MECHANIC

Walter J. Phillips, Fire De-

walter J. Phillips, hydrant man and aspirant for the position of master mechanic in the fire department, will never be appointed as long as Mayer Lane and the present fire committees a meeting yesterday when P. E. Suillvan, Isaac Swett and Mayor Lane and the present fire committees a meeting yesterday when P. E. Suillvan, Isaac Swett and Mayor Lane and the present fire committees a meeting yesterday when P. E. Suillvan, Isaac Swett and Mayor Lane declared that Phillips is unfit for the position, in the light of results elicited by the hydrant investigation last year.

Mayor Lane, Isaac Swett and P. E. Suillvan began talking about appointing somebody else as master mechanic.

"Oh, this is all cut and dried," suddentive exclaimed the irase fire commission. It has tell the cities on the bush for? Be a man or a mouse, Mr. Swett.

What are you holding this over his lead for; was a put him in Swort and dried, suddentive heating to make a put him in? What are you heating around the bush for? Be a man or a mouse, Mr. Swett.

**Well, I will nominate somebody."

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investigation last year.

Mayor Lane was informed that Phillips failed to inspect 89 hydrants furnished to the city by Hoge & Swift, eastern contractors, although the hydrants laid out on the street nearly four months. They were afterward inspected and accepted by another employed in the fire department in three

"Well, can't you decide when you know that a man is making good in the department? What's the matter with Mr. Phillips?" asked John Montag. Agree Spontaneously.

"Mr. Phillips is, as far as I know, a competent mechanic," replied Mr. Swett; "but I don't think he is the right man for the position. It seems to me that his extreme negligence—I do not wish to use a stronger word—in the matter of inspecting hydrants has eliminated him."

of inspecting hydrants has eliminated him."

"I don't think we have any way of finding out from the civil service lists whether a man is eligible for a job or not," said P. E. Sullivan. "Phillips, however, is not a man I would like to see placed in the responsible position of master mechanic. We need a big man for that place."

"I can frankly say, gentlemen, that is just my view. I wouldn't touch him with a 10-foot pole," put in Mayor Lane. The mayor then went on to give his reasons for not approving of Phillips. He recounted how that official's failure to inspect hydrants last summer had placed the administration in a bad light. He told how a certain newspaper had consured the mayor and executive board in editorials and in glaring headlines in editorials and in glaring headlines because the city was without adequate fire protection.

"It looked all the time as though the

fire department were trying to cure out-side companies of bidding on hydrants," continued the mayor, "and Phillips' delay in this instance effectually damp-ened the desire of at least one firm for any more business in Portland. Hoge & Swift lost \$1000 on that hydrant con

Calls Phillips a Big Man.

Calls Phillips a Big Man.

"You've all had your say, and I'll go down with the ship," declared John Montag, "and you'll find that time will bear me out when I say that you can search the whole state of Oregon and not get another master mechanic to fill the shoes of Mr. Phillips. You say you want a big man for the job. Well, that's just what I claim for Mr. Phillips. He is a big man.

"If I had been in his place I would have done just as he did. Those Ludlow hydrants were of poor quality, and the local hydrants used by the fire department are the best in the market today."

"Are they best at \$18 apiece more, John." queried the mayor.

"I'm not talking about price," retorted Mr. Montag, "but I repeat that the hydrants made locally are the best, and it was quite proper for Mr. Phillips to show a preference to home products if any favors were to be shown at all. Those eastern hydrants were no

Those eastern hydrants were no Why didn't Phillips reject them

then? asked the mayor.
"He was the under dog," replied Mr.

NERVOUS PEOPLE

And those afflicted with heart weakness may now have no fear of the dental chair.

READ WHAT MRS. HANLEY SAYS! I had 19 teeth extracted at the Har-ard Dentists without the least pain, and highly recommend them.

MRS. HANLEY, 346 35th St.

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A Great Discovery, the New Whale-bone Flats, which is the lightest and strongest set known; does not cover the roof of the mouth; bite corn off the coh; surranteed 10 years cob; guaranteed 10 years.

\$1000-WE CHALLENGE THE WORLD. We will forfelt \$1000 to any charitable institution for the dentist who can make a plate for \$15 as good as we make for \$10.

