

# GAS COMPANY'S FINES EVERY CHANGE MADE AGAINST IT BY OREGONIAN

### Says It Has Gold Dollars or Full Value for Every Share of Stock.

### HAS NOT BEEN GRAFTING THROUGH SLOT MACHINES

### Is Not Getting Rich on Deposits—Offers to Sell Plant to City at Any Time for Fair Consideration—Scores Oregonian for Unfairness.

At the meeting of the council investigation committee last night to consider the affairs of the Portland Gas Company and look into its management, the company replied to the charges which have been made against it by the Oregonian, denying each allegation, and giving reasons. The answer in full follows:

To the Honorable the Council of the City of Portland, Oregon:

The charges made by the Daily Oregonian against the Portland Gas Company, divided of personalities, are substantially:

First—That this company has watered its stock. This is not true. The company has got gold dollars or full value for every share of stock outstanding.

Second—That this company has been growing rich on deposits exacted for the use of meters. This is not true. The deposits are only required in the case of strangers and those who will give no guarantee.

Third—That this company has been working some kind of graft through slot meters. This is not true. The use of slot meters is not encouraged by this company.

Fourth—That this company is proposing a reduction in price in order to head off investigation. This is not true. The price of gas has heretofore been voluntarily reduced and will be reduced again in accordance with this policy as heretofore announced by this company.

Fifth—That the gas furnished by the company is of low candle power. This is not true. It is above the average, though it has fluctuated in quality and probably will again. Perfection is not claimed.

Sixth—That this company increases the pressure in order to force a greater consumption of gas. To any one familiar with gas distribution, and with the pressure used in the city, the statement is absurd. The company, by excessive pressure, is the greatest loser through unaccounted-for gas. The consumer can absolutely control his consumption by the stopcock at his meter.

This company desires at this time to call the attention of the committee and the public to the following facts: This company is a public utility corporation, and it ought to be open to investigation in the interests of the public. The investigation should be a fair one to ascertain faults and remedies. It should not be a mere vehicle for personal spite. As this company has a public franchise, so has the Oregonian. The duty of the Oregonian is to appreciate and ruin any other body enterprise in the city as great as the duty of this company to furnish honest gas. The duty of the Oregonian is to depreciate and ruin any other body enterprise in the city as great as the duty of this company to furnish honest gas. The duty of the Oregonian is to appreciate and ruin any other body enterprise in the city as great as the duty of this company to furnish honest gas.

This company is not a monopolist, but has competitors for both light and power, and its own selfish interests as well as what it believes to be its duty to the public compels it to give the best service it can at the lowest rates. It has 14,000 consumers and has never been in a fixed condition, but is always expanding its plant and endeavoring to improve its service. It does not hope to always please everyone, but it does the best it can. It has never claimed to give perfect satisfaction. It welcomes every honest complaint as tending to open its own eyes to its own possible defects, and it always has and will continue to try to reduce the complaints.

As it must be perfectly apparent from the unqualified personalities and venom of the Oregonian's attack that the interest of the public has not been the real motive of this attack, this company submits that the integrity of purpose of the Oregonian and its honest effort to publish only true facts in the interest of the public is morally quite as much on trial before the people as is the efficiency of this company. Instead of producing proof on the charges of graft, dishonesty and the like, the Oregonian in its columns, the Oregonian finding that it must be the complainant in this case is seeking to defame and obscure the real issues by summing this company to bring before the committee its franchise, all its books and documents showing amount of money received from sale of gas, all its books and documents showing money expended for construction and maintenance, and its tax receipts for five years past. This company cannot see where these documents shed the slightest light on the issues made by the Oregonian, but whenever the committee shall conclude that such information is necessary it will find that the franchise of this company are public records printed in the records of this state and as accessible to the Oregonian or to any citizen as to this company; that the measurement and taxes paid by this com-

pany are public records and open to any one, as is the assessment of every other taxpayer. The auditor of the city has been asked to inspect the books of this company and make his public report. He brings all these books, papers and vouchers before the committee, covering as they do a period of nearly 14 years, and deposit them here would be a useless thing, would seriously cripple the business of this company and would certainly result in much complaint. The present issues are whether or not the statements made by the Oregonian are true or not. And it is to those issues of fact that the committee should be directed, and in support of its findings, this company submits in separate articles its more definite and extended answer as follows:

