

# PORTLAND WOULD BE JOKE OF WEST

### Hotel Men See Evil in Gothenberg Scheme or McKenna Petition.

Popular education emphasizing the misleading term of the proposed McKenna amendment to the city charter of Portland will be the central thought in the aggressive publicity campaign against the adoption of the measure which has been undertaken by the Oregon State Hotel association.

"Both the Gothenberg association idea and the McKenna amendment are so constructed as to deceive the average voter," declared J. C. Howers, manager of the Hotel Portland, which represents nearly \$2,000,000 of invested capital, yesterday.

"I will say point blank that either measure would be ruinous not only to the hotel business in Portland, but to the entire city," continued Mr. Howers. "We are all engaged in boosting Portland. We believe in the town so thoroughly that we advertise its good points from coast to coast. By virtue of this advertising we bring here every year thousands of people who leave much money in Portland. By the adoption of either the Gothenberg or the McKenna amendment in operation would send us down hill again. Absolute prohibition will be better than either and I would vote for absolute prohibition before I would vote for either.

"For under the present day regime the people who come here expect to be served with refreshments. They do not see why it should not be so. The guests whom we and the other first class hotels of Portland entertain are accustomed to congenial surroundings. Bare rooms to drink in or a barred window from which to receive their drink does not sound good to them. It would make not only our hotel but our city a joke. The very thought of either amendment being adopted is absurd. Thousands of the people will suffer directly as the result of the incorporation of either one or both into the city charter.

"We make no objection to high license. We are not fighting the battle of the saloons. I would not be opposed—rather I would be earnestly in favor of doing away with the low places against which such legislation is aimed. We would make no complaint to pay \$200 license per year, but we do not wish to be, nor do we propose to be, legislated out of business after years have been spent and thousands of dollars used to beautify our hotels. Our bars are not made attractive to the exclusion of other features of the hotels. We aim to do a legitimate, courteous business and to extend to our guests just as nearly as possible the comfort they have in their own homes. This is a business policy; it also is the outgrowth of a desire to make the lives of our guests as bright as possible.

"Pass these amendments and all the work we have done to build up our business and to boom Portland will have been for nothing. The Hotel Portland will suffer greatly; so will every other hotel in Portland. The people of Portland must read carefully these measures in order to see their danger to the city, for on the surface they appear innocent and good."

distance which will permit the lowest bidder to take the contract. Owing to the city charter, it is not possible for one contractor to build a street across one which is already under contract for improvement without the consent of the contractor on the latter street. Elwood Wiles was awarded the contract on Stanton street, but on a number of streets which cross Stanton he was outbid by other contractors. Kavanaugh, however, advised Mayor Lane that he could not let these contracts to anybody else but Wiles, and Wiles was the highest bidder.

Attorney R. R. Durnway appeared before the committee, and began to scold the mayor and the other members for their alleged tardiness in awarding the contracts on the cross streets. He declared that Ellis G. Hughes & Co. his clients, and owners of the property abutting on the streets, have arranged with

Wiles to do the paving, and they want him to have the contract, even though his bid is the highest. Durnway said that the committee had already awarded a contract to the highest bidder, referring to the Holladay improvements let to the Hassam company. It was the evident intention of the lawyer to show that the committee was not sincere in its action. Mayor Lane interrupted him sharply with a request that he confine himself to the truth as much as he possibly could. The mayor then delivered a cutting lecture, in which he expressed the greatest doubt as to the truth of the statements made by Durnway and the "benefactory impulses" of the lawyer and his investment company.

A merchant who fails to advertise usually fails to succeed.

## LIFE JOB OPEN FOR GIRL AT REEDVILLE

Secretary C. M. Ryerson, of the city free employment bureau, gets many queer requests from people who want work, or who want to employ someone to work, but yesterday he was mistaken for a marriage agency promoter. A bashful youth from the country wanted to purchase a marriage license. He was despatched to the county courthouse.

One of the unusual requests received by the employment bureau was that of Charles Norton, of Reedville, Or. Norton wrote the following letter: "I have a life position for a girl who is willing to share a modest home with me."

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## LANE MUST SIGN WILES' CONTRACT

### Street Committee, However, Rejects Bids on Stanton Crossings.

City Attorney Kavanaugh's opinion, which was asked by Mayor Lane in regard to the letting of the Stanton street improvement to Elwood Wiles, was read at the meeting of the street committee of the executive board yesterday, and the committee decided that the mayor must sign the contract. However, the committee rejected all bids for the improvement of streets crossing Stanton and a communication was ordered sent to the council asking that body to institute new proceedings for the improvement of these streets, and to pass an or-

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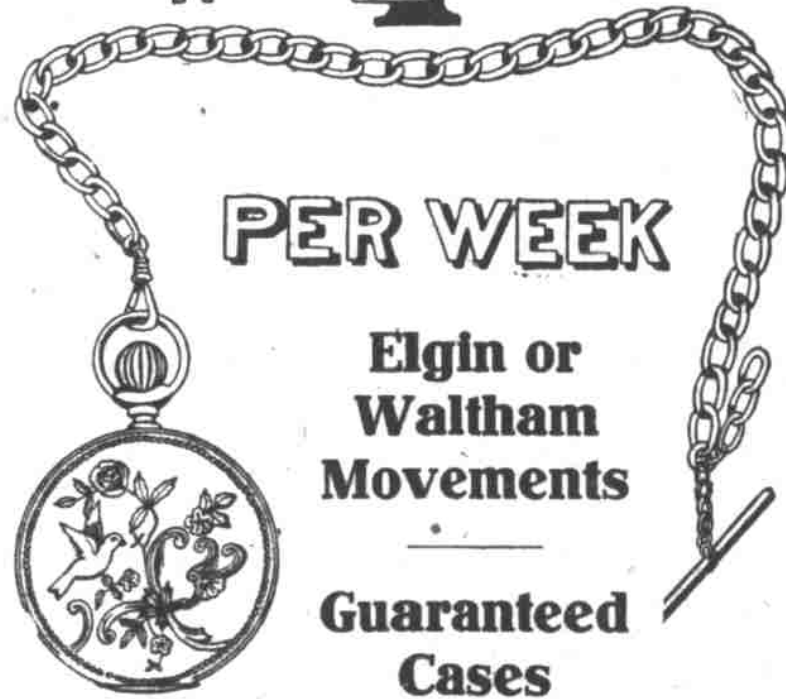
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