

ESPER SLIGHTS LITTLE POINTS

R. R. Commission Will Investigate Complaints of Farmers Against Road.

(Salem Bureau of The Journal.)
Salem, Or. June 27.—Upon the railroad commission's own motion a hearing will be held at Albany Tuesday, July 14, to investigate the failure of the Southern Pacific to maintain a service between Crabtree and Tallman on the Woodburn & Springfield branch of the Oregonian division. Freshets have a number of times washed out the railroad bridge across the South Santiam river and for the time being the Southern Pacific has determined not to replace it. Therefore the service between Crabtree and Tallman has been suspended.

The distance not covered by any service on the Woodburn & Springfield branch is seven miles. Farmers and business men between these points have complained greatly of the inconvenience and say there is a great amount of produce waiting to be shipped to Portland and other Western points. Manager J. P. O'Brien will not promise when the bridge will be rebuilt and asserts that very few people are inconvenienced by the failure to run trains over this small distance.

A hearing will be held at Salem July 13 to investigate the claim of P. A. Kennard of Redmond, who has filed a complaint for damage to household goods and has been unable to get any kind of satisfaction out of the railroad company. The goods were shipped to Shaniko from St. Paul, Minn. Monday, July 29, at the chamber of commerce in Portland the railroad commission will hold two hearings. One will be in regard to a refund to be made for transporting sand to Celilo by the Oregon Railway & Navigation company. The other will be held to take some preliminary data for determining the valuation of the branch lines of the Oregon Railway & Navigation company, including the Columbia and Eastern Oregon Central, the Corvallis & Eastern, the Columbia Southern, and the Umatilla Central railroads.

RELIEVE BEDROCK IN SIGHT AT LAST

Lumber Dealers Think Market Has Reached Lowest Ebb.

It is believed that bedrock has been reached in the lumber market. Prices are considerably lower than a year ago, and the decision of the interstate commerce commission reestablishing in the main the old freight rates into the territories east of the Rockies is expected to have a strengthening effect on the tone of the market.

That a large number of people here are taking advantage of a low lumber price is evident from the amount of building going on. A movement is now in progress throughout the country to encourage more activity in the building line, and this it is expected will have a tendency to place the lumber market on a more solid basis. Some are of the opinion that there will be no appreciable improvement from a lumber manufacturer's point of view until after election.

While siding and other low grades are selling at very low prices, uppers are bringing a better price than three months ago. There has been a strong demand for flooring, and some mills have recently added \$1 to the price. Shingles are still very low, although the shutting down of the Washington mills is expected to steady the market to some extent. A couple of mills down the river have also closed down for awhile to get a chance to clean up.

Logs show no change, but it has been predicted that they will probably have to drop another 50 cents per thousand before the bottom has been reached. There are sawmill men who say that the greatest difficulty encountered these days is to get logs at prices that will net a profit. Logs are being sold all the way from \$5.50 to \$9 per thousand feet.

Wall rail business is light, foreign shipments continue very good. There are enough craft in the river today loading for the orient, Australia and Europe to carry away about 15,000,000 feet a number of vessels are due to arrive here soon to load. California is buying an average amount.



Hawkins Business Block, Second and Main Streets.

TRANSFERS HOLD \$40,000 AVERAGE

Daily Realty Transactions During Month Exceed Expectations.

Averaging more than \$45,000 a day for the first five days of this week, and a daily average of about \$40,000 for the entire month, the record of building permits in Portland is exceeding the expectations of the most sanguine believer in the city's growth, making it altogether probable that it will outstrip any other Pacific coast city in new construction during the summer months. The volume of building construction continues to be unusually heavy and in addition half a dozen or more brick business houses have been started since the first of the month which will bring the total of new construction inaugurated during June well above \$1,200,000, making it the record month so far of this year.

An important feature of the June building record is that many builders are beginning to pay attention to the demand from tenants for small, compactly built, five or six-room houses, which can be rented for \$20 to \$25 a month. Many more such dwellings are now going up than at any former period. Work has begun on two attractive frame flats on Hoyt street between Twenty-first and Twenty-second streets which will cost \$4,500 each and will be completed by September 1.

