GRAND JURY'S WORK NEW POSTOFFICE ALMOST FINISHED

May Hand in Final Report Tomorrow and Ask that It Be Discharged.

TANNER CREEK SEWER SEEMS CLOSED INCIDENT

Poor Workmanship and Bad Material in Other City Contracts Have Been Investigated.

About two months ago the price of common rough lumber was reduced by Portland mills from \$8.30 to \$7.30 a thousand, in the hopes that the public would take the cue for winter building operations, and thus a part of the spring rush might be taken care of in advance. While many people took advantage of the reduction, and there is a good deal of frame building now in progress, the extra construction work vantage of the reduction, and there is a good deal of frame building now in progress, the extra construction work is not sufficient to justify the mills in running through the winter at the low price of lumber. No advance has been announced by the Retail Lumber company, which represents the mill combine in this city, but predictions are made that the price will advance the first of the year. Common lumber was \$3.30 a thousand last summer, and \$12 a year ago. While the local sale is only one tenth of the output of Portland mills, it is an important factor in equalizing the varying demands of the export trade. The local mills are suffering a hardship by reason of the prohibitive rate of \$18.80 into Nebraska and Iowa territory, which trade they say should be divided between them and the upper Mississippi river mills.

PIERTIER ORDERED

TO PAY HIS ATTORNEYS

In the case of Watts & Ditchburn against Michael Piertier, an action to Michael Absolutely Michael Piertier, an action to Michael Michael Piertier, an action to Michael Absolutely Michael Piertier, an action to Michael Absolutely Michael Piertier, an action to Michael Absolutely Michael Piertier, an action to Michael Piertier, an action to Michael Absolutely Michael Piertier, an action to Michael Absolutely Michael Piertier, an action to Michael Piertier, an action to Michael Absolutely Michael Piertier, an action to Michael Piertier, an action

In the case of Watts & Ditchburn against Michael Piertier, an action to recover \$200 attorneys' fees, the jury awarded the plaintiffs \$175. They expressed themselves as well satisfied. The jury was out about two hours.

Michael Piertier is the 80-year-old man who was accused of abducting 15-year-old Mary Robinson from St. Helens; he subsequently married her. After the abduction he was arrested and confined in the Mulinomah county jail.

Here Mr. Watts visited him and a con-tract was entered into, whereby Watts & Ditchburn were to look after Mr. Piertier's interest. Piertier, it is Piertier's interest. Piertier, it is claimed, repudiated the contract next

HANDWRITING EXPERT RETURNS TO HIS HOME

P. J. Toland of La Crosse, Wis., de-parted for his home last night over the Northern Pacific. He is regarded as one of the best handwriting experts in the country, and was brought here by the defence to testify regarding some of the alleged forgeries in connection with fic-titious homestead entries.

The unexperted postponement of the cases obviated the necessity of his re-maining here, but it is probable he will

maining here, but it is probable he will return for the next trial. During his stay Mr. Toland made many friends by his affable manner, and was given an im-promptu evation when he left.

"THE PAINLESS DENTIST." Don't Be Neglectful **Xmas** Times

and Forget Your Teeth

Teeth serve you all the time and should be cared for, no matter what your station is life or how busy you should be exred for, no matter what your station in life or how busy you may be.

I have spent a great many thousand dollars in furnishing and equipping my office with all the modern tools and instruments for doing the work in the best manner possible. I have the largest practice of any deciter in the state (having done many thousand dollars worth of business in the years I have been engaged in the business), and can abow more names (on my books) of the rich and influential people of Portland than any other dentist.

Having the advantage of better things to work with, and having more practice, buring my material in large quantities, puring cash for it, and doing strictly a cash business, I can give you better work than you can get einewhere for less money.

We do all kinds of porceiain and gold work. We are prepared to do any of the name classes of work, and do it in such manner that it will be superior to any work done classes.

CORSULTATION FREE.

