

BRIDGE COST CITY TOO MUCH MONEY

Despite Fact That Committees and Engineering Experts Stated Taxpayers Were Overcharged for Extras. Illegally Ordered on Morrison Street Structure. Executive Board Audits Bills.

GREAT PROFIT MADE ON W. C. ELLIOTT'S CONTRACTS

Construction Corporation Agreed to Have Work Done Last December, and as Forfeit Was Exacted in Case of Failure, People May Get Some of Their Money Back.

In face of the fact that the city was charged at least \$24,000 in excess of what it should have paid for extras on the Morrison street bridge, the city executive board has audited the accounts of the contractors and ordered the payment of \$25,000, leaving only \$5,000 due on the contracts. This action was taken after it had been clearly shown by examination of competent civil engineers and by facts not forth by the council committee of investigation, criticizing the action of the executive board in entering into the contracts for the extras, that the city was mulcted of a large sum of money.

The total cost of the extras amounted to \$52,380, the contracts for which were let to the Pacific Construction company on recommendation of W. C. Elliott, who was at that time city engineer, without competitive bidding. Contracts for the extras were made in violation of the original contract, which provided that all extras should be charged for on the basis of actual cost and 15 per cent additional as profit and for use of tools.

No Competitive Bids.

It was stated at that time by the members of the executive board that it would not be right for them to let the contracts in open competition, as it would be impossible for another contractor to go upon the bridge and do the work required while the Pacific Construction company was building the bridge.

On December 24, 1905, the contract for the construction of the Morrison street bridge was let to the Pacific Construction company for \$331,844. It was not long before it was decided by the executive board to substitute steel for wooden stringers for an additional \$37,170. The contract was let for the steel stringers without asking for other bids.

A supplementary contract was authorized by the executive board on recommendation of the city engineer, August 18, 1904, for treating the wood work on the bridge with carbolineum and putting in a device to prevent the wooden block pavement from crawling, at an additional cost to the city of \$7,225.

Another addition was made to the additional contract by the executive board November 7, on the advice of the city engineer, which provided for the construction of tender houses, waiting rooms and tool houses, at an additional cost to the city of \$7,985. This brought the total cost of extras on the bridge to \$52,380.

Took Elliott's Word.

In all three contracts for extras the executive board made no effort to ascertain the real nature of the contracts. Into which it was entering, and took the word of the city engineer in every instance. On the last contract, the city made a verbal statement to the board of the extras desired. The executive board entered into the contracts on the theory that it was not working under the charter which requires that all work costing in excess of \$250 shall be let to the lowest bidder, but it claimed the bridge was being constructed under a special act of the legislature, and that it could let the contracts as it desired.

According to the original contract the bridge should have been finished December 4, 1904. The contractors failed to build the structure within the time specified, and asked for 60 days' extension. About this time rumors of "graft" in connection with the letting of the contracts for the extras were heard.

The city council interested itself in the bridge and appointed a special committee consisting of Councilmen C. E. Rumelt, Mat Poeller and Dr. Sanford Whiting to investigate its construction.

No Extension Granted.

The Morrison street bridge commission, fearing investigation of the council, appointed Madison Welch, a civil engineer, to go over the structure and make a report. He reported that material and workmanship were first class in every detail, but was very conservative in other directions.

When the petition for extension of time came before the executive board the proposition did not meet with favorable consideration. The members felt that they could not extend the time on the contract until they heard the result of the council committee's report.

Charles H. Bihler, a civil engineer from Tacoma, was that day by the council committee and made a thorough investigation of the bridge and especially the extras, regarding which reports were made that the city had been charged an excessive price.

On the substitution of steel for wooden stringers, for which the city was charged \$37,170, he found that the city was paying \$16,042 more than it should. On the contract calling for the treatment of the wooden block flooring with carbolineum he stated the city lost about \$6,000.

Regarding the contract for waiting rooms and tender houses, the expert made the statement that he was unable to find any plans and specifications, but after investigation he was convinced that a good portion of the \$7,985 paid for these extras was money wasted.

Work Was Unnecessary.

Mr. Bihler stated that most of this work is classed as an improvement, but

not a necessity. The council committee of investigation based its report on the result of the examination made by Mr. Bihler. It severely criticized the action of the executive board and said that had the board used ordinary business judgment a large sum could have been saved. Although the bridge was built of excellent material and well equipped, the committee was convinced that the same results could have been obtained for \$25,000 or \$30,000 less. The committee stated further that it did not believe any good reason could be presented by the executive board or the city engineer for the excessive costs of the extras.

