CIVIC BENEFITS OFFERED IN PROPOSED CHARTER

Written for The Journal by Richard Ward Montague.

He would be a bold man who should say that the proposed new charter will certainly be adopted, but from present appearances it may well be said, I think, that if it is defeated it will be because the campaign has fallen into the hands of that worst of political leaders, General Apathy, chief ally of the standpatter, and not from the force of any arguments which have been offered against it. For one, I should be perfectly willing to rest the new charter's case upon the very reasons upon which its opponents rely, and this too without any blinking of the fact that the burden of proof is, and ought to be, upon those who propose the change. Let us see if upon a very brief examination we do not find the opponents of the charter looking into the muzzles of their own arguments.

The ground of objection which I have most invariably heard offered when the subject has been under discussion, is that if we cannot get a good class of officials, no municipal government will be a success anyway, and if we can only get men of the right stamp any form of city constitution will work tolerably well.

This is undoubtedly true. In fact it is undisputed. It is equally true, I will say in passing, of all forms of government, and indeed of all laws; and yet, for a good many generations men have deemed laws and constitutions to be of sufficient importance to work for, and even to fight for. But, passing that, the one thing above all others which recommends the new charter, to me, at least, is that it holds out the liveliest hope, based upon solid grounds of both reason and experience, that it will bring to the front these very better men, without whom the city government can never succeed.

Public Interest Brings Man.

When the public interest is thoroughly aroused and the public attention fairly concentrated upon an office, a strong and upright man can usually be elected to it. Experience has fairly demonstrated this; has shown that people want to and will choose the right man when the issue is squarely and cleanly presented to them.

Experience has also shown that it is utterly hopeless to look for good results when officials are elected by platoons, and especially is this true in a large city, where so very many excellent citizens are entirely unknown to one another. And when the office is one (like that of councilman) which has fallen into a certain disrepute, so that high minded men are not eager for it, and it brings no reputation and little pay, the result is that there is simply no selection made by the people at all, but the office goes to the eager self-seeker, except where the outcome is tempered by luck or by some person (like our some-time fellow citizen, Larry Sullivan) presuming a little too far on the public indifference.

Put the question to yourself, gentle reader. You know who is the present mayor, and the last one; like enough, you know who are the candidates for the next mayor. But do you know who were the members of the last council? Of the present council? Do you even know who are the retiring members of the present council, or the candidates for their places? I trow not. Nobody knows, offhand, anyway, and it would not be a sinful exaggeration to say that nobody cares, much, except the industrious gentlemen who are hunting the jobs.

Small List to Choose.

Now, under the proposed charter, at each election after the first, there will be only three councilmen and a mayor to elect. Under the so called Des Moines plan of eliminating the multitude of candidates at the primaries, there will be at the election only two candidates for each place to select from. The most indifferent citizens ought to be able to exert himself that far. The power and responsibilities which are now diffused among the mayor, 15 councilmen, 10 members of the executive board and 4 members of the water board, will be concentrated in a small and compact body of seven members which can never deny the power nor shirk the responsibility. The members will be well paid; they will be required to devote their entire time to the city's service, and each of the councilmen will be assigned a department with which he will be expected to acquire the intimate familiarity of the expert.

There will be no room for doubt nor question, who is to blame for doing or not doing anything. It will be the council. There will be no ground for recrimination about delays or debates about which body has the power. There will be no shuffling of work back and forth from one body to another with the attendant delays and fallings by the wayside. Authority is lodged in one place.

Delay and achievement must meet their fitting reward there and there only. All meetings must be public, all votes recorded. A monthly statement of the council's work and the city's condition must be published. The unfit and the unfaithful will inevitably find their every act exposed in the pitiless light of publicity. Their deeds will be all known and accounted for. On the other hand, a group of capable and faithful men could win a notable reputation and perform for the city a priceless service.

Benefit of New System.