FEER REASONABLE.

Office Heurs—2 a. m. to 5 p. m. Even-

Office Hours—8 a. m. to 6 p. m. Even-ngs—7:30 to 8:30 o'clock. Sundays—6 . m. to 1 p. m.

Dr. B. E. Wright's Dental Office

Could Not Handle Business that Has Increased with Growth of Portland.

IMPERATIVE NEED OF MORE SPACE IS SHOWN

Commercial Club Has Taken Up Matter of Addition with State's Representatives.

The grand jury may report temorrow and ask to be discharged. Members say there is little business before them. Aside from petty criminal business, the jury has had only the city contract jobs under consideration for the past two weeks. Evidence of absolute guilt on the part of any person connected with these city contract jobs has not been conclusive.

The Tanner creek sewer seems to be a closed incident. Of all the witnesses called during the past week but one or two have been asked questions relating to the sewer. The investigation has been confined to street improvements in East and South Portland.

The Union avenus improvement, which was brought up before the grand jury by Thomas Hislop, one of the abutting property owners, is still under consideration. Mr. Hislop says he has secured other evidence which will be taken before the jury, unless the council committee on streets, which meets today to consider the question, gives the property owners suitable relief or explanation. A reduction of something like 1830 has already been made by the city engineer, but the property owners do not consider this sufficient.

PRICE OF LUMBER

MAY BE ADVANCED

About two months ago the price of common rough lumber was reduced by common

ment meet your wishes."

Addition Absolutely Becomeny.

Chairman Wilcox answered this with a telegram stating that what is, desired is the construction of a Fifth street wing without delay and while the office can remain in its present temporary quarters. This telegram was followed by a letter, transmitting the details of the committee's plan, but which has not yet reached Washington in the mails. The letter, written by Chairman Wilcox, says!

The letter, written by Chairman Wilcox, says:

"As expressed in this telegram. I think you will find department officials aware of conditions, but for your guidance I wish to say that after a thorough examination we find that the number of square feet in the postoffice building at Fifth and Morrison streets, before the extension was made, was 4.635; number of employes, 72; or 65 square feet for each employes, In the building as now enlarged there will be but 7,367 square feet and 121 employes, giving each employe only 69 square feet, and in addition this must afford space for furniture, cases, tables, racks, sacks, and all of the material necessary to conduct an office, which you realize by the above comparison will be smaller than before.

Smaller Than Temporary Office.

"The present quarters contain about \$,700 square feet, and that space is all in use, from which you will see that in moving back into the improved building with 7,307 square feet, the latter is going to be entirely inadequate for the service, particularly when you consider that a considerable number of additional employes is to be brought in shortly, and the only solution of the question is the immediate construction of the other wing on the Fifth street side as contemplated by the government architects.

"The temporary quarters at present occupied by the postoffice could not be secured under ordinary circumstances. I think you will remember that it took over a year to find a location for a temporary office after the present enlargement of the building was determined on. The United States officials here who are most familiar with the matter inare most familiar with the matter in-form us that there is sufficient room on form us that there is sufficient room on the second floor of the present tem-porary quarters and in adjoining space that can be secured by the government, not only to handle the mail that we now receive but the 30 per cent additional that will surely come as a result of the Lewis and Clark Centennial exposition

and Oriental fair.

Expense of Improvement Blight.

"If the postoffice moves back into the improved building it will take a long time, and be a difficult matter to secure the building of this wing and temporary quarters, and at the best the quarters will be exceedingly cramped and the management of the postoffice itself unsatisfactory. If we remain in the present temporary quarters, securing such additional space as may be necessary and proceed immediately to the construction of the Fifth-street wing before moving back, our home people and visitors will to a certain extent excuse impeffect mail service, and by the time the additional wing is completed I believe the requirements of the office will demand all of the space available. We feel that we ought to have a new building, but since the addition has been made on the old building, the cheapest way is to put an additional wing on the same building and complete the work, which I understand can be done at an expense not to exceed \$196,000.