**Watering Stock.**  
On the 12th day of January, 1906, under a heading reading as follows, "Greedy Gas Graft Will Cut Price," "It Will Also Further Water its Stock to Conceal its Dividends," "Promises One Dollar Rate," "In order to hide its big profits from the consumers it raises number of shares and will do so again," said Daily Oregonian printed, published and circulated amongst other things in connection with certain representations as to the increase in the capital stock of said company, and in a circular letter issued by said company on January 5, 1906, the following statement, "and (meaning said gas company) refrains from explaining satisfactorily raised or watered \$400,000, and why \$250,000 more water is to be added next month, if not to afford a means of concealing big profits—And there are other cunning tricks in the pamphlet, made up to deceive an easy public," and further stated, "A favorite method of corporations that make big profits off the public, of concealing their graft, is that of increasing the water in their capital stock so that the heavy earnings are disbursed in dividends." Consequently the gas company swelled its capital stock so as to keep down the dividend rate and hide its profits from the public. This method is pursued by public service corporations all over the United States in order to pull the wool over the eyes of the public." That in and by said article the said Oregonian charged and intended to charge the gas company with watering its stock.

## Everyone Should Know How to Cure Croup and Be Ready When the Attack Comes.

A Mother's Darling Saved—Read What She Says.

PROMPT ACTION NECESSARY.

"I feel that God has blessed Dr. Acker with special knowledge to prepare that grand medicine called Dr. Acker's English Remedy for Throat and Lung Trouble, that saves children every time when they are attacked by Croup. Every mother should know about it, and I will tell you about my experience. I had a darling boy of four years to die with Croup. My doctor did all he could, but the child would not be made to vomit. I was before I knew of Dr. Acker's English Remedy. After I did hear of it I got a bottle. My son was little enough, but he was stricken with Croup. I gave her this medicine, and in a matter of twenty minutes she vomited and was better right away. During the winter she had Croup four times, and it brought her through each time all right. I myself had Bronchitis pretty bad and Dr. Acker's English Remedy cured me completely. Before I close, I want to tell you about my neighbor, Mrs. Anna. He had Bronchitis, too. He got worse all the time. My husband went over to his home and told him about my case. Then he went to town to get a 10-cent bottle of Dr. Acker's English Remedy and he took it. He came back and said he was all right and also said two doses relieved him from the start. Yes, I think so much of Dr. Acker's English Remedy. I repeat that God's blessing must fall on this medicine. Dr. Acker (Signed) Mrs. John Yeager, Rochester, N.Y."

No need to add anything more to such testimony only to say that Dr. Acker's English Remedy is the force-cure medicine for all throat and lung troubles. You can prove this for yourself and it will not cost you a penny. Write for a copy of Dr. Acker's English Remedy on a positive guarantee to do all we claim for it or your money will be returned to you. Could you ask us to do more? Try it today.

Be sure to ask for DR. ACKER'S ENGLISH REMEDY For the Lung. All Druggists 25c, 60c, \$1.00.

company lost accounts amounting to \$1,717.47.

