

PLAN HARD TAX FIGHT

Railroads Will Pick Up Smallest Technically to Avoid Paying Assessment—Telephone Company to Slide Out If Possible.

Tomorrow afternoon, beginning at 2 o'clock, the county board of equalization will give a hearing to complaints of the railroad companies regarding their assessment. The time was fixed at a meeting yesterday, when the Oregon and Columbia insurance companies presented reasons for asking reduction in the assessment of their capital stock. The best legal talent and tax experts of the railroads will be present tomorrow to unite in an appeal, upon Assessor Sigler's valuation of their property. While asking reductions of many millions in the railroad assessment, the representatives of the rail lines have

BISHOPS TO HOLD NEXT CONFERENCE IN TOPEKA

Committee Recommends \$48,425 Appropriated to Carry on Work Among Colored Churches—Funds Generally Increased 10 Per Cent Over Last Year's.

When the general committee of the Methodist Episcopal church convened for the afternoon session yesterday it was found that but three subcommittees were ready to report. Of these one announced that Topeka, Kansas, had been selected as the next meeting place.

The committee on appropriations for the colored work recommended that \$48,425 be appropriated this year for work among the negroes. This recommendation was accepted, the only change in the appropriations made by the subcommittee being that the amount given the west Texas conference was increased, and the amount given northern Louisiana was decreased to make up the deficiency thus caused. The appropriations of this fund as finally agreed upon are:

Atlanta	\$1,100	\$70 less than last year.	
California	\$400	central Alabama	\$2,000
Colorado	\$250	central Missouri	\$2,150
Delaware	\$2,000	Colorado	\$250
Florida	\$2,000	Delaware	\$2,000
Georgia	\$2,000	Florida	\$2,000
Illinois	\$2,000	Georgia	\$2,000
Indiana	\$2,000	Illinois	\$2,000
Iowa	\$2,000	Indiana	\$2,000
Kansas	\$2,000	Iowa	\$2,000
Kentucky	\$2,000	Kansas	\$2,000
Louisiana	\$2,000	Kentucky	\$2,000
Michigan	\$2,000	Louisiana	\$2,000
Minnesota	\$2,000	Michigan	\$2,000
Mississippi	\$2,000	Minnesota	\$2,000
Missouri	\$2,000	Mississippi	\$2,000
Montana	\$2,000	Missouri	\$2,000
Nebraska	\$2,000	Montana	\$2,000
Nevada	\$2,000	Nebraska	\$2,000
New York	\$2,000	Nevada	\$2,000
North Carolina	\$2,000	New York	\$2,000
North Dakota	\$2,000	North Carolina	\$2,000
Ohio	\$2,000	North Dakota	\$2,000
Oklahoma	\$2,000	Ohio	\$2,000
Oregon	\$2,000	Oklahoma	\$2,000
Pennsylvania	\$2,000	Oregon	\$2,000
Rhode Island	\$2,000	Pennsylvania	\$2,000
South Carolina	\$2,000	Rhode Island	\$2,000
South Dakota	\$2,000	South Carolina	\$2,000
Texas	\$2,000	South Dakota	\$2,000
Vermont	\$2,000	Texas	\$2,000
Virginia	\$2,000	Vermont	\$2,000
Washington	\$2,000	Virginia	\$2,000
West Virginia	\$2,000	Washington	\$2,000
Wisconsin	\$2,000	West Virginia	\$2,000
Wyoming	\$2,000	Wisconsin	\$2,000
Total	\$48,425	Wyoming	\$2,000

practically every Methodist Episcopal church in Portland and many of those in the neighboring towns. The assignments are as follows: Albany—H. C. Jennings; Astoria—Benjamin F. Hayward; Corvallis—No assignment; Eugene—H. G. Jackson; Forest Grove—George Elliott; Hillsboro—S. Earl Taylor; Gresham—T. C. Hill; Keno—No assignment; La Grande—Bishop W. F. McDowell; McMinnville—W. S. Matthews; Newberg—Levi Gilbert; Rainier—No assignment; Silverton—D. D. Martin; Portland—Centenary, East Pine and Ninth streets—Bishop Earl Crasston; In the evening Dr. George Elliott of Chicago will lecture on "America for Christ."

DISTANCE TOO GREAT

Long Distance Phone From Portland to New York Impracticable, Says Inventor of Switchboard—The Line Would Cost \$3,000,000.

It will probably be a good many years before such a thing as talking from Portland to New York by telephone is made possible. This is because of the fact that in putting a wire in commission for this purpose across the continent would require 80 pounds of copper to the mile, and would cost something like \$2,000,000. The dividend on the investment would not pay. Consequently only some unheard of invention will bring about this accomplishment. Omaha to Boston, 1,500 miles, is now the limit of long distance telephoning. This is the opinion of Thomas H. Doolittle of the American Telephone & Tele-



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Some of the Members of the General Committee of Home Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

ASK HEAVY REDUCTION

The greatest reduction asked is by the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company, which not only demands a reduction from \$40,000 to \$20,000 per mile on its mileage, but claims that the figures on its bills, notes and accounts are about \$18,000,000 too high. One of the chief reasons of attack will be the contention that the computation of valuation from the net earnings of the roads is unjust and illegal.

FINA TO FORTIFY ACTS

Yesterday the equalizers listened to complaints from the representatives of the Oregon and Columbia insurance companies, each of which is assessed in full on its capital stock of \$100,000. It is claimed that a portion of this stock is non-assessable, being owned by persons outside the state, and that on the remainder the companies derive only a small income. Besides the insurance companies several minor complaints of individual assessments were heard.