Meanwhile, on December 23, George H. Howell, a member of the board, submitted the report of a private investigation into the costs of the extras on the bridge. He estimated that the contractors made \$30,000 profit on the \$52,380 which they received for extras. He also stated that he believed the board had entered into the contracts, as they had not been let according to the original agreement. He asserted that the original contract provided that extras should be charged for on the basis of 15 per cent profit above the cost of material.

Outside of the Charter.

No action was taken on the matter by the executive board until February 9, at which time a special meeting was held to consider the payment of \$55,000 of the \$64,000 due the contractors. Mr. Howell made the objection that the board should not pay the amount asked, as it had entered into the contracts illegally. He asked that the matter be referred to the city attorney for an opinion. His request was granted, and Friday City Attorney L. A. McNary filed his opinion, which was to the effect that the bridge was constructed under a special act of the legislature, and that the letting of the contracts for the extras did not come under the provisions of the city charter. He held the opinion that the city had a perfect right to let the contracts for the extras, and that they were legal.

There still remains \$8,000 due on the contracts. This will not be paid until the final settlement between the contractor and the city. Under the original contract the contractor was liable to a forfeiture of \$50 for every day the work is not finished over the time specified in the contract dates from December 4. Before the work is entirely finished, the amount the city may collect may reach \$4,000.

LAND LAWS WILL BE CHANGED VERY SOON

Commission and Sub-Committee Are at Work on Needed Amendments.

Information received in this city from Washington that Special Agent Dixon and the two other special agents of the interior department who were appointed a sub-committee by the public lands commission are now in the national capital conferring with the general commission. The general land commission, consisting of Commissioner of the General Land Office W. A. Richards, Chief of the Forestry Service Gifford Pinchot and Chief of the Reclamation Service F. H. Newell, were chosen by the president to recommend needed changes in land laws. They chose as a sub-committee for report and recommendation on the timber and stone act, three special agents of the interior department, of which Mr. Dixon, in charge of special agents of Washington, was a member. The fact that Mr. Dixon and his committee are conferring at this time is taken to indicate that a report is to be made by the commission soon.

The report of this sub-committee will prove of special interest to the nation, as the timber and stone act has been the subject of wide discussion. The bill introduced to repeal it did not allay interest. The special agents have had long experience in dealing with evasions of the law, and their report will no doubt embody many important facts on the methods adopted by timber syndicates for evading the law. The fact that Mr. Dixon and his committee are conferring at this time is taken to indicate that a report is to be made by the commission soon.

"SLATS" DAVIS IS APPOINTED UMPIRE

J. Ira "Slats" Davis, the well-known ball player and umpire, received a letter from President Best of the Pacific Coast League, offering him a position as umpire on Best's staff during the coming season.

Davis accepted the terms this afternoon, which means that the popular umpire will officiate in this league during the season of 1906.

Slats is a thoroughly capable official, as he demonstrated to the local fans during the latter part of last season. President Lucas of the Pacific National league stated that Davis was the best man on his staff last season.

"Slats" many friends in this city are confident that he will give every satisfaction to the patrons of the game in the coast league circuit.

ROBBED POSTOFFICE.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Garfield, Wash., Feb. 16.—The postoffice here was entered by the front door last night and 30 cents in silver and \$5 in pennies taken. The robbers did not molest the stamps. It is thought to be the work of boys.

BIG FIRE AT MILAN.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Milan, Wash., Feb. 20.—A \$15,000 fire occurred in the general merchandise store owned by P. W. Murphy, and William Nelson's hotel yesterday. The cause is unknown. Small insurance.



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EASTERN PEOPLE WILL INVEST HERE

Edward F. Cannon Talks Interestingly on What He Noted on His Recent Trip.

DESIRE TO SEE OREGON HAS BECOME GENERAL

Physical Conditions of the State Attract Eyes of Many Men With Money.

Edward F. Cannon of the Edward F. Cannon Co., has just returned to Portland, after making a four months' tour of the eastern cities and California on business.

Mr. Cannon, having an extensive acquaintance among eastern commercial people, informs us that he is exceedingly surprised to know that the east in general is so thoroughly acquainted with the scope of the Lewis and Clark exposition.