**Slot Meters.**  
On the fifth of January, 1906, the said Daily Oregonian printed, published and circulated the following statements: "Then followed the slot meters, which are the aim of the company to place slot meters in every house, and in a great many instances it has prevailed upon consumers to allow them to be placed in their homes. Gift-giving agents for the company make house to house canvases in behalf of the slot meters, with the plausible story that when 25 cents is deposited in one of the meters the consumers get full value in gas. Those who use such meters soon got wise to the fact that they were furnished with about 12 cents worth of gas for their 25 cents, and they also learned that they were not receiving the benefit of the reduction to \$1.15 per 1,000 feet, but were paying the old rate of \$1.50 per 1,000 feet." That the facts so published in reference to said slot meters are so completely untrue as to require no further reference in order to make an intelligent denial or explanation. The gas company denies that its agents at any time ever made a house to house canvass for the use of said meters, and that it encourages their use. That said meters are placed sometimes in houses where customers rent their rooms to other tenants who desire the gas in company to collect for gas used in such cases. That in this way, in other cases, said meters are used at the request of the customer and in other cases where customers desire gas but do not wish to give a reference or make a deposit. That it is true that the price of gas through said slot meter is fixed at the present time at \$1.50 per thousand, but that no deception or fraud or misrepresentation of any kind was ever made to any customer or user of such meters as to the amount of gas he was to receive for a given amount of money. That on the contrary, in order that they may understand the use of them and the amount of gas they would receive for their 25 cents, the facts are always fully stated. That the amount of gas a customer receives at present through a slot meter for 25 cents is about 165 feet. That said slot meters cost about \$1.00 each, and that the price of them is not high. That there is considerable loss in the use of them through parties causing them to work by false tokens and spurious coins and that additional time is required in looking after them, and for these reasons the price was not made the same as that where a customer uses a regular meter and pays his bill regularly.

That on the eleventh day of February, 1906, under a heading "Slot Meters Latest Steel," "How the Greedy Gas Company Filches From the Public by This Method," said paper published the following statement: "As a conservative estimate the said company has about 5,000 of these meters in Portland, using from 1,000 to 2,000 cubic feet of gas each month. Taking the maximum figure of 2,000 subscribers and estimating the gas consumed through each meter at 2,000 cubic feet a month, the gas company will thereby receive an excess of 4,000 cubic feet of gas each month, a total of \$12,000 a year. In 10 years it will be seen the unsuspecting patrons of the gas company would not less than \$120,000 during the year 1906 on said side."

**Deposits by the Consumers of Money With the Gas Company.**  
That on the fifth day of January, 1906, the said daily Oregonian printed, published and circulated a statement headed "Grows Rich Off of Public's Money," and in said article made the following statement: "Gas meters in use—14,551; value of gas meters in company; \$40,880; deposited by the public for use of meters, \$57,755; and in said article further charged that said company required deposits for its meters from its consumers, and that in that manner they had accumulated a fund amounting at the date said article was published to \$57,755. That said statement so made and published is false and untrue. That in truth and in fact the entire amount that said company had on deposit from gas consumers on the first day of January, 1906, was the sum of \$3,392.25 and said sum was not deposited for the use of meters. That following the custom obtaining many years before the present owners of said company acquired the same, said money is carried under an account entitled "Meter Deposits." That it is the custom of said company at all times where a customer is unknown to require either satisfactory reference or a small deposit to cover the payment of such bills as may accrue, and said sum is the accumulation of deposits so made. That a letter of fact the officers of the company prefer and encourage in every way they can the furnishing of references or guarantees rather than the making of deposits. That during the year 1905, notwithstanding said deposits, the said

That instead of there being an excess collected from each subscriber of 70 cents a month, amounting to a total sum of \$3,500, or any other sum, the entire amount of the excess of 70 cents said meters for the month of December, 1905, was \$2,341.80, or an average of \$1.95 a meter, and that said gas cost the customers using said meters less than \$1.15 per thousand cubic feet.

**Reduction in Price.**  
On the 12th day of January, 1906, the said Daily Oregonian published and printed under the following heading, "Greedy Gas Graft Will Cut Price," "Promises One Dollar Rate," the following statement: "The Oregonian has raised such a storm of popular wrath that the graft will try to pacify the people by reducing the rate from \$1.15 a 1,000 feet to \$1. An already indicated by the Oregonian, even a \$1 rate will make a fat rake-off for the gas company, because the cost of supplying the gas as shown by expense figures—from other cities is less than that of this city. The rate of \$1 per 1,000 feet is a goodly hold on the people of Portland and hopes that by giving up a trifling share of its profits it will be able to allay the popular indignation."

