it was over the mouth of an old shaft, and in the shaft was the skeleton of a man who had evidently been killed by a falling rock. Dingley and his partner relocated the mine and last week sold it to R. H. Kingsberry of Spokane for \$14,000. Dingley receiving half of the sum for his share. He has the dog that chased the bear which was the means of securing a stake. He will buy a home in Missoula.



The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher* and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment.

What is CASTORIA
Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. It assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS
Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*
The Kind You Have Always Bought
In Use For Over 30 Years.
THE OREGON COMPANY, 27 BUREAU STREET, NEW YORK CITY.



Electric Light

No light is half so bright,
It is cheaper night by night;
There are no explosions to
affright
And is far better for your sight

Electric Light is cheaper in the end. NO waste, no matches, no explosions, no danger of asphyxiation; it is clean, pleasant and Safe. Electric Light is the best light for your eyes. Electric Light is the only light that does not injure decorations. In this respect alone it Saves you many dollars.

PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

SEVENTH AND ALDER STREETS