

MAYOR LEAH'S REASON FOR REFUSING TO LET CONTRACTS FOR THE PAVING OF IRVINGTON STREETS TO A LOCAL CONTRACTOR, EVEN AFTER PROPERLY OWNED, IS THE ABILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR TO SIGN THE CONTRACTS.

In a letter to the editor of The Journal, Mayor Leah explains his reasons for refusing to let contracts for the paving of Irvington streets to a local contractor, even after properly owned, is the ability of the contractor to sign the contracts. He also defends the attitude of the executive board in refusing to let contracts for the paving of five other streets to J. M. Sweeney, the lowest bidder. Following is the mayor's communication in full:

Portland, May 29.—To the Editor of The Journal.—In the matter of the improvement of streets in the Irvington district, in regard to which something has been said by Ella G. Hughes and S. S. Huston, criticizing my official action in relation thereto, if I may be permitted I would like to say that at no time have I wished or endeavored to do either of them any injustice, and my sole desire has been to keep the city's end of the affair as secure and free from entanglement as I could, and that I shall feel quite well pleased if I succeed in doing so.

The facts in the case as I understand them, and in brief are as follows: Mr. Hughes desires some street improvements made through a tract of land owned by him and his associates. The contract for one of the streets (Stanton street) was secured by Elwood Wiles, who being the lowest bidder, while on three other streets there were two or three bidders lower than that of Mr. Wiles. Mr. Hughes desired that the contract be awarded to the lowest bidder. Owing to the fact that Mr. Wiles had a contract on Stanton street which controls the intersections of the other streets Mr. Hughes refused to allow the lowest bidder to work upon them.

Why Mr. Hughes was so willing to enter upon a fight to the finish for the privilege of paying the highest price for his street work was not apparent until it was developed that he had some sort of a private agreement with Mr. Wiles by which he obtained a price below that which Mr. Wiles bid upon it, and even less than that which was asked by the lowest bidder. The whole transaction of calling for and considering public bids in this matter was a farce, and the city was used as a cat's paw for the purpose of giving an appearance of free and open competition to an affair where the contract and the terms had already been agreed upon between Mr. Hughes and Mr. Wiles with all other contractors barred. Not being dissatisfied with the result, Mr. Hughes refused to permit the city to become a party to, or be entangled in it.

If it so happened that Mr. Hughes had a private agreement with Mr. Wiles by which he could secure the street work for less money than he could receive from the sale of the improvements on his property there would be cash advanced to Mr. Hughes in such a transaction amounting to the difference between what he paid to Mr. Wiles and what he received from the sale of such improvements.

If Mr. Hughes can get the city to stand sponsor for his street improvements, he wished to do in this instance he can take advantage of the bidding act in paying for them, but if he desires to avail himself of such privilege it is his duty to follow the plan provided by the charter and allow the bidding as well as the proceedings to be open to the public, and to do otherwise is manifestly unfair.

If upon the other hand, he wishes to do his street work on private terms more profitable to himself, he should take out a private permit from the city as all other do. He can hardly expect to be allowed to work the same way, and to work solely to his own advantage, for at all times the city is responsible for the payment of the bonds for his street improvements and the shares in the bonds must be open and above board.

When Mr. Hughes, property owner, wishes all interested parties to the proceedings due to the letting of a contract to Mr. Hughes, representative of the highest bidder, the proceedings are somewhat complicated and it is difficult for an outsider to distinguish the difference between the dual identities so ably represented, and he should be patient with

the imperfections of an intellect which does not discriminate and fully appreciate the true worth and real merits of the situation.

After the representative of Mr. Hughes had rather vigorously attacked the street committee of the executive board for its dereliction in its official duties in not accepting his view of the situation, and made claim that it was blocking the efforts of enterprising persons in building up the city, etc., I became impatient and questioned the beneficence attached to the transaction and referred to the fact that Mr. Hughes had secured water mains on streets where no one lived, adding greatly to the value of his property (to which I objected at the time) and had been equally as insistent in making claims preferred over those of others more worthy of consideration whose wants were greater and of longer standing than his.

I also stated that there was a larger number of "bum" street improvements in that tract than in any other part of the city, upon which Mr. Wiles arose and asked if I referred to him and his work in what I said, and I assured him that I did, and that it was his work to which I had referred, which statement made by me is quite true and the facts can be easily ascertained by any one who cares to investigate their condition. It has been hard to secure good work upon the improvement of streets or to get much help in the attempt which has been made to do so. Those improvements in the district to which I referred were and are of inferior quality and in consequence of this condition three inspectors have been dropped from the city's payroll.

In the matter of Mr. Sweeney's bid for Hassan pavement, which is referred to by Mr. Huston in a way which offers the suggestion that it should have been awarded to the lowest bidder, I have to say that while I did not vote upon the proposition, as there was no tie to decide, if I had done so I would have decided it in the manner which was followed by the street committee of the executive board.

Mr. Sweeney offered the lowest bid to lay a patented article, which was ordered by the council, whose orders in such matters control the action of the executive board. From what we could ascertain, Mr. Sweeney had no license to lay a Hassan pavement and could not obtain one and if he undertook to lay such a pavement both he and the city would be involved in a lawsuit for damages for the infringement of a patent, to cover which damages Mr. Sweeney could give no adequate bond of protection. The city does not want a lawsuit but it does want a pavement, and to let the contract to Mr. Sweeney, the lowest bidder, seemed to be the sure way of not getting the pavement, and acquiring the lawsuit.

