

# WILY ASSAULT MADE ON CIVIL SERVICE

Bosses Whose Power is Slipping Away from Them Attack the Public's Safeguard and Make Desperate Efforts to Get Patronage Offices Back Into Politics.

## FIRST EFFORTS ARE DIRECTED AT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Attempt to Change Charter, and Pay Political Debts with Places on City's Payroll Alarm Property Owners—Rates of Insurance Will Be Increased if Fire Chief is Removed.

To attack the civil service system in order to control votes of hitherto independent employes of Portland is the bold undertaking of a coterie of local politicians who have succeeded in partly concealing their efforts by working for the ostensible purpose of revising the city charter. The result of their efforts will be known tonight at a public meeting to be held to discuss charter revision.

The efforts are directed primarily toward removing the chief of the fire department from the civil service department, and making his an appointive office, thereby throwing the department into active politics. It is believed that the 188 men in the department control a vote approximating 500. That number of votes would, of course, be cast for the candidate for mayor under whom the firemen could hold their positions.

In addition to placing the appointment of the fire chief in the hands of the mayor and his political advisers, the proposed charter revision provides for the removal of all unskilled laborers from the civil service protection. It also provides for the removal from the civil service class of the chief deputy in the auditor's office, the entire street department, and the entire water department of the city.

The number of dependent votes that would thereby be controlled by the dominant political party would be increased to almost despotic proportions; the power and prestige of the band of politicians which is fathoming the movement would be immeasurably enhanced.

### Charter Was Overwhelmingly Approved.

The present charter of the city, through the manipulation of which the few hope to achieve their ends, was approved at the conventions of the Democratic and Republican parties. It was then submitted to the people, and was overwhelmingly approved. It provided for the civil service system in conducting the various departments of municipal government. The system has been in operation in Portland for approximately two years, and has been eminently satisfactory.

Previous to that time the heads of the various departments and their subordinates were appointed by the mayor. The chief of police was then, as now, appointed by the mayor. The fire department was in politics. Every other department was in politics. "To the victor belonged the spoils," whether the victor was fit and capable or incompetent. The effects of the lack of system are demonstrated. Property holders and others who expend large sums in fire insurance are

alarmed at the possibilities of the proposed revision. They fear that insurance companies will take advantage of the juggling with the department, and the change in efficiency with every change of administration, and increase rates. Insurance companies are satisfied with existing conditions, they assert, and have shown a disposition rather to assist in an equitable adjustment of insurance questions than to charge exorbitant rates.

"People are ever prone to criticize and abuse insurance companies when rates are raised, but are likely at the same time to refuse us credit for reducing them and doing whatever else we can to settle any difficulty," said J. C. Stone, manager of the board of fire underwriters of the Pacific. "We are very well satisfied with conditions as they are and believe that they are improving. Insurance companies have always opposed frequent changes in the fire department. It is known that a man becomes more proficient in any line the longer he remains with it, and that, of course, applies to the position of fire chief. When he is changed with every administration, it is more than likely that he won't have the opportunity to become very proficient or effective in his position."

### Want to Pay Political Debt.

While the change is intended to place the heads of several departments in the list of political appointments, it is believed that it is directed chiefly at the chief of the fire department. A number of politicians believe that it is really for the purpose of placing Alex Donaldson at the head of the department. He is now superintendent of the street department but, it is asserted, is desirous of becoming the head of the firemen. It is further asserted that the bosses owe him a political debt, and the attack on the civil service system is made for the purpose of payment.

The board that was appointed by the state legislature to draft a charter and also provide amendments and revisions consists of 18 members. Many are opposed to the proposed revision, while others openly favor it. City Auditor T. C. Devlin, who is a member of the board, refused to discuss the matter.

Mayor Williams, on the other hand, who is not a member of the board, is strongly in favor of the change.