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HARVARD DENTISTS

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Because Joseph Holder is an enthusiastic mushroom grower, Market Inspector Sarah A. Evans, thinking he is a bit over-enthusiastic, has had a complaint sworn out and a warrant issued for his arrest on a charge of breaking the city ordinances regulating the public health.

Mr. Holder has built himself a new home at \$95 Base Line road. He has put in a fine solid concrete basement and now that the house is finished, has had this basement filled with fertilizer and has planted it with mushrooms of the choicest quality. He is promising his friends to be able to supply them with the most delicious mushrooms ever turned out in Portland. Now Mrs. Evans,

nished to the city by Hoge & Swift, eastern contractors, although the hydrants laid out on the street nearly four months. They were afterward inspected and accepted by another employe of the fire department in three days.

The charge was made that Phillips had used dilatory tactics against the outside corporation because he had a financial interest in a local hydrant and wished to discourage foreign competition. In support of this charge, a contract was signed by Phillips, and by it was to receive 25 cents for every hydrant of a certain type sold to the city. No action was ever taken by the fire committee with regard to the investigation, which was dropped. When the question of appointing a master mechanic came up yesterday, the eligible list supplied by the cityl service commission was subjected to a scathing criticism by the members of the committee. One man received 100 per cent, said Mayor Lane, for being a good liar. Others were marked for their ability to run and jump and climb. Isaac Swett remarked that these were good tests of a gaility, but he doubted their efficiency as real tests of a man's ability as a master mechanic.

"Well, can't you decide when you were slad to twith the city were stray were barassed to the contract to furnish straw last year were barassed to the three this tray last year were barassed to the three this tray last year were barassed to the three this they were slad to with the courage.

"Mayor Lane then read the charges made by three fire engine companies that the fire department favors A. C. Long, all other bidders by adopting specifications.

Mayor Lane then read the charges made by three fire engine companies that the fire department favors A. C. Long, all other bidders by adopting specifications.

Mayor Lane then read the charges which the scrept we which can fot be exchanged by the corporation for which Long is the representative.

But Long Gets Contracts.

In spite of these denials, the fact remains that Long gets the contracts it is said that there has ever heen any discri In spite of these denials, the fact remains that Long gets the contracts. It is said that other companies are afraid to take contracts with the city, even if they were awarded for fear something might happen to the engines which do not meet with the favor of the department. This fear is strengthened by the fact that Hoge & Swift were deterred from further bidding on fire hydrants after the salutary lesson administered them by Phillips last summer at a cost to the contractors of \$1000. It is not lessened any, either, by the fact that R. Andrews & Sons, who had a contract to furnish straw last year were harassed so that they were glad to withdraw from the field.

Mayor Lane has refused to sign a

from the field.

Mayor Lane has refused to sign a contract awarded to A. G. Long by the executive board pending an investigation of the specifications. The decision committee with regard to Investigation was taken under advise-

CHAMBERS' PLATFORM

partment Hydrant Man, Montag: "there were higherups who were responsible for the delay. Why my life, neither have I desired one. Montage: "What are you holding this over thank my Democratic friends for the confidence thus shown in presenting my his head for?" name to the citizens of Portland as a suitable candidate.

It is customary for a man running for a public office to build for himself some sort of piatform, stating therein what he stands for or what he believes in it has also been a common custom to tell the people that we are for everything everybody wants and at the same time advocating very strict economy. thing everybody wants and at the same time advocating very strict economy. I would say in this connection that in my own experience I have never been able to spend my money and keep it at the same time. If we expect to have a greater and more beautiful Portland it is going to cost money, but I am in favor of making every dollar of the taxes taken from the people pay for honest work and material. I would use as my campaign slogan "All grafters look alike to me whether you label them Democrat or whether you label them Republican."

