

AMENDING CHARTERS

Devious Methods Adopted in Fighting the Local Option Law.

POLICE PUT IN CHARGE OF LIQUOR LICENSES

Trick to Prevent Any Expression of Popular Will Regarding Precinct Prohibition—Debate on Jayne Bill.

(From a Journal Staff Correspondent.)
Salem, Or., Jan. 31.—The opponents of local option have resorted to some devious methods in their fight against the law adopted by the people last June. The great desire of the liquor interests is to restrict the operation of the law in cities and towns, and as far as possible make it inapplicable to them. To accomplish this end, a number of bills have been introduced under the guise of charter bills, which in effect altogether exempt certain cities and towns from the operation of the local option law.

One of these bills, amending the charter of Medford so as to make the local option law a dead letter within the boundaries of that city, has passed both senate and house and now awaits the governor's signature. It passed unchallenged and without opposition because, being purely a local measure, its character was unsuspected. None but the members from Jackson county know of the hidden joker and it was not discovered by others until after the measure had passed.

A similar bill amending the charter of Heppner is now on its way through the legislature and if it becomes a law the people of that town will no longer be able to invoke the local option law.

Many Charter Bills.
Out of a total of 487 bills thus far introduced in the two houses, nearly one-third are charter bills, 16 in the house and 22 in the senate.

As a rule charter bills are not printed when first introduced for the reason that they are usually very voluminous and of no general interest. There is, therefore, no opportunity for the members to study their provisions, even if they were disposed to do so. When the flood of charter bills began pouring into the house, Cavender of Linn raised the point of order inquiring about the bills made to ascertain whether the bills conformed to existing laws, but the suggestion received little attention. When a bill by Cole of Umatilla, to incorporate the town of Heppner, came up for reading in the house last week, Cavender stated that he had been told that the proposed charter was directly in conflict with the local option law. He therefore moved a reference to the committee on cities and towns, and the motion prevailed. It is understood, however, that the committee has agreed to report the bill without change.

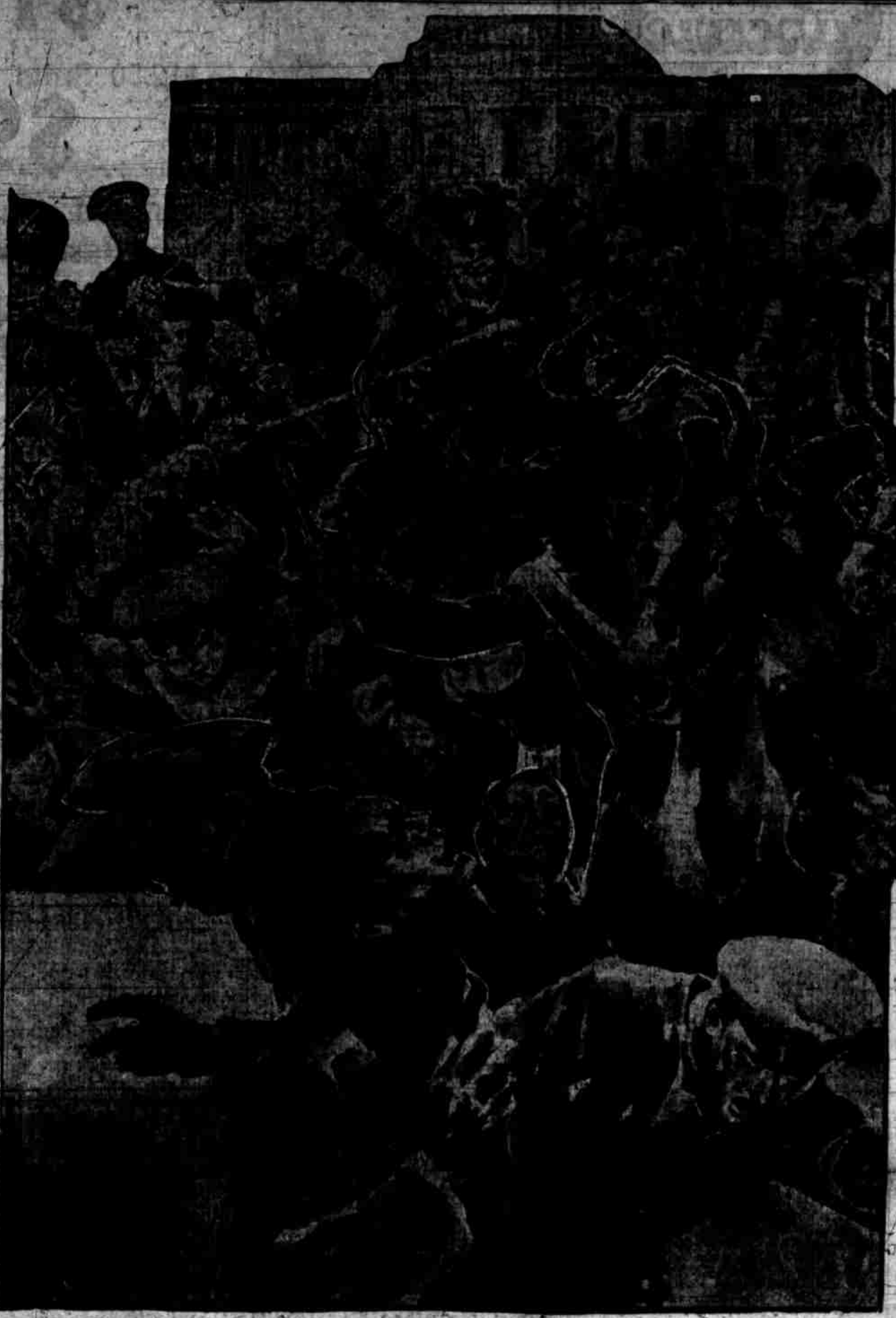
Action Tomorrow.
In accordance with a resolution passed last week, all charter bills now pending will come up for consideration tomorrow evening. Among them will be the Heppner charter, and it is said that there are several others which contain a similar provision abrogating the local option law for the city or town to which they relate.