"The head of every department should be removed from the civil service system," he said. "And all positions requiring unskilled labor should also be removed. What matters it whether a man who cleans the streets is educated? At present, no matter how incompetent

a workman is nor how unsatisfactorily he does his work, he can't be removed because he is protected by the civil service system.

"If the change is made, the fire chief and others who are affected will, of course, be appointed by the mayor and the executive board. That's the way it should be."

It is said that F. L. Willis will introduce the measure and will attempt to secure its adoption by the board. It is also said that it was suggested to him by a number of politicians in whose interest he is trying to secure the charter revision. The board that was appointed by the legislature is composed of the following: Fred V. Holman, Tyler Woodward, H. S. Rows, T. C. Devlin, J. A. Strowbridge, E. C. Bronaugh, C. E. Wood, F. L. Willis, J. N. Teal, John F. O'Shea, Dr. Harry Lane, R. L. Gilson, Henry Price, W. E. Robertson, A. L. Mills, H. W. Scott, Ned E. Ayer, Dr. A. J. Giesy, Dan J. Malarky, Isam White, William M. Ladd, Paul Weisinger, F. L. Zimmerman, John Montag, Sig Frank, Solomon Ehrach, F. S. Beach, Harry Hogue, J. E. Morgan, T. D. Honeyman, W. F. Burrell, William Killingsworth, R. W. Montague.

R. W. Montague, a member of the charter board, when asked today for his views regarding the proposed changes, said:

"The Real Question. "It seems to be thought in some quarters an impertinence for a private citizen to have any views at all on public matters, but since you ask me I will say that, as advised at present, I am against the proposed changes in the civil service sections of the charter. I have always admitted that the examination system is an imperfect method for getting the best kind of service; and there is much to be said in favor of appointment of subordinates by a responsible chief. But that is not at all the question here and now, and everybody who knows the first thing about the political conditions here knows that it is not."

"The real question is whether the appointment shall be made openly by the imperfect but at any rate fair and equal methods provided for in the civil service law, or secretly, often corruptly, by an irresponsible party boss or political committee. There is absolutely nothing to be said for this method, and yet it cannot be denied that it is the one commonly and almost universally practiced for making appointments to civil service in the absence of a law like ours. I believe all good citizens are agreed that that method is unrighteous and injurious to the city. I was in favor of making and am in favor of keeping it illegal."

"Looking at the specific changes involved in these amendments, it seems to me that they simply invite frequent changes to the necessary detriment of the service, because if it is true in public as in private service that experience brings skill to a competent man, and if a man is not competent there is no difficulty in removing him under the existing civil service system."

### Reasons for His Faith.

"If we have a good fire chief, as generally seems to be admitted, I don't know any reason on earth why he should be subject to removal in order to appoint one whom some new mayor or political committee anxious to award a striker should want as a substitute. If I may mention names, take the case of the chief deputy in the auditor's department. Mr. Grutes has held place in that office for 18 years at least. There is not a man who does business with that department who could not suggest offhand a hundred reasons why he should not be changed on the coming in of a new auditor. If there is any

reason why he should be, I have never heard the faintest suggestion of it, and I have heard a good many arguments against the maintenance of the present civil service laws.

"As I said before, I am not a stickler for civil service reform, except as it is a means to the improvement of the city's civil service, but I do object to any changes in the method which would bring us back to the old system. I remember once watching from my office window a man in the street-cleaning gang who, I happened to know, had been appointed by a political pull. He was loading a cart, and he put just seven shovelful of dust and refuse into that cart in seven minutes by the watch. If anybody can convince me that the present method produces more ineffective work than that, I will be in favor of having it altered—otherwise not."

## RUNAWAY GIRL FOUND AT RAILWAY STATION

While trying to run away from home at an early hour yesterday morning 17-year-old Blanche Gregory was caught by Patrolman Hammerley and taken to the police station. She cried bitterly, and declared she was old enough to look out for herself, and should be permitted to do as she pleased.

