

IS FOR LIGHT NOT CURRENT

City Attorney Construes Municipality's Contract With the Electric Company.

That illumination and not current was called for in the city's contract with the Portland Railway, Light & Power company is the text of an opinion by the city attorney to be submitted by him this morning to the lighting committee of the council.

Nearly a year ago the light company obtained permission from the city to change the type of lamps in use on the streets. By so doing the corporation was able to furnish the same amount of light and reduce the cost to itself by cutting down the voltage by one third.

The executive board held that the city contracted for a certain amount of electricity and that when this was not supplied it should not pay the full contract price, so the bills sent in for the past eight months have been trimmed by 25 to 30 per cent.

That part of the city attorney's opinion relating to the question of whether the city must pay the full amount of the bills or not is given herewith:

Text of the Opinion.
"This controversy does not relate in my opinion, to the failure to supply light of certain intensity and diffusion. If the contract required the company to furnish lights of a certain degree of brilliancy and illuminating standards fixed by the contract, in other words, if less light was furnished than was contracted to be supplied, the question would be entirely different. But the complaint here is that the company did not consume the required amount of current, and the question of actual illumination is apparently waived. In the original contract the company agreed to install and operate arc lamps, of so-called 2000 candlepower, consuming 50 volts and 10 amperes of electrical energy. A lamp of such capacity was then in use and was continued under the contract without objection as to the character of light furnished, so far as the record discloses. Objections were urged on account of outages, but no objection appears to have been made to the character of light, while the change was lighter. Then the change was made, with the city's consent, to a new arc of different and improved type, operated under a new system.

Better Light Furnished.
"Less electricity is actually consumed by the arc, but it appears that a better light is furnished. I am not an expert and do not attempt to determine the actual saving to the company in current, but I am advised that this saving is small on account of the waste of energy in the transforming and rectifying processes essential to the new system. There is probably considerable reduction in the cost of maintaining the system, but the city cannot take advantage of improvements in that respect.

"I am persuaded from a careful consideration of the question and a review of the authorities, that the courts will not construe the specifications to require the company to consume 50 volts and 10 amperes of current in each new arc, but that they will construe this provision of the specifications as relating to the arc then in use. It ap-

GOMEZ YIELDS TO PRESSURE

Holds Himself Out as Loyal to Castro, but Dismisses Castro's Men.

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Port au Spain, Dec. 22.—Fearing a revolution against the present administration, Vice President Vincent Gomez has displaced the cabinet officers of President Cipriano Castro, according to advices received here from Caracas. Governmental changes have been expected for some time and for many days Gomez has resisted the demands of the enemies of Castro. In self-protection, however, he was compelled to yield.

The most important change is the succession of the ministers who are at the post held by General Diego Fernandez as minister of war. General Ojeda served with distinction in crushing the revolution of six years ago. Changes have taken place in the departments of education and state and several of the ministers who are at present in Europe with Castro have been deposed.

It is essential that the city insist upon a faithful compliance with all its contracts. I have enforced this principle with uniform insistence and will continue in that course. It is equally important that the city treat its contractors fairly, as suggested by the lighting committee of the executive board. It is also important that the officials be advised of the probable result of contemplated litigation. This opinion is based upon the assumption that the installation of the new arc improved public lighting service. The question submitted to me assumes that condition, and if that be the fact, I am unable to discover a legal defense to the bills rendered.

Important.
We are selling our drummers' samples of toilet, manicure, shaving and traveling cases, handbags, purses, writing cases, hams and triplicate mirrors, fancy boxes of writing paper, calendars, etc. at greatly reduced prices.

SANBORN, VAIL & CO.,
170 First St., Portland, Or.



Lipman-Wolfe's

1000 More Framed Pictures, values to \$5.00 for \$1.95—Victor Talking Machines at lowest prices in Portland and on easy terms

Shop early in the day and shop today--thus you will avoid the worst of the just-before-Christmas rush. Hundreds of extra employes and widest aisles make Lipman-Wolfe's the most satisfactory Xmas store.

We call especial attention to our superb departments devoted to **Infants' Wear, Kimonos, Knitted Shawls. Also the best Jewelry, Leather and Toilet Sections in Portland. Shoppers will find many very unique and pleasing suggestions in these sections**

Xmas sales in all departments. Thousands of price placards call attention to bargains which would fill a great many pages of advertising in this paper

Store Open Tonight Until 10 o'Clock

BUY YOUR GIFTS AT LIPMAN-WOLFE'S.

A gift in a box or wrapping paper bearing this name is doubly acceptable. It is the hall-mark of quality on dry goods and kindred lines, as notable in its way as the word "sterling" on silver. Quality is doubly valuable when buying gifts, and the place to find quality is at "Portland's most reputable store." Gifts of simple elegance and sure appeal. Hundreds of extra clerks and widest aisles in town to make Christmas shopping a pleasure at Lipman-Wolfe's.

FLY WHEEL IS AGAIN WRECKED

Second Costly Accident Occurs at Oregon Lumber Company's Plant.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Hood River, Or., Dec. 22.—After getting the power plant of the big lumber mill of the Oregon Lumber company at Dec in shape to run again after the last accident, the flywheel flew to pieces when the plant was started up yesterday morning. The first accident was of a similar nature, and took place but a few weeks ago, compelling the company to close down and, besides entailing the cancelling of several rush orders, an expenditure of \$3000 was necessary to install a new wheel.

scattered in all directions, some fragments being thrown several hundred feet across the Hood River. No one was injured. The loss to the company will be considerable. In addition to the damage to the machinery, it will, of course, be necessary to close down. About 10 days ago the powerhouse took fire and was only saved after a hard fight. An old mill man attributes the company's bad luck to the fact that the plant was started up on Friday. The mill was built by Neise Moen, a Norwegian millwright and it is said that he pleaded with the management not to start the mill on Friday. He maintained that if the mill had been started on some other day its misfortunes would have been avoided.