If anyone can say that such a system is not better calculated: first to attract the right kind of man, and second to draw public attention to the man and the position and focus it there, so as to give the voter a real opportunity for the exercise of an actual and intelligent choice, he is out of the reach of any arguments I have to offer.

Such experience as we can point to confirms this theory. Both members of school boards and county commissioners average much better in character and ability, and do on the whole better work, than city councils. More may be said of these examples a little later.

The other argument which is always met with is more varied in form, but comes in effect to this, that the plan of uniting legislative and executive functions in the same body is contrary to American political habits and practices, is not in accord with American ideas, etc. Nothing but confusion results to the users of this argument any more than to the other, if the ends to which it brings us are searched out.

Every candid man must admit that city government in the United States as to efficiency and even decency is a failure, the one conspicuous failure of the United States, says James Bryce, who is the wisest and friendliest of critics.

The wretched examples of New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, St. Louis and Los Angeles, unfortunately not extraordinary but typical, put this assertion beyond dispute. This is after more than a hundred years of trial, with a people who acknowledge no superiors in intelligence, political capacity or morality.

Puts Theory on Defensive.

A theory which has nothing better in the way of results to show for itself than a hundred years of uniform failure, is put upon the defensive, to say the least. It is high time to see if we have not applied it in cases where it is not at all appropriate. This is exactly what has happened. The ground of justification for the principle of division of governmental powers into the three classes, executive, legislative and judicial, is in its application to national governments as a means to prevent the encroachment by the executive, namely, as it formerly was, the king, upon the powers of the legislature which was even then the popular branch of the government.

Now, obviously enough, there is no occasion for this kind of safeguard in the conduct of city affairs, where, as I have already suggested, the real problem, which the course of development makes increasingly acute, is to keep the legislative branch from becoming altogether contemptible. But more than that, anyone who will not be content to stop his mouth with catchwords, but will give the matter a little first hand observation, must see that in the affairs of the city the attempted distinction does not work at all in practice, that the division of powers is wholly illusory. Scattered they are, separated cleanly into two classes they are not.

To begin with, the function of the mayor which has distinguished the strong men who have held that office from Grover Cleveland down, is the veto power, and this is not at all an executive but exclusively a legislative power. Then the great bulk of the council's work is not prescribing general rules and determining the large questions of policy, as is or ought to be the case with legislative bodies, which sit only occasionally.

What mainly occupies the council is, necessarily, giving a continuous attention to the ordering of minute details of execution and administration: The kind of material with which that street shall be paved, specified to the last grain of sand; the amount which each property owner shall pay for this pavement, specified to the last penny; whether a permit for a hanging sign shall be granted to A or B—and so on.

Many Added Burdens.

On the other hand, it not infrequently falls to the mayor and executive board, whose functions are supposed to be exclusively executive, to make rules and determine the questions of policy. It is urged in favor of the attempted division of powers that it is not wise to let the same body which appropriates the money expend it, but no legislative body which holds continuing sessions throughout the year will fail to keep all the control it possibly can over the details of the expenditures which it authorizes, and the wit of man has never devised a way to prevent that control from being pretty extensive. The appropriation ordinances of our city council practically prescribe the very times for which the money shall be spent. Responsibility is divided, or worse, it is annihilated, the power of accomplishing anything is scattered to the four winds, and that is all. The system of checks and balances succeeds in checking initiative and achievement in balancing the obstruction of one against the willingness of another, but how effective is it to check peculation or the wastes of negligence and incompetence. When has it balanced the city's business on an even keel of far sighted plans or settled policy?

On the other hand, the rational and sensible plan of confiding whatever powers are necessary to do the work in hand to a single body, working under the restrictions and limitations of law, and directly responsible to the people, has been tried in various worms in this country. In the main it is the system of the best local government the world has even known, the New England town meeting.

In all essential points it is the identical system which has been used for generations in school boards and county boards with excellent success, and recently it has been applied with equal success in the cities which have adopted this commission plan. We are justified in saying that reason and experience are all on one side, and inertia alone holds the fort on the other.