The police had been notified by Mrs. Dixon, her guardian, 279 Seventh street, that she had run away from home and would probably try to leave the city. Every officer who could be reached was asked to keep a lookout for her, and Patrolman Hammerley found her while she was waiting at the union depot to board a train for Albany.

Preferred Stock Canned Goods. Allen & Lewis' Best Brand.

There is But One "Swetland"

## GOING TO GIVE A PARTY?

Luncheons, weddings, card parties, musicales, children's parties—social occasions of any nature—call for something in the way of table decorations, souvenir favors, etc. In this line we carry the most extensive variety in the city and are constantly adding the latest novelties to our stock. They are inexpensive and give an air of distinction. Nothing adds so much to the brightness and fun of the occasion as so little cost. We can't begin to enumerate them, but ask you to call and see the stock—it's a pleasure to show them if you don't buy. New novelties for card parties arrived last week and new wedding favors are expected this week.

## SWETLAND & SON

273 Morrison St. "Hello" Main 419

No Branch Stores

There is But One "Swetland"

## MT. HOOD'S VOLCANO NOTHING BUT VAPOR

Chinook Strikes Snows on Lefty Peak and Smoke is the Result.

Portland people who took to the tall timbers last night to escape being buried alive by lava gushing from Mount Hood's volcano may now return. The mountain promises to be good.

All day yesterday government officials at the custom house watched great columns of vapor arise from off Mount Hood's hoary summit. They were of the opinion that it was smoke of an eruption balking forth. But W. T. Fogle of this city states that the "smoke" was nothing but vapor caused by a chinook striking the snowy peak. "Several years ago I was living within a score of miles of Mount Jefferson," said Mr. Fogle, "and that mountain used to set in the same way that Hood did yesterday. One morning about two years ago a friend came rushing into my office and said that a volcano had broken loose on the summit of Mount Jefferson. I looked, and sure enough, great columns of what seemed to be white smoke arose from the peak. With a strong pair of glasses, I saw that the smoke was always uniformly white; it arose in puffs."

"After investigating the eruption, so called, I found that it was caused by a chinook that had struck the snow-covered peak, and that the 'smoke' was this warm air condensed. Most chinook winds are low, and seldom blow as high as the snow peaks."

## ORPHEUS CHORUS IS GROWING POPULAR

The Orpheus male chorus is the latest musical organization in Portland. It consists of 24 selected men's voices, under the leadership of Arthur L. Alexander. The membership is limited to 24; but there is a waiting list, applications for which can be made to J. W. Bickford, 266 Morrison street. After applicants have passed examination by the membership committee, the names of the successful singers will be placed on the waiting list. The following are members of the chorus:

Tenors—Harry W. Hague, J. W. Belcher, J. D. Carson, John Ross Fargo, W. G. Hodsdon, Dr. George Alnall, John Gill, John F. Barrett, James White, C. C. Richard and Leon M. Jones. Baritone—Don J. Zan, N. C. Zan, H. L. Hudson, F. J. Eckland, J. W. Bickford, A. J. Vantine, H. L. Powers and Louis F. Bruce. Basses—W. A. Montgomery, L. R. Thompson, Lionel L. Paget, Robert Gordon and Dr. W. A. Cumming.

### Winter Rates to Yaquina Bay.

The Southern Pacific Co. will sell, on Wednesday and Saturdays of each week until March 31, 1909, low rate round trip tickets to Yaquina, limited to 40 days from date of sale. The sale of these excursion tickets during the winter months is a new departure and has been brought about through the desire of our local sportsmen to enjoy the exceptionally fine hunting and fishing privileges of that section.

### Men's Sewed Oak Soles 65c.

Extra select, 80c; Ladies', 40c and 50c. Goodyear Shoe Repair Factory, near Gas company's office, Yamhill street. We call and deliver free.

## Now Is the Time

TO GET INTO WARM UNDERWEAR. WE ARE READY TO SHOW YOU A GRAND SELECTION OF THE BEST GRADES OF FALL AND WINTER UNDERWEAR AT POPULAR PRICES.