In a general way, in conference with a great many of the business people of St. Louis, Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia, he finds that the people have taken sufficient interest in our enterprise of 1906 to obtain authentic information as to its magnitude, which they believe will compare very favorably with the Omaha, Buffalo, Charleston, Chicago and St. Louis enterprises, even if it is not on so large a scale as the two latter. In a majority of instances, where he held conferences regarding the Lewis and Clark exposition and where the people have been directly or indirectly interested in exhibiting at the Louisiana Purchase exposition, they have signified their willingness and desire to exhibit at the Lewis and Clark exposition. This shows how deeply the eastern centers are interested in the Portland enterprise.

"I think," he said today, "that we are assured of as many of the main exhibits shown at the Louisiana Purchase exposition as can be comfortably taken care of in Portland."

Many of Mr. Cannon's friends in the east demonstrated to him that they have gone deeply into the subject of the scope of Portland's exposition.

The eastern people are becoming more alive to the resources of our state and its diversified interests," Mr. Cannon continued, "and are showing a tendency to inform themselves as to the opportunities for solving and growing investments in this district, especially in fruit, hops, wheat and timber lands."

Mr. Cannon stated that the requests for information on these subjects were four-fold stronger than they had been on any of his previous visits, showing that there had been created a much stronger tendency toward investments in this district than ever before.

"We need only to follow these interests up closely through our commercial bodies and other sources of information, to reap the full harvest now maturing for our state and district," he said.

"Unique Richardson's work," he continued, "is evidently a heavy moneyed enterprise, advertising is wisely quoted throughout the east, as to our resources."

Mr. Cannon, having retired from the presidency and general management of the Northwest Electric Engineering Co. on November 1, to take up the more active and broader line of electrical and hydraulic engineering, will in the future handle exclusively a full line of railway, light, power, hydraulic and electrical apparatus. Mr. Cannon has recently organized an up-to-date engineering department for installing new plants of this character, and also for reorganizing, financing and establishing electric light and power plants and putting them on a paying basis.

CONSTRUCTIVE BIG FLUME.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Culdesa, Idaho, Feb. 20.—The recently organized Lapwai Lumber company will construct a flume from 10 to 12 miles long for the conveyance of lumber and wood from the flume mill to the depot at Culdesa. The flume will be about 11 1/2 miles long and will cost approximately \$15,000. Work will commence in the spring.

Pleasant Suffering

is often caused by sores, ulcers and cancers, that eat away your skin. Wm. Bedell, of Flat Rock, Mich., says: "I have used Bucklen's Arnica. It is the best healing dressing I ever found. It soothes and heals cuts, burns and scalds. It is at Red Cross Pharmacy, Sixth and Oak streets, on the way to the postoffice; guaranteed."

RESPECT FOR LAW NATION'S ONE NEED

Earl C. Bronaugh Points to the Dangers That Menace the Republic.

ONLY A FOOL CAN VIEW AFFAIRS WITHOUT ALARM

Man Wanted at Head of City Government to Enforce the Statutes.

"I would we had a man at the head of municipal affairs in Portland such as we have at the head of the nation," declared Earl C. Bronaugh last night, in an address at the Sunnyside Congregational church. The service was commemorative of George Washington. Mr. Bronaugh spoke on "A Citizen of No Mean City," and held up a high ideal of civic life.

"One man was elected sheriff," said Mr. Bronaugh, "and demonstrated what may be done if only officials desire to enforce the laws. He is not a reformer. He simply swore to enforce the law, and then kept his oath."

"Respect for law is the one great need. Here in Oregon we offer to the world the spectacle of three of our representatives in congress indicted for offenses most flagrant. I fear, we do not realize the shame of all this. It indicates that among our officials few be found who accept their offices with determination to see that the plain provisions of the law shall be carried out, or make good their oaths."

"This condition results from general laxness among the people, for the officials reflect the standard of popular morality. This is not pessimism. It is plain truth. It is not looking on the worst side and seeing only what it had. It is merely looking at things candidly and with no attempt to cover up obvious truths."

"Public sentiment, which is, after all, the real enforcer of law, may be aroused to demand higher standards of official action. We must put a stop to partnership between the city and vice, and in all departments of government from the municipality to the national capital there must be respect for law. The man who can view the situation without alarm is a fool. He would better awaken to a realization of the serious issues that press for settlement."

SOME PULPIT DON'TS.

Dr. Bronaugh Discusses a Few Written by Members of His Congregation.