If the people of Portland think I am the man to elect as one of their coun-

If the people of Portland think I am the man to elect as one of their councilmen, it will be my supreme desire to serve them in an acceptable manner, and should I be elected, to quit the office at the end of my term an honest man. Yours truly,

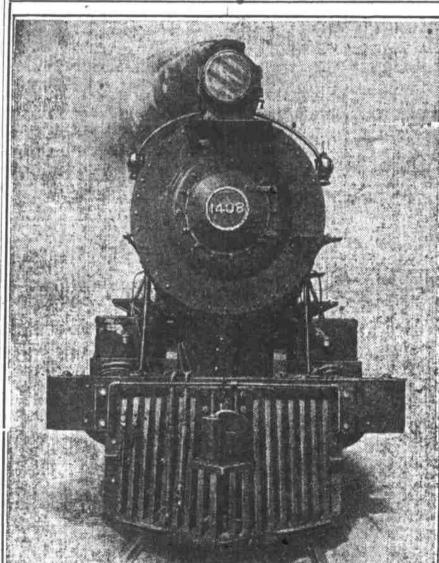
D. CHAMBERS.

EXPECT CROWD AT

simply mammoth youths and other oddi-A moving picture show is attached to the Oaks this year, which will be really worth visiting. It is said to have se-cured a large number of the most notecured a large number of the most note-worthy series of pictures in the world.

Up-to-Date Service.

The special roundtrip excursion rates made by the Canadian Pacific apply either by their short line via Spokane or by the way of Seattle. In addition to a choice of routes, the Canadian Pacific offers the traveling public up-to-date service, excelling that of any transcontinental line.



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Proportionate rates to other points. Good for return passage until October 31; stop overs allowed. Choice of routes going either via

Spokane, Portland and Seattle Ry. THE NORTH BANK ROAD

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New through service to Kansas City. New through service Portland to Vancouver, B. C., 10 a. m. to 10 p. m. For tickets and sleeping car reservations call on or address,

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WILL ENGAGE MAKES MUSHROOM BED OF HIS BASEMENT AND IS ARRESTED OIL AND NATURAL GAS DISCOVERED IN OREGON

Developments Go to Prove That This State May Soon Rank With Any Oil and Gas Producing State in the Union

WELLS SUNK NEAR BURNS A REVELATION TO RESIDENTS OF THAT SECTION

The following is by Addison Bennett, Editor of the Irrigon Irrigator:

Burns, Oregon, May 14, 1909. Having on former occasions visited the oil fields around Ontario and Vale, and having made somewhat of a study of the work of devlopment going on there, I have written several articles about the Oregon oil and gas field. Hence, when I learned a few weeks ago of certain discoveries made in Harney county going to show the presence of oil and gas underlying a large area of the valley, was naturally much interested, and have been looking into the matter since my arrival here.

I suppose it is generally understood that in all districts where petroleum or gas have been found the geological formations have been practically the same, and that the formations in the Boise basin and on westward have for years been known to conform to those of the best oil fields. That these conditions extended-as far THE OAKS TONIGHT as the Harney valley and then dip to the southwest, many practical With pleasant weather a big attendance is looked for at the opening of the Oaks tonight. Thousands of people are doubtless looking forward to the musical treat promised by Signor Nicola Donnatelli, with his 30 musicians. Most of the members of this band have been accustomed to appearing before audiences paying theatre prices, and splendid program may be counted upon. There will be the numerous popular sports, already familiar to the Oaks' patrons the past seasons, but aside from these are many special amusement features—real novelties, among which are "Craxy House," warranted to give you a variety of new sensations; "Fairy-land to Hell," a unique and startling feature in which electric illumination produces some wonderful results.

Among the museum features there will be opportunity to study an enormous live hoa constrictor; a pair of simply mammoth youths and other oddities. oil men now aver, even from the surface formations. But aside

logical survey, have admitted not only that there was every known geological indication of oil, but that the outcroppings in many places actually showed that the oil and gas exist.

A day or two ago I made a trip from Burns to the Narrows and return, and on my journey went through what is supposed to be the very heart of the oil and gas section of the valley, which lies some 20 miles nearly south from Burns. In this district, covering an area of several hundred square miles, there have been from time to time for years rumors of oil and gas outcroppings, of wells which gave forth gas in sufficient quantities to burn or flash when touched with a match, and others which showed on their waters traces of petroleum. But it was not until last February that a real live gas well was struck, and that well I visited and inspected, and I will endeavor to tell my readers just what I found, and explain to them exactly what took place when the discovery was

A homesteader by the name of John Leake has a claim in section 28, township 25 south, 32 east, which is 16 miles south and seven miles east of Burns. Last fall he began the boring of a well on his place and worked intermittently until the fourth of February, by which time the two inch hole was down 360 feet. On that day something happened, and it happened very suddenly. A rembling was heard below, an explosion took place, the tools were thrown out of the hole, rocks, sand, mud and water were hurled into the air for a distance of 40 feet and the escaping gas was almost suffocating to the workmen.

