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## HIGH VOLTAGE WIRE WILL ENDANGER BOTH LIFE AND PROPERTY

### Electricians Give Warning of What East Side Residents May Expect.

### SAY WIRING SYSTEM IS VERY DANGEROUS

### Big Cazadero Line Will Prove Great Menace If Council Allows General Electric Company to Bring It Into the City.

Poor wiring, deaths of workers on electric poles and the carrying of high tension currents into the residence and business sections of the city are creating a powerful sentiment in Portland favoring the placing of electric wires underground. It is said there will be determined opposition to the plan of the Portland General Electric company for bringing a line carrying 62,000 volts from Cazadero into the thickly populated part of the city.

Electricians say that the carrying of a high voltage line from the Oregon City generating plant to the transmission station of the Portland General Electric in the center of the business district is extremely dangerous to people and property, and that it would not be permitted in any eastern city. The sub-station, they say, should be located at the city limits and the high voltage current there stepped down and distributed by numerous low tension lines to the various sections to be served with light and power. They allege that a current of such tremendous power for harm should not be permitted to come closer than the city limits and there it should be stepped down to low pressure for distribution. An electrician said:

**Destructive Power Terrible.**  
"The destructive power of the high voltage current is terrible, and despite precautions it is impossible to prevent occasional breakage accidents in thickly populated cities. When this current touches wet ground it permeates the surrounding earth and may kill any person who steps on the ground in the vicinity. I once saw a broken wire carrying high voltage fall into the water. A man with a pole stepped into the water 30 feet away from the wire and died there, it being impossible for any one to go to his rescue."  
It is argued that accidents are liable to happen at any time to cause the breaking of a high tension wire, and when such a current is beyond control it is likely to destroy all life and property within reach of the deadly fluid.

The route of the Cazadero line enters the city from the southeast, and follows the Base Line road to Seventeenth street; thence crosses the gulch and runs to Russell street, East Portland, where it enters the substation. This line will carry the highest voltage yet transmitted by any line within the state. It is alleged by electricians that the pole line construction now being carried on with a view to stringing this wire is very light and wholly inadequate for safety of the public. One electrician designated it as a "toy line."

**Condemns Wiring System.**  
A number of electricians well known in the city, but declining to permit use of their names, have made statements to the effect that Portland is the worst-wired city of its size in the country. It is alleged by electricians that the breakdown of the car service on the east side Monday morning was caused by the overloading of poorly constructed transmission lines and the jumping of the current to the wet poles, grounding the lines and throwing the entire system out of commission.

One electrician said: "Most of the wiring in Portland is rotten. That is a hard thing to say of the electricians as well as the wiring companies in this city. No sane citizen that I have any knowledge of as to electrical conditions would tolerate the things that exist here in Portland. The

city council seems to be entirely ignorant on this subject, and exhibits no desire to inform itself, or else it is ignoring the facts and taking promises for performance of the wiring companies, particularly the Portland General. The Portland General must be given credit for one thing—it is now attempting to remedy some of the evils of pole wiring and is putting hose on some of its wires. But the hose is only a temporary remedy and offered as a sop to public sentiment. In a year or two it will be as bad as ever and there will have to be something more done. The only permanent remedy for the wiring evil on the streets is to put the wires under ground, at least within the fire limits, as is done in eastern cities that have had long experience with the electric wiring trouble. When Councilman Annand writes from the east that he has not found any cities where the electric wires are placed under ground, he is showing a singular ignorance of the facts. He certainly has not investigated Chicago, New York and several other cities where the electrical companies have been compelled to place their wires under ground."

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