S. W. Wilson has begun the erection of two frame cottages on East Fifteenth between Pine and Ash streets to cost \$2,500 each.

A permit was taken out Wednesday for a two-story, four series frame flats to be erected by Contractors Green & Green for Edna Hatfield. The building completed will cost about \$10,000.

Architects MacNaughton, Raymond and Laurence have let contracts for the erection of a modern home by Melinda Avenue for H. T. Nicolai, also for a similar structure for H. M. Holler to be erected at East Twenty-first and Schuyler streets.

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BUILDING ACTIVE IN ALL SECTIONS

Permits Taken Out for Government Experiments Many Residences and Business Blocks.

In the St. Louis laboratories of the United States Geological Survey the government has been making very thorough tests of the fireproof qualities of all the leading brands of cement. These experiments have been carried on under the direction of Engineer Richard L. Humphrey, an expert in structural materials. The policy of the government in making, where possible, all of its buildings fireproof gave rise to the elaborate fireproof tests that are being conducted by government employees. In the recent tests made at St. Louis concrete of American manufacture was largely used.

In a discussion of the fireproof qualities of concrete, Mr. Humphrey is following to say: "Concerning the merits of concrete as a fireproofing material, there have been many fallacious opinions advanced in current literature, and it is apparent that the conclusions of many of the writers are not based upon experience, but rather upon hearsay information. The requisities of a first class fireproof material are to be a protective coating to other structural materials. Second, that it shall be a poor conductor of heat in order to afford the highest degree of insulation. Concrete fulfills these conditions admirably; better than any other material at present available for fireproofing purposes. While it is true that the water of crystallization of cement is driven off under a prolonged and high temperature, yet the rate of this action is extremely slow, and it takes a fire of very considerable intensity and duration to injure the concrete to a depth of more than a quarter of an inch. The surface of concrete thus damaged can be readily repaired by plastering with cement. The structure will then be in the same condition as before the fire. Where concrete is used as a structural material it is necessary to apply additional thickness to serve as a fireproof coating to protect the structural concrete from damage. The strength of the structural concrete thus protected is not damaged by the most severe conflagration, while the fireproof coating which may be damaged to some extent, can be readily renewed at a minimum cost. The low rate of conductivity is particularly desirable in material for fireproofing steel, since an adequate coating will prevent the structural steel from becoming heated beyond the danger point, even in the most severe conflagration. Many other forms of fireproofing fall far short of concrete in the matter of low temperature, and worst of all, leave the structural members at the mercy of the flames, as the abundant evidence of the Baltimore and San Francisco fires will show."

CEMENT STANDS HIGH FIRE TEST

Show Concrete to Be Best Fire-Proof Material.

Architects Claysen & Clausen are getting up the plans and specifications for a three-story brick apartment house for a Chicago investor to occupy a 60x70-foot lot at the southeast corner of East Fifteenth and East Madison streets. The building is to contain eight six-room apartments and will represent an investment of about \$20,000. When completed this structure will be the handsomest thing of its kind on the east coast and is believed to be the beginning of the erection of a number of the better class of apartments and flats on the other side of the river.

STATE TAX PLAN MEETS APPROVAL

Oregon Teachers Unanimously in Favor of It—Children Affected.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
University of Oregon, Eugene, June 27.—The Western Federation of Teachers has endorsed the endeavor to change the manner of taxation in the state of Oregon from the local tax which now is provided in some districts to some form of a general state tax. Recommendations along three lines of the finance committee were adopted yesterday.

That independent districts should not be utilized any more for the unit of taxation, thickness is much better; that every child in the state should have at least six months' schooling; that a committee should be appointed to put the findings before the people through the press.

The argument against the district method is the unequal taxation. For example, in Lane county one district has assessable property amounting to \$200,000, while another has assessable property amounting to \$300,000. The speaker showed that scarcely half of the rural schools of the state of Oregon use local taxes to run their districts, and that as a result 20 per cent of the total districts in the state have four months school, affecting between 6,000 and 10,000 Oregon children.