Some Objections Answered.

It may be worth while to spend a few more words upon the suggestions which have been made that the proposed charter is not representative, that it deprives the people of control, and that it is oligarchic. The fact is that since the number of appointive offices is greatly reduced and every member of the governing body is directly elected by the people, the government is much more explicitly and directly representative than under the present form, unless there is some occult magic in numbers which makes a governing body of 16 elected and 19 appointive officers representative, and a governing body of seven elected officers not representative.

As to the oligarchy charge, this plan vests no more power in the governing body than the present plan. The mayor and council have no other nor different powers than those now vested in the council, the mayor, and his appointees. The powers are differently distributed, and concentrated instead of scattered, but the officers are subject to precisely the same limitations of law, serve the same terms and wield exactly the same authority as at present.

There is no more reason for charging oligarchy upon the proposed plant than autocracy upon the present one, and if what has been said hitherto has any force at all, it is abundantly plain that the public has far better opportunity to observe and better power to reward and punish than ever before, that under no other form of government are the officials so directly and effectively answerable to the people.

Not a Cure-All.

It only remains to say that the advocates of this charter do not propose it as a panacea, nor pretend that it will work miracles. They do assert that sober reason and sound argument raise a fair presumption that it wil sensibly improve present conditions by giving public officers a better opportunity to do efficient work for the city, and to reap the rewards of honorable and useful service, and that it will attract to that service the men whom we imperatively need there.

"Whatever they call him, what care I?
Aristocrat, autocrat, democrat — one
who can rule and dare not lie."

Stain Your Hair A Rich Brown

Simple Preparation of Walnut-Juice That Defies Detection.

An interesting little book has been issued on the remarkable effects of walnut-juice in staining gray, faded or bleached hair. It has the advantage over hair-dyes of being non-injurious to the hair, containing no silver, sulphur, lead or other poisons which cause hair-falling, and containing no odor, no oil, no sediment and no grease. At the same time, an opportunity is given to every one who wishes to stain the hair to send for one of the laboratory trial packages which Mrs. Potter's Hygienic Supply Co., 642 Groton Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, will send by mail in plain, sealed wrapper.

Those desiring to procure a trial package of this walnut-juice hair-stain, as well as their book on hair, should write to the above address, and enclose twenty-five cents in stamps or coin, and if it is desired to continue the treatment, the preparation may be obtained at drug stores generally at one dollar for a full-size package.

It is said that the stain blends so softly with the actual color of the hair as to deceive experts. It can be applied in a few moments with the comb every 30 days. It stains nothing but the hair, and does it evenly from tip to root. Any shade can be obtained from a beautiful rich brown to almost black. It does not rub off on the clothing. One bottle ordinarily lasts a year.

Send for the 25-cent trial package today.

Mrs. Potter's Walnut-Juice Hair Stain is recommended and for sale in Portland by Woodard Clark Drug Co. Wholesalers & Retailers; Eyssell's Pharmacy, 289 Morrison St.; S. G. Skidmore & Co., 151 Third St.; Blumauer-Frank Drug Co., Wholesalers, Park and Everett Sts.

AMITY FARMER SHOOTS HOUNDS AND IS FINED

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

La Fayette, Or., May 29.—Charles Mitchell, a well to do farmer near Amity, saw a pack of hounds on a chase pass through his fields. Taking his shotgun he followed them to his sheep pasture where he shot and wounded two of them. He was brought before Justice of the Peace P. P. Olds of this place, who fined him $85 and costs.

The hounds were the property of Arthur Dodge and Chester Walling of Amity.

The shooting is the first incident of its kind on record in Yamhill county. Fox-hunting has become one of the most popular sports in the Willamette valley.

Fox and coyotes abound, and it is only through the use of the sporting dogs that they are kept from being a pest.

The Mitchell case will it is thought be used as a test and carried to the higher courts.