Of course, the work on the well had to be abandoned, for the pressure was so strong that the tools could not be forced down the hole; but apparently the workmen did not know just what they had struck until rumors of the happening spread over the valley and people began to gather to see the wonder. Then a match was applied and a flame shot up several feet. Not until that flame sent forth its rays was it known that the well was in truth and in fact the outlet to a reservoir of natural gas.

When I visited this well I found but little to show for the explosion except the pile of dirt, sand, gravel and mud it had shot forth, and an ordinary two inch pipe protruding perhaps three feet from the earth. This pipe was topped with an old tomato can, and it all looked very unimpressive and unpromising. I took a couple of pictures of it, but they show nothing save the pipe described. But upon investigation, I found that the pipe was filled with water to the depth of at least 50 feet, which water reached to within 10 feet of the surface, and below that for 300 feet the hole was filled with thick, heavy mud. I placed my ear to the top of the pipe and a rumbling sound was heard, as if this mud and water were boiling, and this, it is claimed, has gone constantly on since the first explosion.

Finally I touched a match to the top of the pipe and a flame shot up, and it continued to burn until smothered by closely covering the aperture.

The smell of gas is distinctly apparent as soon as one gets | position of the underlying stratas.

near the scene, and it cannot be mistaken by any one who has ever been in a gas field. But, says the reader, how about the oil? Well, at this particular well it is true that no oil gushed forth, but it is likewise true that the sand and mud show evident traces of oil, and the sand is what is known as oil bearing. And this sand, found in that whole section, is what has lent life to the movement in the valley, for samples of it have been sent to experts and it has been pronounced to be the real thing, and has always heretofore proved to be to an oil field what the mother lode is to a mining field.

Among others who were shown samples of this sand, and to whom the circumstances of the well explosion were told, was Mr. Michael Valerius, of Oklahoma, an oil and gas expert with years of practical experience. Mr. Valerius had been looking over the oil fields along the Snake river, but as soon as he heard the story and saw this sand he came here and assisted in organizing the Harney Valley Oil & Gas Co., of which he was made vice president and general manager. The company was incorporated under the laws of Oregon, the following gentlemen taking out the charter: Dr. H. Denman, Mr. Valerius, Fred L. Johnson, Dr. H. M. Horton, J. C. Turney, R. B. Post, S. M. Talbot and J. L. Gault.

As to the personnel of the promoters, Dr. Denman is a practicing physician, residing at Harriman, in this county; of Mr. Valerius I have spoken; Mr. Johnson is the hotel proprietor of Vale; Mr. Horton is a sawmill man and capitalist of Burns; Mr. Post is of the geological survey; Mr. Talbot is a wealthy gentleman of Boise, Idaho; Mr. Turney is a real estate operator, and Mr. Gault is cashier of the First National bank, Burns.

This company owns and has under lease a good many thousands of acres in what is called "the oil belt," and they expect to be drilling their first well within the next 60 or 90 days. It will be seen what they are "up against" when one considers that they will have to bring their outfit, weighing about 45 tons, almost 150 miles by teams. This means delay, but before the summer is over there will be "something doing" in the Harney valley.

After leaving the Leake well I went on to the little town of Narrows, a few miles farther south. Charley Haines has a well there which is only 37 feet deep, and I went out to see what they told me were traces of oil on the water from this well. We pumped a few bucketsful, and almost as soon as the water was quiet there spread over its surface that unmistakable oil film, giving forth every shade of the rainbow. And I am told this is not a condition confined to that well alone, but the same is true of many others in the

I had the sandstone surrounding three sides of the valley pointed out to me, I had the geological conditions explained to me, and all of the conditions going to show the presence of gas and oil made clear-or as clear as an unscientific mind can grasp such matters. Of course, these things all appealed to me-but the at the Leake well I saw burn, and the oil on the waters of the Haines well I saw with my own eyes. Such evidence was worth more to convince me that this valley is underlaid with oil and gas than all of the geological conditions that any scientist could point out in a month.