The said company denies that it is a greedy or any kind of a graft, or that it has promised a reduction for the purpose of allaying popular wrath or to pacify the people or for any other purpose than in accordance with its settled policy, of reducing the price to the consumer, as rapidly as the same can be done, and denies the cost of supplying gas. It denies that it has promised a price or proposed reduction. On the contrary, it alleges it is largely in excess thereof. That the following voluntary reductions in price have been made by said company since the year 1901:

Price per 1,000 feet: August, 1902, to May, 1903, \$2.50; May, 1903, to August, 1903, \$2.25; August, 1903, to August, 1904, \$2.00; August, 1904, to August, 1905, \$1.75; August, 1905, to November, 1905, \$1.50; November, 1905, to date, \$1.15.

That regardless of this investigation, it is and was the intention of the company to make further reductions in the price of gas as rapidly as the business and consumption thereof warrants, and this company has already, in pursuance of this policy, announced its intention of making a reduction of \$1 per 1,000 feet during the current year. That this reduction can only be safely made and is based upon an increased consumption of gas. That as compared with the United States cities, the price charged for gas in this city is as low and lower than in the majority of such cities.

**Charges for Setting Meters.**  
That amongst various other charges made and published in said paper are some to the effect that charges are made by the company for setting meters; that it encouraged its workmen to so pipe the houses as to create leaks and that headlines published in said paper during the time mentioned, so worked as to charge the "gas consumers are bunked," as well as other statements too numerous to repeat, reflecting on the integrity of its officers and said company, and its business was constantly and continuously referred to as a "graft" and "fees." That said charges were made in such a way that it is difficult to make specific answers thereto. This company alleges that such statements and paragraphs are entirely untrue and thereabout allege that they place meters in the houses of all consumers without cost; that they test and will test the piping in houses where meters are placed without cost; that they will place a meter in a house for old leaks or other causes for complaint; that they maintain at a very considerable expense a force for the purpose of investigating complaints and testing them; that if the complaint is found to be some meters which do not register accurately, these instances are rare, and said company seeks to maintain and does maintain their meters so that they are correct and that they correctly measure the amount of gas consumed. That during the year 1905 said company expended for the purpose of setting meters, investigating complaints, testing pipes and work of a like nature the sum of \$11,326.45.

**Quality of Gas.**  
That said paper has published complaints as to the quality of the gas furnished by this company. In respect to this complaint said company alleges and will show that it furnishes a gas of an high candle-power as that furnished by any gas company on this coast and much higher than furnished by the majority of such plants. Said company denies that at all times said gas has not been of the same equal candle-power. That there has been a number of causes for this beyond the control of the company at the time to handle such a large improvement in gas and now under way, variations in the character of oil, etc. That notwithstanding these disadvantages more or less temporary the candle-power of gas has been substantially maintained at from \$1 to 22 candle-power.

**Particular Complaints.**  
That said paper printed, published and circulated a number of individual complaints respecting the charges made by said company for gas and quality thereof. Some of the charges were anonymous, and all that could be investigated, and this company will submit under oath the result of such investigations. This company has about 14,000 consumers and it is its purpose not only to satisfy said consumers but to induce further consumption of its product with new customers. That it has active, energetic and intelligent competition both for lighting and heating gas for power, and the officers and stockholders of this company are more interested than by any possibility anyone else could be in seeing that its patrons receive proper service and complete satisfaction. That it is its purpose to keep and maintain only friendly relations with its customers and to give them satisfaction.

That since the organization of said company to and including the first day of January, 1906, it has been paid dividends amounting in all to 22 per cent, as follows: 1902 dividend 5 per cent. 1903 dividend 5 per cent. 1904 dividend 5 per cent. 1905 dividend 6 per cent.

**In Conclusion.**  
This company insists, and it thinks every intelligent citizen will recognize,

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You Can Save 77c to 27c on Each Pair of Kid Gloves

## Great Kid Glove Sale

\$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75 KID GLOVES . . . . . 98c

This is a great big, hearty, healthy, vigorous sale of Kid Gloves; 2500 pairs to select from; all sizes; all colors. One and two-clasp Piquee Grace Kid gloves; Paris point stitching; English walking gloves, browns, tans, shades, reds, grays, white, cream, black. These are the best kid glove bargains we have ever offered. We had planned this sale for Saturday, but the gloves are such superb bargains that we could not wait. The sale began this morning at 8 o'clock sharp.