WORK PEOPLE TRYING NEW DAYLIGHT PLAN

London, May 29.—It is very doubtful whether the "daylight saving bill," which has already passed the house of commons, will become a law, at all events for some years. But such is the public approval of the measure that quite a large number of firms employing numerous workpeople are putting the idea into practice irrespective of the law. Even some government departments are giving the scheme a trial.

Thus the postmaster general has invited his employes in the secretaria branch of the postoffice to begin work an hour earlier and leave off an hour earlier during the summer months. They fell in with the idea enthusiastically. In Birmingham many big firms whose usual hour of beginning is 9 o'clock and who shut up at 7 in the evening are now starting at 7 and finishing at 5, much to the general satisfaction of the workpeople.

In London the same thing is being done on a very considerable scale. Many firms not particularly dependent upon the train services are starting work an hour earlier in the morning and leaving off at a correspondingly early hour. Indeed, it seems that the only law necessary will be one to regulate the clocks and the railroad companies to bring them into line with the business firms.

Dramatic Club Elects.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

University of Oregon, Eugene, May 29.—The University Dramatic club held its annual election yesterday. The following officers were elected: President, William Kiltz; vice president, F. C. Dunton; secretary, Edith Woodcock; treasurer, Edward Himes.

BACHELORS FALL INTO MARITAL NET

One Fourth of Members of Trout Lake Club Are Engaged.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Husum, Wash., May 29.—A corresponding secretary, printed stationery and a set of bylaws are the requisites that are making prominent the Pioneer Bachelors' club of Klikitat county, with headquarters at Trout Lake. With a membership of 25, the club is now developing a matrimonial business unparalleled in the history of cupid transactions.

C. H. Pearson, the corresponding secretary, is kept busy looking after the letters that come in daily from the fair sex from all parts of the northwest. After reading the contents of the letters he passes them around to members who would be interested in the particular makeup and wealth of their future affinities.

J. M. Filloon, formerly of The Dalles, the promulgator of the club, while up at Trout Lake last fall got a few of the bachelor boys together and told of the advantages to be derived from an organized body of wife hunters, where if a business system were carried out, beneficial results would follow. At the same time he made the statement that he would marry any couple free of charge where the groom was a member of the club.

One Fourth of Club Engaged.

Mr. Filloon has recently moved to Trout Lake from The Dalles and is now coaching the bashful bachelors in the right way. Out of the 25 members no less than one fourth have become engaged, and it is only a question of a short time when Mr. Filloon will be called upon to make good his promise.

The members are well supplied with photographs of the marriageable ladies who are anxious to exhibit their charms. One correspondent from one of the large coast cities has sent her picture along with a dainty epistle, stating that she would head a delegation of 10 ladies to the Trout Lake summer resort this summer, and intimated that the boys would have to be on dress parade during their stay if they expected to capture the fair maidens.

One of the laws carried out in a strict manner is, that should a member fail to grasp the opportunity to propose marriage he shall pay a fine of $5. To become a member of the club a fee of $3 is required.

Aside from capturing a sturdy bachelor rancher with a bank account for a husband, the future bride will experience the pleasure of living in a locality exquisite with grandeur and healthful mountain breezes.

COFFEE SOLD IN NO-TREAT SALOON

Des Moines, May 29.—One hundred and twenty-five cups of coffee and 250 glasses of beer were sold in Des Moines' semi-temperance saloon during the first two hours after it was opened and in addition the bartenders had to listen to more than that number of stormy protests from customers who desired to pay for their companions' drinks.

The signs informing patrons that no treating would be allowed in the new saloon, had not arrived when the doors were thrown open and patrons who were ignorant of the uplift idea under which the place is conducted, were inclined to be indignant when money was shoved back across the bar with the information that each man must settle for his own.

Besides the 125 cups of coffee and 250 glasses of beer, A. S. Kirkhart, owner of the saloon, reported that during the first two hours he sold 40 glasses of milk and 79 glasses of buttermilk, not to mention other and stronger drinks. Tea was the only light drink for which there was no demand.