Superintendent Robinson, of Portland, in his annual address as president of the association, the position he has filled for the past year, approved of the plan of the University of Oregon to establish correspondence departments for adults. This plan is of especial benefit to the teachers.

At night the teachers were given a luncheon on the college campus by the Commercial club. During the meal Eugene Boyd gave a lecture on the evening. President Campbell delivered an illustrated lecture on "The Scenic Resources of Oregon."

The association has 90 teachers as members. In western Oregon there are altogether 2,200 teachers. Of those that are members about two-thirds are in attendance.

WELCOME ARCH; ALSO WELCOME THE MONEY

Pillars Are Up at Last, Very Welcome, but Who's Going to Foot Bill?

According to City Attorney Kavanaugh the welcome arch at the union depot need not be paid for by the city. At yesterday's meeting of the executive board a communication was read from Mr. Kavanaugh, saying that the city did not have to pay for the arch, and another from the Rose Festival association asking that it do pay for it. Both were referred to the board.

Complaint has already begun to come in to the mayor against the leaving of the arch in the position it now occupies. It is claimed that it interferes with traffic, that in its incomplete state it is not a thing of beauty, and the city has been asked to have it removed. The arch was to have been completed June 1 in time for the Rose Festival, but it wasn't.

The mayor's report yesterday, saying that he would not be responsible for the conduct of the reinstated detectives, and seems to be no danger of an over-patrolmen, though with detectives' salary.

A resolution was passed by the board directing the auditor in the future to accept no bids for street improvements or other public work that were not in the hands of the deputy at the time specified. Yesterday afternoon nearly a dozen bids that came a few minutes past 4 p. m. were opened.

A communication was read from the mayor calling attention to the matter of the arch in the position it now occupies, and requesting that the Home Telephone company be made to comply with that clause in its franchise giving it to furnish the city with cable for the conduits.

The humane society sent a letter to the board asking that Officer Crate in the work of the humane society.

COSTLY APARTMENT ON JEFFERSON STREET

Rosenthal & Friendly, the shoe merchant at Seventh and Washington streets, are having plans prepared for a handsome brick apartment house to go up on the southeast corner of Seventh and Jefferson streets. The building is to be five or six stories high, with the interior elegantly finished and will cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000. Work will begin on the structure at an early date and it will be completed by the end of the year.

WELL-KNOWN ALBANY MAN PASSES AWAY

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Albany, Or., June 27.—The funeral of Samuel L. Swisher was held in this city yesterday afternoon. The interment took place in the Masonic cemetery. The deceased having been a member of that order. Mr. Swisher was born December 15, 1833, in Franklin county, and was educated in Brown university, Providence, R. I. While there he was a classmate of John Hay and Samuel Johnson, who served the nation in the capacity of secretary of state under different political administrations. Richard Olney, John Hay and Samuel Johnson graduated from Brown within three years of each other in the years 1856, 1857 and 1858.

After graduating he taught school in Illinois for many years. In 1878 he became headmaster of the United States cavalry depot at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., where he remained until 1892. Then he came to Oregon, where he remained for seven years. Afterward coming to Oregon. At the time of the establishment of the rural free delivery routes out of this city he applied for a position. After passing the required examination he was assigned to route No. 2, which he held up to the time of his death.

He was a member of the G. A. R. post at this city and a member of the Masonic lodge at St. Louis, Mo. He was a member of the Baptist church of this city. He leaves a wife, a sister and two brothers: Medley, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Adam J. Swisher of Columbia, Ohio; and Louis Swisher of St. Louis, Mo.

THE TRUTH ABOUT KIDNEY TROUBLE

(PHYSICAL WEAKNESS)
When there is a pale, pasty complexion that persists in spite of diet and careful living, or where there is physical weakness that likewise resists the usual treatment, the kidneys are to be suspected.