The method adopted is very simple. A clause is inserted in the charter conferring upon the city council the police commission absolute jurisdiction over the sale of liquors within the corporate limits, notwithstanding any laws heretofore passed either by the legislature or by the people through the initiative.

It is always comparatively easy for the liquor interests to induce a city council or a police commission to license saloons. With the full power to license vested in such a body, the local option law becomes a nullity. Residents of Medford or Heppner, for example, could not exercise the right of local option if the pending charter bills become laws. The sole authority would be vested in the council or police commission.

Nullifies Election.
If the Medford charter bill becomes a law it will nullify the victory recently won in that city by the prohibition element and the city will again become "wet." One half of Medford is now "dry."

It is difficult to ascertain how far the opponents of local option have carried this evasion of the law through charter amendments, for few of the



Cossacks Knouting the Mob at Warsaw. The Portrait Is That of Grand Duke Vladimir, Who Is in Charge of Russia's Military Arm.

RUSSIANS HOLD CAPTURED TOWN

Kuropatkin Reports That Four Japanese Attacks Have Been Repulsed on the Right Flank—Enemy Informing Slav Soldiers of Rioting Now in Progress.

(Journal Special Service.)
St. Petersburg, Jan. 31.—Kuropatkin reports that the Russians hold all the positions which they captured in the forward movement begun on January 25, and adds that four Japanese attacks on the Russian right have been repulsed. A message from Sachstun states that the Japanese attack on Landangou has been repulsed and that the Russians are following up the retiring Japanese who made the attack on them, but were driven back by shrapnel and rifle fire. A dispatch from Mukden states that the wounded from the right flank continue to pass to the rear. It is officially reported that the wounded number 3,500. General Mitshenko's injuries are not serious.

The Japanese are systematically informing the Russian rank and file of the disturbances in Russia, hoping thereby to create disaffection. The soldiers eagerly read such communications.

FORTIFY HEIKOUTAI.