Mr. Kirkhart controls 15 saloons in Des Moines and says he will introduce the anti-treating rule in all of them if it proves a success. He expressed himself as being satisfied with the way it started.

SCHOLARSHIPS ON PENNSYLVANIA ROAD

Philadelphia, May 29.—Special efforts are to be made this year by the Pennsylvania railroad to induce the largest possible number of the sons of its 175,000 employes to participate in the competitive examinations to be held in June for Frank Thomson scholarships. These provide an income of $500 a year for four years, for each of the successful candidates, enabling them to take a full course at any of the leading colleges.

The Thomson scholarships, two of which are awarded every year, were established in 1907 by the children of the late Frank Thomson, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad company.

The examinations this year will be held under the direction of the college entrance examination board of New York City.

CAN'T LIVE ON $15,750 A YEAR; NO, INDEED

New York, May 29.—"Is $15,750 a year sufficient for the support of a widow and her infant son, or should she be allowed $24,000 to meet expenses?"

This is the perplexing question which is puzzling Surrogate Jackson of Mineola, L. I. A referee reported that the smaller amount was all Mrs. James E. Martin, Jr., needed for her support and that of her son. In her petition Mrs. Martin claimed that it is absolutely necessary that she be allowed $24,000 yearly.

Mrs. Martin claimed that it cost $2000 a year to dress her son, who is 3 years old. For his education $3000 a year is necessary. For her own personal expenses for dress, entertainment, etc., Mrs. Martin asked an allowance on the same liberal scale. Her income from her personal fortune, she stated, was but $2000 a year.

She points to the eminence of her social position, to many expensive encumbrances, such as two automobiles and six horses, and to the many needs of her boy, such as a trained nurse and other attendants.

Mrs. Martin was Miss Gladys Robinson. Her husband died in Paris on May 20, 1908, and left his widow only $7500 from an insurance policy.

Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Martin has been supported by her mother-in-law, Mrs. Louise R. Satterwhite. She claims that during the first two years of their married life, her husband received $28,000 from her mother.

LIGHTNING KILLS BABE IN MOTHER'S ARMS

St. Paul, May 29.—The baby of Mrs. Ignatz Sintek, a Polish woman, was killed yesterday afternoon in its mother's arms by a bolt of lightning. The freakish flash struck the child, killing it instantly, but left the mother unharmed and did not even render her unconscious. At the time the lightning descended, the baby was asleep. The storm in which the accident occurred was one of the worst in the history of Howard county.

New Through Service to St. Paul.