2500 Pairs \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75 Kid Gloves at 98c

## 35c Ribbons for 25c

15,000 yards all-silk Messaline Ribbon, 5 inches wide; the brilliant soft finish. The ribbons that are so popular for millinery purposes, sashes, belts and neckwear. Most extensive range of newest colors ever shown. A superb value at . . . . . 25c

## Point de Venise Lace Capes

And Novelty Collars, \$6 Values, \$1.98  
Point de Venise and Novelty Lace Capes and Collars; 6 to 12 inches deep, in white, cream and ecru. This season's very newest designs. Values to \$6.00; for this special sale at . . . . . \$1.98

## Fashion's Favorite Wash Goods at Little Prices

**Mercerized Popinette 20c**  
One of the very prettiest wash goods of the season. A highly mercerized cloth with poplin weave. Solid colors, navy, red, black, pink, light blue, green, tan, white.

**36-Inch All-Linen Suiting 35c**  
An exceptional value in an all-linen fabric. Medium weight. Colors are light blue, pink, tan, Alice blue.

**Novelty Gingham 18c**  
Hardly to be distinguished from the most expensive foreign productions. Checks and plaids in a most varied assortment of colorings.

**White Mercerized Waisting 25c**  
Poplin weave with or without designs. Plain weave ground with raised dot, figured and flowered designs.

## New Colored Dress Goods

SALE OF POPULAR NEW 50c DRESS GOODS

## 50c Yd.

Shepherd Plaids, all colors. Wilds and Elshford Plaid Mohairs. New Plaid with colored dots. All-wool French Challis. 44-inch English Mohair Sicilians. Tailor Suiting, mixtures, overplaid, in light and medium grays, twilight gray and the popular black and white effects; prices range from, per yard, \$1.00 to . . . . . \$3.50

## NEW BLACK DRESS GOODS

44-inch Black Tropical Panama, a new weave, light weight, per yard, \$1.00  
44-inch Black Wool Taffetas, per yard, 85c to . . . . . \$1.00  
44-inch Black Shadow Check and Plaid Tulle; very stylish and new, per yard, \$1.00 and . . . . . \$1.35  
44-inch Black French Novelty, in light and medium grays, twilight gray and the popular black and white effects; prices range from, per yard, \$1.25 to . . . . . 49c

## Swellest

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Superbly tailored, full of the distinctiveness that finest designing and workmanship can give them and that women prize so highly. Early Spring days are the days to enjoy most fully the wearing of a smart, new, tailor-made suit, and the Lipman-Wolfe stock contains all the beautiful styles that particular women will be most proud to wear. Every fabric and color that is favored by fashion. The fit, finish, workmanship the best that money can provide. We will make a special exhibit today of models ranging in price from . . . . . \$70

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Vegetable Preparation for Assisting the Food and Regulating the Stomach and Bowels of INFANTS & CHILDREN

Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. NOT NARCOTIC.

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Cure all Kidney Troubles, stop pain in the back, make loss of albumen in the urine impossible, actually remove the stones from the kidneys. They contain just what is wanted to remove the disease, heal the sore spot and strengthen the whole system. They never fail to bring relief within a few hours and cure to stay cured. Sold at 50c a box by S. S. Whitehouse & Co., Druggists, 181 1/2 Taylor St., Portland, Ore.

## REGULATED LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Conducted on safe lines that have stood the test of time. Profits of the business paid to policyholders at the end of each year. L. Samuel, Manager, Macleay Building, 286 Washington St., Portland, Oregon.

## WORK OF VOLUNTEER FIREMEN APPRECIATED

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Adams, Ore., March 1.—M. A. Ferguson, chief of the Adams volunteer fire department, states that the managers of the three warehouses which were saved through the constant work of the citizens last night, donated \$50, and \$500, respectively, to the firemen.

sacks of wheat which he had stored in the warehouse, contributed \$50, all of which will be used for water in protection in the city. The managers of the interior company, James G. Galloway, company and the Adams volunteer company were also present.