UNION PACIFIC BUYS LAND AT CENTRALIA

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Centralia, Wash., Dec. 22.—A tract of 300 acres owned by August Sewall, one half mile north of the Centralia city limits, was today purchased by the Union Pacific company. The purchase price was \$20,000. The land is near the junction of the proposed Gray's Harbor & Puget Sound (Union Pacific) railroad, the Oregon & Washington railroad, the Union Pacific line from Portland to Tacoma.

LOSER THREATENS LIFE OF BROKER

Anonymous Writer Demands That Price of Coalition Be Put Back.

(United Press Leased Wire.)
San Francisco, Dec. 22.—Nathaniel Boas, a stock broker of this city, today received an anonymous letter threatening his life unless the price of stock of the Rawhide coalition was raised to its former level. The stock was smashed last week by a coterie of New York shorts assisted by local men. The misdeed, which was written in a hand laboriously disguised, follows: "Nat Boas, City—You are the man who forced down Coalition now, if you bring this stock back to its former price of \$150, this coming week, you do well. If not, your last days of life are counted. If you believe you can cut other people's throats by swindle, then you deserve a bloody death all right. (Signed) 'REVENGE'." Boas does not regard the misdeed as a

BUSINESS MEN WANT RACING ABOLISHED

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Butte, Mont., Dec. 22.—The Butte Business Men's association, at a meeting last evening, adopted a resolution favoring the abolishment of all race track betting, poolrooms and voicing the association's opposition to long race meetings. It was resolved that the Silver Bow county members of the state legislature be requested to use all honorable means to enact such laws as may be necessary to abolish these evils. The association also fathered a movement to have the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad incorporate "Butte" in its corporate name.

NECK BROKEN; LIVED 7 DAYS

T. C. Murphy of Ashland, S. P. Brakeman, Dies at Sacramento.

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Sacramento, Cal., Dec. 22.—T. C. Murphy, a Southern Pacific brakeman, died in the railroad hospital here today, after living seven days with a broken neck. He fell from a boxcar at Ashland, Or., on December 14, and was brought to Sacramento December 15 and lived until an early hour today. Murphy's body will be sent to his home at Ashland tomorrow.

Insane Barkeeper Takes Morphine.
(United Press Leased Wire.)
Redding, Cal., Dec. 22.—Carl Wendt, a barkeeper, attempted suicide yesterday by taking morphine. He is insane, and there is no hope of saving his life.

Make table reservations for Christmas dinner at the Lenox, Third and Main.

POWERS

The Store That Saves You Money

SMOKERS' TABLES

Regular \$9.00 Weathered Oak Smokers' Cabinet **\$5.95**
 Regular \$14.50 Weathered Oak Smokers' Cabinet **\$9.95**
 Regular \$12.50 Weathered Oak Smokers' Cabinet **\$9.65**
 Regular \$6.50 Weathered Oak Smokers' Cabinet **\$4.75**

A Handsome Piece of Furniture—Is the Ideal Gift

Christmas Specials

POWERS

Dignified Credit for All Open Evenings

SHAVING CABINETS

Regular \$16.00 Nickel-Plated Adjustable Shaving Stand, special at **\$12.00**
 Regular \$12.00 Mahogany Shaving Cabinet, special **\$10.00**
 Regular \$33.50 Mission Shaving Cabinet, with triple French plate mirrors, special, **\$25.00**

Doll's Furniture Set 28c
50c Value

5-piece Dolls' Furniture Set, in natural finish, cut is exact reproduction; this set is well constructed and finished; a nice gift for the children.

No. 283—Golden oak Center Table, genuine quartered stock used in construction, just like cut; **\$6.45**

No. 1620—Genuine quarter-sawn oak Buffet in weathered finish, two fancy glass doors and three drawers; a \$35 value, special **\$27.50**

No. 550—Music Cabinet in golden quarter-sawn oak or mahogany finish; worth \$9.50, special only **\$6.95**

No. 856—Quarter-sawn oak ladies' Desk in golden finish, full serpentine door front, roomy writing bed; a \$13 value, special **\$8.95**

865W—Quarter-sawn oak Rocker in golden or weathered oak finish, like cut; an \$8 value, special **\$5.20**

No. 8121—Quarter-sawn oak Cellarettes in golden wax finish; glassware complete; is worth \$30, special at **\$25.00**

Golden oak High Chair with shelf, well constructed; special **\$1.65**

Children's Blackboards, like cut; a regular \$1.25 value, special while they last at **65c**

Regular \$5.50 Reed Rocker, rattan seat, roll arms, shellac finish; special **\$2.90**

Ladies' mahogany Dressing Table, full serpentine front, 15x30 French bevel plate mirror; regular value \$27.50, Christmas special **\$16.30**

No. 1003—French bevel plate Hall Mirror, 12x20, quarter-sawn oak frame, polished or waxed; a \$9 value, special at **\$5.40**

We Have Extra Wagons Employed So There Will Be No Delay in CHRISTMAS Deliveries

Dishes for Christmas

A nice Set of Dishes would please. In price from **\$3.75** up.

Regular \$12.50 Couch in figured or plain velour, guaranteed oil tempered springs used in construction; special only **\$9.95**