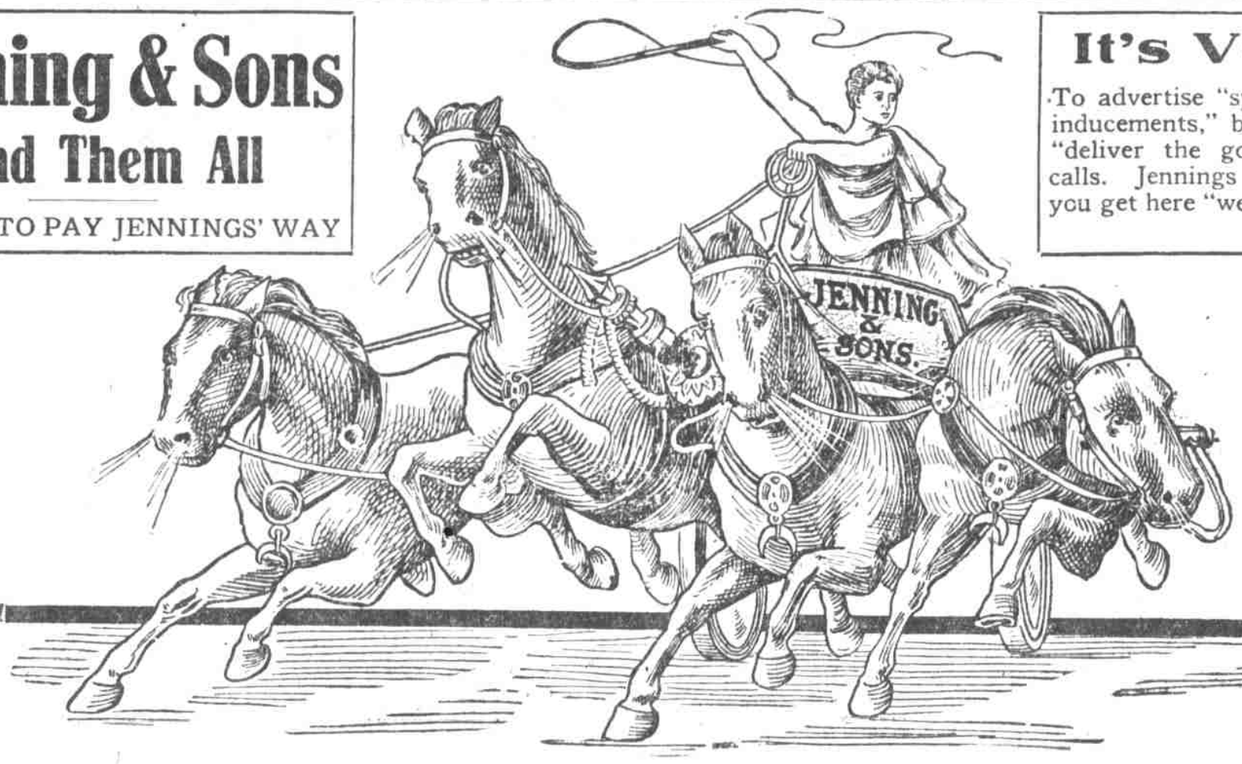
The new Soo-Spokane-Portland train de Luxe is the swell train between Portland and the twin cities. The equipment is the finest operated by any transcontinental line. Apply at local office, 142 Third street, for full particulars.

Jenning & Sons Lead Them All

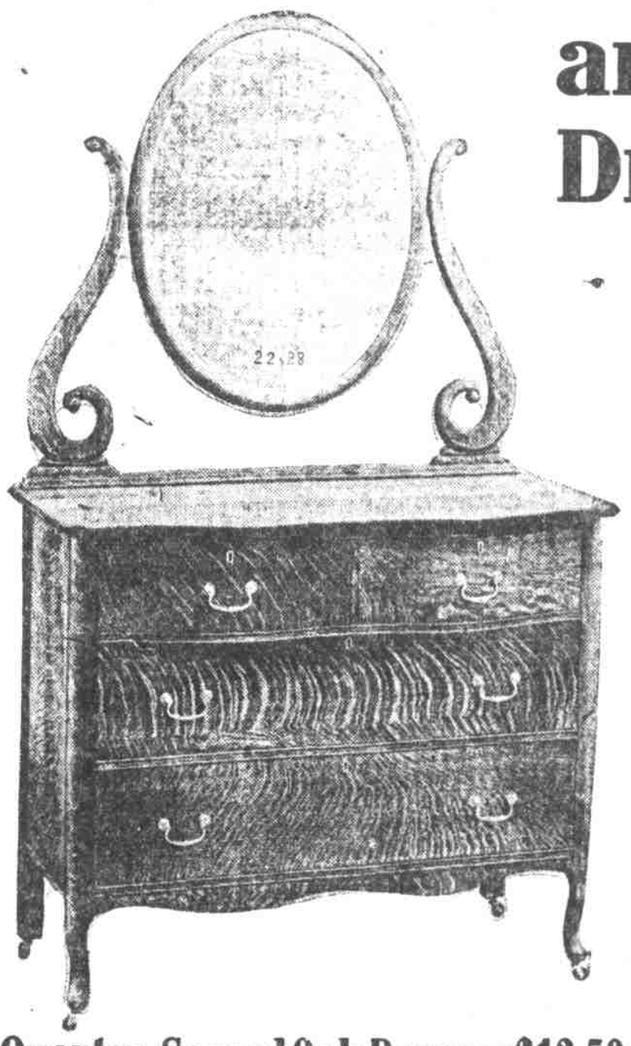
IT'S EASY TO PAY JENNINGS' WAY

It's Very Easy

To advertise "special sales" and "special inducements," but it is another thing to "deliver the goods" when the customer calls. Jennings advertise facts, and when you get here "we make good"—that's why we lead.