"Becretary Shaw was quite pronounced in his criticism of the postoffice upon his visit here, as you may recall, and I have reason to believe that the postoffice department will gladly recommend the construction of the Fifth-street wing without delay." Expense of Improvement Slight.

In our display advertisement of FINE ART PIANOS and artists who use them, that appeared in the Journal of the 14th and Oregonian of the 15th, our ad, writer unintentionally made a mistake by saying Madam Gadaki, who is to appear here December 19, would use the Baldwin plano, when it should have been De Pachmann, who will appear here about the first of February. We have no desire of taking credit for anything that does not properly belong to us, hence our first opportunity to correct the mistake, and we trust Madam Gadaki will take no offense, inasmuch as we had her name connected with a plano of the highest excellence, and the one, as we stated in our advertisement, that took the Grand Prix at the Paris exposition in 1900, and the Grand Prize at the St. Louis exposition just closed. The following telegram, perhaps, is partly responsible for the mistake:

"Boston, Mass., Oct. 28.

"D. H. Baldwin & Co.:
"My concert with the Boston Symphony Orchestra today was a most gratifying success. Allow me to compliment you on the exquisite tone and perfect evenness of touch of the Majestic Grand you have furnished for this concert.
"VLADIMIR DE PACHMANN."

We might say, however, that such a mistake as the above could easily be made when we take into consideration that so many of the great artists are using our pianos. It will also be gratifying news to the music lovers of Portland to know that De Pachmann is to appear here later in the season under the direction of Miss Lois Steers, through whose enterprise and energy Portland has had the privilege of hearing many of our greatest artists.

BUSH AND FOSTER WERE ACQUITTED

Were Charged with Striking Blow that Cost Leigh Tracy Use of Voice.

After deliberating all night, the jury in the case of the state vs. Theron Bush and Guy Foster, brought in a verdict of not guilty of injuring Leigh

The verdict did not come as a sur prise to the prosecution, owing to the fact that the mysterious person who alone saw the blow struck notified the police and then completely disappeared, could not be produced to give testimony on the witness stand, the guilt of the defendants could not be fixed beyond

a reasonable doubt.
Foster and Bush told a straight-forward story. They said that after leaving the saloon at the corner of Fourth and Everett streets the second time on the night of October 14, they were followed by Tracy, the injured hoy; Fay, Peterson and two or three others. On Fifth street Foster and Bush were struck down from behind, and in the fight that followed Foster lost nearly \$10 in money. Neither gained his feet until the fight was ended.

ANOTHER SHIP FOR

Assurances Given that a Fifth Steamer Will Be Added to the Oriental Fleet.

VESSEL REPORTED TO BE ON THE WAY HERE NOW

Believed Craft Has Been Chartered for Trade from Hamburg American Company.

Shippers have received assurances that the Portland & Asiatic intends to add another oriental liner to its fieet at once. It is said the vessel is on the way here from the far east. If the information is true there will be five freighters operating between Portland and China and Japan. The others are the Arabia, the Numantia, the Aragonia and the Nicomedia, all of which are Hamburg-American liners. It is supposed that the new vessel belongs to the same company.

the same company.

Local officials of the Portland Local officials of the Portland & Asiatic company say they know nothing about the matter, but hope the report is true. R. P. Schwerin, general manager and vice-president of the line, has been in New York for the past two weeks, and it is inferred that he has completed negotiations for the additional vessel. In speaking of the report this morning. J. H. Dewson, the resident general manager of the line, said:

"It would certainly be good news to me'to learn that steps have been taken for the impovement of the service. I would like to see seven or eight vessels on the route, if the shippers would provide enough cargo to fill them. But so far as I know, no decision has been reached to place another steamer on the

steamer occasionally to assist in taking care of the business.