Russian Position Materially Weakened—Frozen Ground Prevents Earthworks.
(Journal Special Service.)
Tokyo, Jan. 31.—The Japanese are strongly fortifying Heikoutai, the cap-

DIVORCED HUSBAND HEARS MELBA SING

Comes From Klamath to Listen to Diva He Has Not Seen in Years.

MARRIED HER WHEN SHE WAS GIRL IN MELBOURNE
His Money Made It Possible That She Might Become Famous Soprano.

Somewhere in the vast audience at the Marquam Grand last night, unknown to the singer herself, sat Charles N. F. Armstrong of Glens, Or., the first husband of Melba, the father of her cowboy son and the man who made possible her great career.

BLOCKADE RUNNER CAUGHT.

(Journal Special Service.)
Tokyo, Jan. 31.—The Japanese have captured the British steamer Winfield, bound for Vladivostok with contraband.

REFUSES TO WED WHEN BRIDE GETS CONSUMPTION

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Seattle, Wash., Jan. 31.—Mayor J. E. Zook of Ballard has been sued by Rose Grover, daughter of former Justice of the Peace Grover of Ballard, who asks \$5,000 for alleged breach of promise to marry.

RELIGION FRAUD PUNISHED.

(Journal Special Service.)
San Francisco, Jan. 31.—Charles W. Styan, convicted of ballot box stuffing, was sentenced this morning to serve three years.

CIVIL WAR RAGES IN STREETS OF WARSAW

(Journal Special Service.)
Warsaw, Jan. 31.—A condition of civil war exists in Warsaw. Rebels have erected barricades, hundreds of shops have been plundered, the telephone exchange is wrecked and tons of petroleum have been poured on the streets and set afire.



NO CONVENTION BILL CAN PASS

Brownell's Measure for a Constitutional Gathering Is Doomed to Certain Defeat, Even Its Author Refusing to Support It With Its Amendments.

(From a Journal Staff Correspondent.)
Salem, Or., Jan. 31.—The constitutional convention bill is doomed. Even George C. Brownell, its author, refuses to support the measure in the form amended by the committee, declaring that party appointive delegate plan will lead to its rejection by the people. A canvass of the senate this morning shows that 15 members will vote against the bill in its present form, including Brownell. With Mays absent this is enough to kill it. The change of front on the part of the author of the bill comes with the suddenness of a railway collision and undoubtedly marks its demise. Only seven members take a positive stand in favor of the bill, the remainder being undecided, but there is a probability that several will be opposed when the time comes to vote.

LOST HIS FINGERS, SO YOUTH KILLS HIMSELF

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Victoria, B. C., Jan. 31.—Fred M. Rogers, aged 15 years, a son of M. Rogers, a candymaker of this city, committed suicide in a cool manner late last night. The boy had had a particular fancy for explosives. He had had a craze for experimenting with dynamite, nitroglycerin and like dangerous explosives, and has had some narrow escapes from being blown up. A short time ago in consequence of an experiment he had several fingers blown off.

PREACHER KEEPS GRAFT PROOFS FOR GRAND JURY

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Seattle, Jan. 31.—The city council chamber and hallways of the city hall building were not able to accommodate one third of the crowd seeking admission last night to hear the response of Rev. Dr. M. A. Matthews to the invitation of the council to explain what he meant in a recent lecture when he said some members of the council were suffering from "symptoms of graftitis." He presented 21 counts in his address, declaring himself willing to produce testimony to prove their correctness, but only before a grand jury.

GRAND JURY EXPOSES GRAFT IN CHINATOWN

(Journal Special Service.)
San Francisco, Jan. 31.—The grand jury, in a partial report made this morning, declares that it has in its possession evidence and information tending to establish the existence of a regularly organized system of gross police corruption in Chinatown, and that it has secured possession of bribe-money that has actually passed, and confessions from several police officials.

PRINCESS HAS AFFECTIONATE

(Journal Special Service.)
London, Jan. 31.—Princess Victoria, King Edward's daughter, was successfully operated upon for appendicitis at Buckingham palace this morning.

Savage Mobs and More Savage Soldiers Slay and Burn.