## Buffum & Pendleton

Clothiers, Hatters, Furnishers.

811 MORRISON ST., OPP. P. O.

Dry short slab wood, stove lengths, per cord	\$3.00	Dry short cordwood, stove lengths, per cord	\$4.50
Same Kind of Wood—What's the Difference? Per cord			
<b>\$1.50</b>			

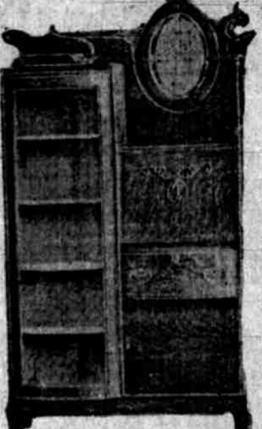
**Banfield, Veysey Fuel Co.**  
Phone Main 353 80 Third St., Cor. Oak

JOURNAL WANT ADS PAY BEST

# Jenning's Stock Reducing Sale IS ON IN EARNEST



**\$18.50**  
Reduced from \$27.50



This Combination Bookcase is something you must see to appreciate. It is full size—well bent glass doors. French oval plate mirrors. Swell drawers. The cabinet work on the case cannot be excelled. An advantage this case has over other cases is the book compartment is little wider than usual. Has adjustable shelves and is just the thing to give as a Christmas gift. We will put one away for you if you like, but you had better not put off too long. They won't last long. The price will make them sell quick.

It has been a busy week for us. This sale means much to the intelligent housekeeping public. Everything in the Furniture line is in the price cutting and each piece is priced for quick selling. Goods purchased for Christmas giving will be laid away until ordered sent out.



**\$5.00**  
Reduced from \$6.50

Here's just the Rocker you've been looking for—roomy and comfortable and inexpensive. It is well made of quarter-sawn oak. What is there nicer to give the old folks? We will save one until Xmas for you if you say the word.



**\$23.50**  
Reduced from \$30

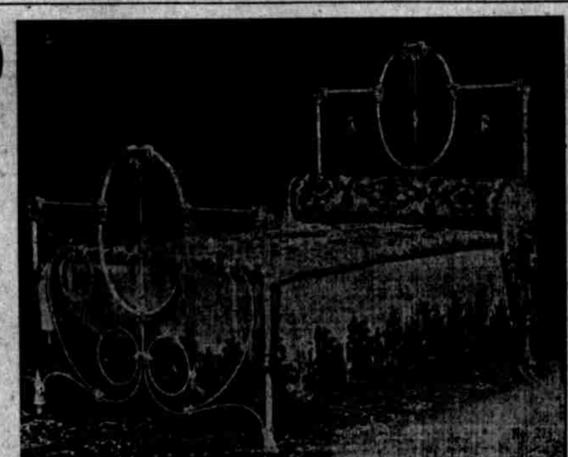


This handsome Sideboard comes to us from Grand Rapids, the biggest furniture mart in the country. It is the very latest pattern—is well constructed and is the best bargain we have ever offered in Sideboards. It is all quarter-sawn oak and highly finished.

**New Rival Range**



This Range we will reduce during this sale to \$67.00. It is equal to any \$85 Range in the city—built on fuel-saving plans and made of heavy polished steel.



**\$10.50**  
Reduced from \$15

There are but 16 of these Beds, and at the price won't last long. It is an artistic Bed—has perfect uniform lines. Comes in combination of colors—finished in gold or bronze. Has heavy claw feet and is a beauty.

**\$9.00** Reduced from \$14



Solid oak, 6-foot, handsomely finished. One of the best values in the store. We have only 9 of the tables. It's a bargain and can't be duplicated in the city for less than \$16.

We want to reduce this large stock as much as possible before stock-taking, and also to make room for the many odds and ends of fancy pieces arriving daily for the holiday business.

# Henry Jennings & Sons

172-174 First St. The Housefurnishers