Reference was made to the Elieric, which, it has been said, would cost the company far more than sile is making. The vessel is slow, and it is stated that she has been a source of expense since the day of her charter.

In the course of a year or two, and perhaps sooner, the Portland & Asiatic company may place a big fieet of American steamers in commission instead of the Hamburg-American liners. The latter are under charter to the company for the explanation is given that the contract can easily be annulled.

ELDORADO'S QUICK WORK.

The American schooner Eldorado, en route up the river, is under charter to the Eastern & Western Lumber company to carry lumber to Shanghai. When last here the Eldorado loaded lumber at the Inman-Poulsen mill for Teingtau, leaving on the voyage in August. After discharging her cargo and taking on ballast, she made the trip to the far east and return in less than four months which is regarded as a smart piece of work for a sailing vessel.

ALONG THE WATERFRONT.

Steamer Republic was placed on the drydock yesterday to have her propeller

repaired.

British ship Glaucus began taking a cargo of grain yesterday afternoon at the Irving dock. The French ship Jules Commes will begin taking grain tomor-France, and the Jules Gommes to the United Kingdom.

United Kingdom.

Since April 3 the lighthouse tender Heather has been at Aberdeen waiting for the weather to moderate so that she can place a number of buoys off Gray's Harbor. When the work is done the vessel will return to Astoria, and a day or so later will make a trip to Portland.

James McDonaid, stewart of the ship.

Hampton and a son of that vessel's are a series. COLUMNIA MASONS ELECT.

At its annual election last night, Columbia Lodge, No. 114, A. F. & A. M. chose the following officers: Adelbert Rose, worshipful master; Philip Gervuriz, senior warden; Ferdinand C. Nessly, junior warden; Joseph Polivko, tressurer, and B. S. Pague, secretary. The last two mentioned were relected.

Or so later will make a trip to Portland.

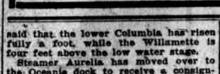
Arrived at 1:40 p. m., steamer George W. Elder, from Portland.

Arrived, schooner J. M. Weatherwax, from his left hand last evening while from Portland.

Astoria, Dec. 16.—Condition of the bar at 8 a. m., moderate; wind south; weather the last two mentioned were relected.

Owing to the recent rains the William two mentioned were relected.

EXPARES FOR THE GOVERNMENT.



Arrived last night, steamer F. A. Kil-burn, from Portland and coast ports. Port Natal, Dec. 14.—Arrived, German

ship Effrieda, from Portland.

Astoria, Dec. 15.—Left up at 2:15 p.
m. schooners Americana and Eldorado.
San Francisco, Dec. 16.—Sailed at 2
p. m., steamer Charles Nelson, for Portland.

Sealed proposals for repairing the hull, cabin and machinery of the gov-ernment tugboat George H. Mendell will be opened in the office of Major W. C. be opened in the office of Major W. C. Langfitt of the corps of United States Engineers on January 3. The contemplated work will cost in the neighborhood of \$3,500. Bids for the repair of the dredge Chinook will be opened on the same date. It will approximate \$30,000 to place her in good condition,

ONE OF THE TWINS IS FOUND DEAD IN BED

One of the twin girls born to Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Stump, 840 East Thirty-first street, a week ago, was found dead in bed beside its mother this morning. Heart failure is believed to have ended the little one's life. The other child is suffering from a cold, and it is feared it

Modern Ways in Japan.

Japan long since copied European methods of warefare to excellent pur-pose. Today she is adopting the frivoitties. Until recently jewelry, for in-stance, was tabooed, but now even gep-tlemen are often seen with a thick gold ring, made out of an old Japanese coin called "koban." The study of the in-troduction of a new custom is interest-

Ing.

As to kissing, it is rather a delicate subject to touch upon, but it cannot be dismissed with a general statement that "in affection and love the Japanese are outwardly undemonstrative." All depends upon circumstances. Kissing as practiced in the west is still strange to them, but no one who knows about it would wonder if a young couple of modern Japan should take to it to express their love.