RED FLAG IS RAISED—MORE TROOPS ARRIVE

Hungry Mobs Raise Barricades and Repel Attacks of Drunken Soldiers—Casualties Exceed a Thousand.

(Journal Special Service.)
Warsaw, Jan. 31.—Savage mobs and more savage soldiers, both intent upon killing, have complete possession of Warsaw. Every street has been a battlefield, and many conflicts have occurred at the same time in sections of the city widely distant from one another. Young and old men, women and children have been ruthlessly attacked by the soldiers and shot down indiscriminately upon the streets. One hundred instances could be cited of the soldiers' brutality, followed by the mob's ferocity. For the most part the soldiers are intoxicated and take particular delight in attacking and knocking harmless persons indiscriminately.

Many instances can be cited of the inconceivable brutality of individual soldiers. Children have been slain, women outraged and dismembered and old men killed at their firesides.

The mob is desperate and on the verge of starvation. Women, because of the attacks upon bakeries, food is almost unobtainable and bread is at famine prices.

It is almost impossible to get an accurate account of the casualties, owing to the fact of there being so many disturbances in various parts of the city. Hundreds of men, women and children lie dead and unaccounted for. This morning the chief of police placed the casualties so far at 1,030.

A woman posted on a balcony picked off with a rifle the Cossacks who are trying to drive the strikers from the streets. A Cossack finally shot the woman, but his own life paid the penalty. The mob fell upon him, dragged him from his horse and kicked him to death.

EXPULSION CORRESPONDENTS.

Trepoff Threatens Banishment to Newspaper Men Who Send News.
(Journal Special Service.)
St. Petersburg, Jan. 31.—No exciting incidents are reported this morning, but sporadic disturbances continue but without cohesion or spirit. One hundred and thirty thousand strikers have returned to work. Several hundred of those arrested since the trouble started have been released after having been flogged. In the provinces these arrests continue.

Trepoff has threatened to expel all correspondents who telegraph stories of disturbances to foreign points. It is reported that relations between Minister of the Interior Mirsky and Trepoff have become so strained that the former's resignation is imminent.

REBELLION IN CAUCASUS.

(Journal Special Service.)
St. Petersburg, Jan. 31.—The strike is spreading at Tiflis, causing the printing works to shut down. Other trades are affected. The authorities at Tiflis have discovered a plot amongst the malcontent Armenians to organize a rebellion throughout the Caucasus.

PLACED UNDER BONDS ON ROBBERY CHARGE

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
La Grande, Or., Jan. 31.—Mrs. Moore was placed under \$300 bonds today, charged with having robbed J. A. Dillman of a watch, about \$20, a revolver and other articles. Both parties live in Hilgard, eight miles west of here. Moore was in a buggy with a woman when arrested. The men had quarreled previous to the robbery.

RUM RIOTS WRECK FLORISTON HOTEL

(Journal Special Service.)
Truckee, Cal., Jan. 31.—Fifteen drunken workmen played havoc with the Floriston hotel at Floriston last night. For some time past there has been ill feeling between the boarders and Manager Glenn, the former threatening bodily injury to the managers of the house last night at the supper table. Glenn rebuked the men for their loud talking. They left the table and went to the office and demanded whisky, but were refused. Three men then grabbed Glenn and shoved him out of the window and

COURT SAYS HORSE COMMITTED SUICIDE

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Aberdeen, Wash., Jan. 31.—It has been said by naturalists that animals, except man, never commit suicide, but this verdict has been overridden by the superior court of Washington, which has just decided a damage suit by ruling that a horse deliberately committed suicide.

animal refused to exert itself to become free and during Hansen's absence to procure assistance, the tide came up and covered the horse, it apparently making no effort to escape. When the tide receded the animal was found dead. The evidence showed that for some time the horse had seemed to take little interest in life and voluntarily died in this manner in order to escape its life of misery, and the court ruled that the animal had committed a deliberate suicide and therefore the owner was not entitled to any damages. Mr. Lyons could not but admit the justice of the decision, being familiar with the melancholy disposition of the animal.