STREETCAR HITS DELIVERY WAGON

An "S" car struck a wagon, belonging to the Knight Packing company, at North Sixteenth and York streets yesterday afternoon. Hans Larsen was driving, and aside from being badly shaken up was not severely injured. The wagon was smashed, but the horses escaped injury.

SCHOOL TEACHERS

Also Have Things to Learn. "For many years I have used coffee and refused to be convinced of its bad effect upon the human system," writes a veteran school teacher. "Ten years ago I was obliged to give up my much-loved work in the public schools after years of continuous labor. I had developed a well-defined case of chronic coffee poisoning."

APPROPRIATIONS INCREASED

Every bishop present showed a most remarkable knowledge of the entire country, and of each conference district. It was a testimonial to the organization of the Methodist church, and the extensive knowledge of the whole affairs of the church gained by the Methodist system of transferring bishops and pastors.

OUT OF TOWN ASSIGNMENTS

Japanese mission, Fifteenth and Flanders streets—H. J. Coker. Laurelwood, Clark and S. Walnut streets—H. B. Johnson. Lents—Ward Platt, Robert Jones. Mount Tabor, corner Church and East Stark streets—Bishop H. Spellmeyer, E. M. Jones. Montavilla, Hibbard street—Bishop J. M. Walden, J. H. Coleman. N. Danish First church—C. S. Hansen. Patton, Carpenter and Michigan avenues—S. W. Gellett. Sellwood, corner Fifteenth and Tacoma avenues—Bishop D. H. Moore. St. Johns, corner Heyes and West Levitt streets—J. F. Crouch, Bishop J. F. Berry. Sunnyside, East Thirty-fifth and Yamhill streets—Bishop J. F. Berry, I. L. Thomas. Swedish First church, Borthwick and Beech streets—W. H. Shaffer. Trinity, corner East Tenth and Grant streets—J. C. Nicholson, M. W. Clair. University Park, corner Flske and Dawson streets—H. J. Coker. Woodlawn—C. D. Bovard. Woodstock—J. R. Wright. Salem—E. P. Stevens. Sheridan—J. W. Isham. The Dalles—J. H. Fitzwater. Woodburn—J. W. Sayer. Vancouver, Washington—Bishop L. B. Wilson, J. C. Bickerton.

FILL ALL PULPITS

Today the visiting Methodist bishops and ministers will fill the pulpits of

MUNICIPAL TICKET AT PENDLETON

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Pendleton, Or., Nov. 16.—The following municipal ticket has been named for the coming election to be held Monday, December 2: Mayor, E. J. Murphy; councilmen, First ward, A. L. Knight, C. W. Brownfield; Second ward, T. G. Montgomery, F. W. Vincent; Third ward, Clarence Penland, V. Stroble; Fourth ward, C. P. Strain, A. J. Gibson; treasurer, Harry C. Thompson, J. J. Tweedy; water commissioners, Will Moore, J. T. Brown, T. C. Taylor. James A. Poe, present mayor, refused to enter his name. Today was the last day for filing petitions.

FIRST DEGREE CHARGE AGAINST BRIDGHAM

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Chehalis, Wash., Nov. 16.—F. O. Bridgham of Napavine, who killed his wife at that place on October 27, is charged with first degree murder in an information filed today direct in the superior court by U. E. Harmon, prosecuting attorney.

BETTER CONDITIONS AT AUMSVILLE

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Aumsville, Ore., Nov. 16.—The Miller Lumber company, which was compelled to close down last week on account of the financial conditions, will resume operations at once. The Eastham & Speer company, which never closed its mills, reports the outlook much better.

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INSIGHTS AND OUTLOOKS

"I see they are going to make paper out of peat," said the dull guy. "Fete who?" interrogated the smart guy.

A certain brand of flour is being boycotted by the Portland women—it comes in paper sacks and robs them of tea towels.

The bachelor never knows what he misses—the married man does.

"Hands up," said the robber. "You mean you simply haven't your uniform on," ejaculated the highwayman, and he was soon on his way, free and happy.

The law had been upheld.

Lafe Pence has a horse named Keno. Keno, by-the-way, is an old-timer and years ago was the best-known combination horse in Portland. Keno is now

MEETINGS

The first patent record of a practical telephone switchboard is entered in the name of Mr. Doolittle, then of Bridgeport, Connecticut. This was in 1878. As time passed and practice suggested, many modifications of the switchboard were made, but the fundamental principles of directing the attention of operators to a given point by a plain signal was covered, among other of his patents being an ingenious device of a magnetic ball which rolled in and out of view of the operator.

"How absurd it is that I did not at once jump at the conclusion of the electric lamp as it is applied today," he said yesterday at the Hotel Portland in speaking of his invention. "However, all successful development is by the evolution of a correct principle, not by any one mind, but by many."

The greatest achievement of Mr. Doolittle however, was the discovery of a process for hardening copper, giving it a tensile strength, adequate to maintaining its own weight between the long spans of stretches of poles.

The available metal for local exchanges, when the telephone was in its infancy, and for the longer distances between cities, was iron and steel which was affected by the elements, and the acids of chimney smoke and would gradually attenuate in size until it would break of its own weight. The average life of iron wire in cities did not exceed four years.

Iron and steel served the purpose for a time but the higher development of the business and the demand for long distance communication necessitated a metal immune from these influences.

Copper was the metal which would meet all conditions, provided it could be drawn to a degree of hardness and this was the problem that Mr. Doolittle suc-

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