The reader will at once ask, "Do you think it a safe investment to buy stock in the oil company you have mentioned?" I can only answer the question by saying that the stock is selling-some of it-at five cents a share, par value one dollar. If you have five, ten, fifty or a hundred dollars-or five hundred-that is "not working," that you could lose and not miss, you might put it into this stock and "forget it." Possibly-I will even say probably-you would never hear of it again, for the sinking of the first wells in any new field is a gamble pure and simple. But if you won, your \$500 would become ten or twenty thousand, perhaps much more.

Of this I am convinced: Taking the oil field from Ontario to western Harney, we know there lie underneath deposits of oil and gas. Just where, if at all, the first paying well-i. e., a well which will tap the pool, and not a fissure-will be struck nobody knows. All must delve in the dark. But when it is struck, Oregon will experience such an inrush of men and money as never was before known in her history.

If you conclude to invest and lose, don't blame me, for I have tried to tell you in plain English what the chances are against you. If you win, you will get perhaps as much as 50 or 100 for one-and in that event take all of the credit to yourself for your own "gumption."

The company mentioned is going to make a thorough test. From three to five wells will be sunk, covering a number of miles of the territory, these wells to form a triangle, thus giving a complete ex-ADDISON BENNETT.

A GIRL'S UNIQUE DESCRIPTION OF AN OREGON GAS WELL

BY ETHEL LEAKE.

January 25 the well drillers, Mr. Hodder and Mr. Tyler, arrived on the place and set up their machine to be ready for work the next day. They drilled for several days, striking flows of water that was salty or bitter. This kept up until February 4, they having gone down 357 feet. My father was getting pretty much discouraged because of the unsuccessful work.

About 4 o'clock he and Mr. Luper, a neighbor, were sitting by the fire talking about the well. Mr. Luper said: "You have gone down so far now you may strike artesian water soon." Father replied: "Oh, there's no such luck to be hoped for." Just then Edgar Smith opened the door, saying: "Come out and look at your well, Mr. Leake." We had heard the men outside laughing and talking loudly. He went out, and I went to the window near the well. Imagine my surprise upon seeing mud spurting out of the drill pipe. Every one stood and looked at it in consternation. Soon it came out faster than at first, throwing the mud at least 20 feet above the derrick, which is about 20 feet high. After a little they began talking about it, so we found out that the pump handle had broken and they had taken the pump off to repair it. That would take quite a while, so they decided to take the drill pipes and rods out; when they began pulling them the mud began to come up. They kept on pulling the rods up, but they seemed to want to come up faster than the men could uncouple them. Therefore Mr. Hodder had to hold them down with tongs, which required all his strength, even almost lifting him off his feet. He called for some one to help him hold the tongs The spurting of mud, stone, water, etc., kept up and when they got the rods out the stream was much greater. A gurgling, muttering

and roaring could be heard as the mud worked its way up through the two-inch pipe. All this scared the horses in the barn; they must have smelled the gas, as the wind was blowing in that direction; also the men who went to the north or east of it smelled the gas. We had no idea of gas at first, but supposed it to be artesian water. But after talking things over, and considering all the evidence, we con-cluded it was a pocket of gas that had been struck. None of the men present had had a similar experience. The well drillers were as much puzzled as any one.

I went in the house to get supper and would occasionally go to the window to see the "celebration," as we called it. Small stones and mud would strike the window, which didn't induce me to linger long. When the men came in to supper one could hardly recognize them, they were so besmeared with mud. Of course, nothing could be talked of but the well, which was still sending forth mud and rock, also water and a steady steam-like substance would come out with each expulsion of matter.

I went across the road to my house about 7 o'clock, and as a strong wind was blowing from the southwest I could not hear any more of it, but it stopped shortly after 8 o'clock, as my father said. When I went over in the morning the low, hollow place in which the pipe had been sunk was raised at least one and one half feet by the mud that had come out of the well. The men came over about 8:30 and were a little disappointed because it had ceased, but upon investigating found that the pipe had become choked with mud, etc., and concluded there had been a cave-in or a rock obstruction, preventing the gas from issuing forth. They decided to do no more with it until later, when they could learn more about the nature of the