Some weeks ago Rev. J. Whitcomb Bronaugh of the White temple, in introducing a series of sermons on the great preachers of the world, invited his listeners to write him their ideas of what an ideal preacher should be. He received a number of responses, and at last evening's service answered them. One writer thought the preacher should live as he preaches, others thought he should not use slang in the pulpit, nor indulge in wit or humor, nor "make ugly faces," nor use sensational topics, nor talk of the popular sins of the day, nor make an ass of himself. One said he should be inspired of God. Another thought the preacher should have a happy smile and write:

"The ideal preacher is a man with a happy face. The day of long-faced religion is past. I can remember that as a child my conception of religion was bound up in a picture of a long-faced man with whiskers, who wore sombre black clothes, a white linen tie, and a bearded look on his face. It has been my observation that his kind kept more people out of the church than they brought into it. The long-faced individual who claims that Jesus has saved him and yet goes around with a pained expression telling about it, will not be likely to convert anybody to that kind of religion."

Dr. Bronaugh said: "Criticism of my ministry has been made along three lines—that I announce sensational subjects, that I use wit and humor, and that I deal with popular sins of the day. I do not deny any of these charges. There is more Christianity in a smile than there is in a frown. There is more of the joy of salvation in a hearty laugh than there is in the solemn countenance of a mourner. There are plenty of long-haired, long-faced, long-coated, high-collared, black-hatted and black-suited, black-boated, black-hatted and black-cravatted preachers in the world. Why should there be objection to a few of the other kind? After all, it is simply a matter of taste."

REMEDY FOR ILLS.

Rev. Dr. Wilson's First Sermon in Episcopal and Episcopate.

Rev. Clarence True Wilson, D. D., yesterday took up his duties as the successor of Rev. J. R. T. Lathrop, D. D. in the pastorate of Grace Methodist Episcopal church. Large congregations greeted the new pastor, and the members evinced pleasure and satisfaction in their new leader. Dr. Wilson spoke of the necessity of maintaining a high level of individualism in the nation that comes when the people really desire it along ethical as well as material lines.

"The remedy for the world's ills is not found in constitutions and statutes, but in the character of the people. What we have to rely upon for the regeneration of the people and therefore of the political and national life is religion transformed from an institution into a force," Dr. Wilson in his morning sermon.

"Religion is not a vocabulary, but a vocation; not a language, but a life; not a profession, but practice. It is a sign of progress that makes us impatient of any religious profession that is not vindicated by service to men as well as by piety."

Next Tuesday evening the members of the church will tender to Dr. Wilson a public reception.

MORAL AWAKENING.

Rev. Mr. Small Sees Signs of It in Land Fraud Prosecutions.

"A suggestion from the land frauds" was discussed in a sermon yesterday at the First Unitarian church by Rev. W. F. Small, who took his subject from

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the text "The Way of the Transgressor is Hard."

He declared that the country had at last a man in the president's chair who was absolutely fearless in prosecution of fraud, wherever he finds it, in high or low places.

"Politically, I have nothing to say concerning these Oregon cases, but morally the developments indicate, in my judgment, a hopeful condition of affairs," he said. "It does not mean a depraved public sentiment and conscience, but on the contrary shows a most healthy awakening in this country, in the direction of purification after a long sleep of the forces of the people. It shows that honesty pays, and that the way of the transgressor is hard."

REVIVAL SERVICES.

Rev. Mr. Mackay Begins a Successful Series at First Christian Church.

Unusually large audiences attended the opening of the special revival services yesterday at the First Christian church, corner Park and Columbia. The evening congregation was the largest in over a year. This evening Mr. Mackay's evangelistic address will be on "The Judgment and What He Should Preach." This is the first of a series of "God's Part and Man's Part in Salvation." The other addresses of the series are "The Healer and How He Works," "The Faith that Makes a Christian," "Repentance Not to be Repeated," "Confession Into Salvation," and "The Meaning of Baptism." Interesting charts will be used to illustrate all these subjects. Special solos, duets and quartets each evening during the week. Song service begins at 7:30.

LAX METHODS.

Dr. Elliot Thinks Land Frauds Due to Low Condition of Public Officials.

The land frauds were the subject of the sermon yesterday morning by Dr. T. L. Elliot, who filled the Unitarian pulpit by request. He spoke particularly of the unfortunate lowering of the public standard of morality, which was

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brought about by the lax methods pursued in obtaining government lands. Men and women, otherwise irreproachable in character, stooped to take advantage of the law in this respect and did not think it was wrong.

"The recent indictment for land frauds," he said, "were the outcome of a low public opinion. The wholesale semi-fraudulent procedure in taking up lands lowered the people's conscience and encouraged the actual frauds."

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