From the Chicago News.

"I saw Enpeck going into a doctor's office this morning," said Stringer. "He had an awful cut on the head that his wife was responsible for."

"You don't say!" exclaimed Nibbles.

"What did she hit him with?"

"Oh, she didn't hit him at all," explained Stringer. "It was merely a haircut she had given him as a matter of sconomy."

"Getting ready for Christman"
"Tep. We've finished our Thanksgiving turkey."

IT'S OUR BOAST TO SELL THE BEST



LEST YOU FORGET

WE AGAIN CALL YOUR ATTENT TO THE PAST TRAY TOMORE WE WILL SHELL SWELL SIS &

Suits and Overcoats at

CHITIVALY THE GREATHET COL-PROLICE THE DEST OFFERING IN THE CITY TODAY.



EAST IS VERY GOOD **BUT OREGON IS BETTER**

Mr. and Mrs. Reed, After Touring the Country. Are Clad to Get Home.

dise and the usual passenger list, the steamer Columbia arrived last night from San Francisco.

Gerald Bagnail, assistant United States engineer, returned this morning from an extensive tour of the eastern states. He had been absent for six weeks, and during that time he visited Chicago, St. Louis, New York and points in Florida.

Through the courtesy of the Vancouver Transportation company the disposal of the committee arranging for the bout race in the harbor on the afternoon of December 25. About 269 guests will be on the steamer, from which tiscontest can be viewed to advantage.

MARINE NOTES.

Astoria, Dec. 16.—Arrived at 7:30 a. M., steamer laqua, from San Francisco.

Bailed at 8 a.m., steamer Redonds, for San Francisco.

Bailed at 8 1:15 a. m., schooner James A. Garfield, for San Francisco.

Boult of the committee arranged schoper.

Arrived at 11:20 a. m., a four-manted schoponer.

Arrived at 11:20 a. m., a three-masted ship.

Ban Francisco, Dec. 16.—Arrived at 1:50 a. m., a three-masted schoponer.

Arrived at sink, steamer P. A. Kilburn, from Portland, Arrived last night, steamer F. A. Kilburn, from Portland and coast ports.

In system of operation.

"At New Orleans the new system of underground sewage is nearly completed, and the people hope soon to have relief from the present plan of pumping the sewage up into the lake every night—made necessary by the church with a superb company of artists, fact that New Orleans is 20 feet below the level of the river. At San Antonio Gilbert Piano company.



street. We call and deliver free

Always Romember the Full Name Caxative Bromo Quimine 6. 7. Grove CHILDREN'S AUTOMOBILES

FOR CHRISTMAS



\$6.50 to \$12.50 each

"Made to Wear"

REDUCED TO CLOSE OUT

BEFORE

PRICES

CHRISTMAS

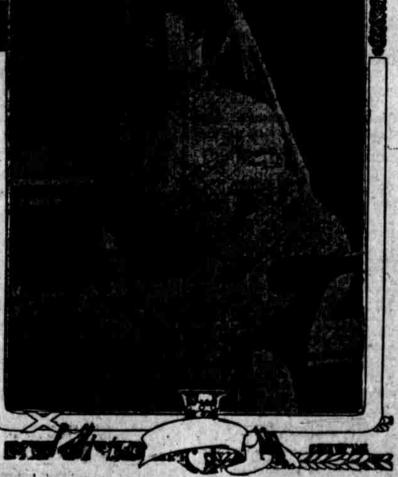


20 per cent Discount on all new Bicycles until January 1

MERRILL AUTOMOBILE CO.

(New Location)

Seventh and Oak Streets



Lady Cheylesmore, whose husband is mayor of Westminster, the second chief city maintained within the limits of the city of London. Lady Cheylesmore entertained the king and queen of Portugal on their recent visit to England. She was Miss Elizabeth French of New York and her husband's mother also was an American woman, Miss Harman of