Food often causes people with kidney disease very little good. In the system the albumen, starches and sugars that our food releases the inflamed kidneys deflect them, and tests disclose them in the eliminations unused. The patient grows weaker and as the kidneys are not sensitive there is usually no pain, and there appears to be no cause for the continued weakness. In such cases a test for albumen may disclose a strong percentage of the strength of the food in the eliminations unused, but it is a physician often has no line on his difficulty, and those kinds of such cases grow unwittingly into the supposed chronic, incurable state.

In these cases Fulton's Renal Compound acts definitely, but quite slowly, for the inflammation is usually of considerable standing and permanence. As in the other cases of inflammation of the kidneys medical works have nothing but diet and symptomatic treatment, both of which have proven futile in these chronic cases. As Fulton's Compound reduces the inflammation the albumen will be found to be gradually decreasing and recovery slow but definite in about 47 per cent of all cases.

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CALIFORNIA NAVAL MILITIA ON CRUISE

(United Press Special Wire.)
San Francisco, June 27.—The state naval militia, under command of Captain George W. Bauer, will steam out of the bay at midnight tonight on the United States ship Alert for a cruise from Sausalito to San Diego. There will be 300 men and 40 officers in the party. The Alert will stop at Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara and San Pedro, where other divisions of the state militia will be taken on board. The other men will be instructed during the cruise in navigation, gun drill, target practice and naval routine. The Alert will return here on July 1.

Seven tons of strawberries were received at the Salem cannery in one day this week.

PERMITS IN ONE DAY TO BUILD EIGHT COTTAGES

An indication of the active building development in progress in the southeastern part of the city is found in the record of building permits for Thursday of this week when E. Lyons was authorized to build eight two-story frame cottages in Kenilworth at a cost of \$2,000 each. The houses are to be erected on Kenilworth, Clinton and East Twenty-eighth and together with the sites will represent an investment of close to \$25,000. Houses of this class and size are the best renters in Portland, readily bringing a rental making the investment net 8 per cent, which is better than can be done with more expensive residences in higher priced districts.

NEGOTIATING SALE A. O. U. W. BUILDING

There is a well defined rumor among realty brokers that a deal is pending for the sale of the A. O. U. W. building, the five-story brick structure at the southeast corner of Second and Taylor streets. The negotiation is being conducted by an operator who is successful in landing several large sales in the past few weeks. While the sum involved in the negotiation for the purchase of the property is about \$100,000, it is understood that the parties to the deal are very close together and that the sale will very probably be concluded this week.

TO DRAFT A NEW RECIPROCITY TREATY

(United Press Special Wire.)
New York, June 27.—An American commission appointed to confer with a similar body chosen by the French government for the purpose of drafting a new reciprocity treaty between the two countries sailed today on board the Vanderland.

At the request of James B. Reynolds, assistant secretary of the treasury, who is the chairman of the commission, many prominent concerns having commercial intercourse with France have made suggestions to the commission concerning trade regulations between the countries. The commission hopes to secure some important concessions from the French government.

BUSINESS BLOCK AT FIFTH AND STARK

Old Buildings to Be Torn Out, New Brick to Be Erected.

Gay Lombard and Joseph H. Healy, owners of the Board of Trade building and also of the Brady quarter block at the northwest corner of Stark and Fifth streets, are about to begin tearing out the old frame structures at Fifth and Stark streets preparatory to putting up a three or four-story brick building covering the entire 100 feet square lot. The old buildings are being demolished and the machinery and appliances have been assembled in front of the property and it is announced that as soon as the details of construction can be arranged work on the proposed improvement will begin. Architect David C. Lewis is preparing the plans for the building. The foundation and walls are to be sufficiently heavy to support several additional stories which will be added when the demand justifies it.

Building Permits.

Thomas Hines, erect dwelling, Belmont between East Fifteenth and East Sixteenth, \$2,000; E. Ludlow, erect dwelling, Corbett between Custer and Logans, \$2,000; Leo C. Lewis, erect dwelling, Talbot and Ravenna, \$3,000; T. B. Dodson, erect dwelling, Marguerite between East Market and East Clay, \$2,000.



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BRICK APARTMENT ON EAST MADISON

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