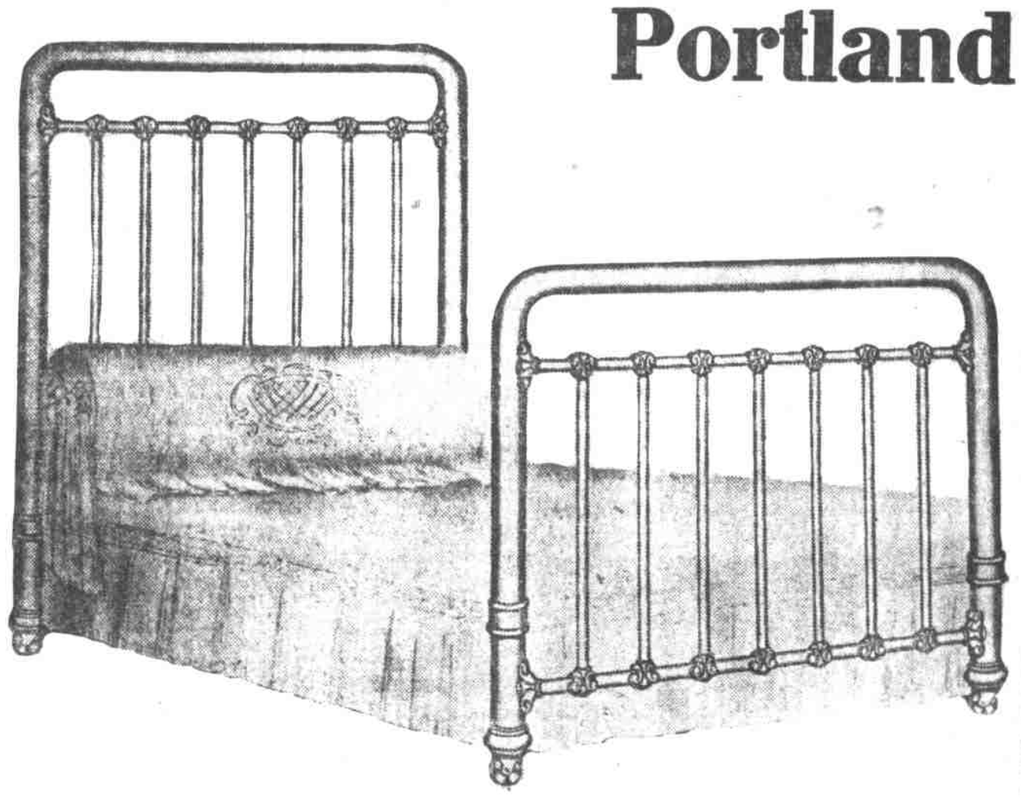


The Greatest Drive in Brass Beds and Quarter-Sawed Oak Dressers Ever Held in Portland



Quarter-Sawed Oak Dresser $12.50

A look at these handsome swell front quarter sawed oak Dressers will satisfy you that you are getting a strictly up to date article at the closest figure it was ever put on sale in this city. It will look well in any home—look well a lifetime—and look costly, if it is cheap in price. OVERSTOCKED is our reason for this cut in Dressers.



Brass Beds $14.50

Fractional part of their cost. Our reason for this Clearance Sale this week is that our store was never so congested with BRASS BEDS. Owing to delays we have an overstock. We mean just what we say—that Portland never afforded such a bargain in Beds. See our corner window.

SALE OPENS TOMORROW MORNING

Prices Always the Lowest

H. Jenning & Sons

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The Home of Good Furniture