To me it seemed and still seems that it was a war between paving companies, and that the bid of Mr. Sweeney was not submitted in good faith, but for the purpose of preventing the laying of the pavement and throwing the matter into the courts and keeping it there as long as possible in order to gain some strategic advantage.

For these reasons I did not and do not consider the Sweeney bid the low responsible bid, or one which the city could entertain without serious financial loss and delay, and I declined to be in any way a party to it.

If Mr. Sweeney or Mr. Huston or any other enterprising gentlemen wish to start a war with the Hassan Paving company, I will not interfere, but I will not willingly allow myself to be officially dragged into it if I can help.

In closing I wish to say that if a failure to recognize the justice of the position occupied by Mr. Hughes and Huston is evidence of insanity and a lack of business acumen and fairness on my part, as is alleged by these gentlemen, I will have to concede that I am "as mad as a hatter" and the very incarnation of business unethic and perhaps also entirely incurable in both respects—"more's the pity."

Respectfully,
HARRY LANE, Mayor.

YOUNG GIRL MAKES HER FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE AS A MONOLOGIST



Miss Margaret Egbert, Whose Clever Monologue Will Be a Feature of Rose Festival Benefit Performance June 4 at the Heilig Theatre.

WHITE SLAVERY NEEDS A LINCOLN

Senator Owen in Patriotic Address Laments for Wagerworkers.

Washington, May 29.—"The white slavery of today is a great problem, a pressing problem and to solve it we need another Lincoln," said Senator Owen. He was making an address to the Lincoln circle, auxiliary to the G. A. R., at the memorial exercises in front of the statue of Lincoln in the Capitol rotunda. He declared that the black slavery of the south differed only in degree from the white slavery of today.

"It has made my heart ache," said Senator Owen, "to see the anarchy arising from the present day maddening chase for wealth. The wheel of commercial machinery is grinding out the lives of the American people who are compelled to work from morning till night, with barely enough pittance in return for their labor to keep body and soul together."

"In many of our great cities young girls are working in indescribable shops. Some of them work in sweatshops, some of them work in factories, thousands of them are working under conditions which are intolerable. Their pay is barely sufficient to provide nutriment for the body in order that the unfortunate may return on the following week to continue the grinding out of wealth for the slave owner."

"I do not blame the individual for this condition of affairs, but it is a condition which must be remedied, and remedied speedily, for if this country is to go on the way Lincoln hoped it would go on."

"It is a great problem, a pressing problem, and to settle it we need another Lincoln."

The output of Chilean nitrate of soda is expected to be largely increased because of the recent disrupting of the combine of producers.

MEMORIAL DAY

Store CLOSED All Day

BEN SELLING

Leading Clothier

SEAMEN'S BENEFIT CONCERT AT ARMOYR A PLEASANT AFFAIR

By M. N. D.
The seamen's benefit concert given last night at the Armoyr under the auspices of the Women's club and the Council of Jewish Women was of high artistic merit. As picturesque as they are, the seamen gathered in a body at one side of the hall. Their appreciation knew no bounds and every number was applauded to the echo.

Leader among the soloists of the evening was Madame d'Auria. She also directed the excellent chorus of the Women's club. In her voice as she sang thrilled the sprites of mischief and mirth. Her control of voice and its range together with a faultless and original style made her singing delightful.

Miss Alice Johnson sang "A Gift From You" in a way that won much favor. Her voice is rich and full and each note is rounded out with a sympathetic interpretation of the song's thought.

Miss Hazel Hays rendered the first number of the evening, a piano solo from Zerk-Liszt, with wonderful accuracy and sweetness of touch. Miss Lucian Barton's violin selections were

some what of the impressionistic type, but none the less pleasing. The baritone solo, "Blow, blow, thou wintry wind," was an immense success. His voice is rich and full of life and color and of great influence, particularly in the middle range. The stately chant and measured procession of the "Star Spangled Banner" sung by the seamen, their own language, made their rendition impressive. The Nordic dances given by Miss Della Bradley and Charles Townsend will be memorable because of their grace.

Mrs. Rose Bloch-Bauer sang "Lena" and followed it with the "Star Spangled Banner." Hers was a rare success. Her voice thrilled every listener with its depth of feeling, its lift of triumph. This is a good thing for the seamen and the sailors almost lifted the rafters as they sang. But with their music mingled the dash of the waves, the tinkle of the salt breeze and the freedom of the sea.

Robert Livingston presided over the event in a way that added much enjoyment.

WEYERHAUSERS PROTEST TAXES

Lumber Company Intimates Action at Law Against Lewis Assessment.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Chehalis, Wash., May 29.—The Weyerhaeuser Timber company today paid County Treasurer Summersett \$52,802.28 on its delinquent taxes for the year 1907. Of this sum \$45,533.29 was for taxes and the \$7,268.99 was interest for the delinquent period at the rate of 10 per cent. The company paid the tax after protest, accompanying the check with a letter. It has been generally known that had the timber company not come through with this tax delinquency certificates would have been taken out next week for a great deal of its holdings. More than \$200 worth of applications were already on file and other investors were only waiting.

The protest against the payment alleges that the present payment is made under legal stress and to avoid payment of extortionate and confiscatory penalty in the way of interest, and to simplify any litigation, which it is intimated may follow, that the valuations of the company's lands were found and determined in an arbitrary manner, without any reference whatever to the true and actual value, and without any reference to the relative value of said lands as compared with other lands similarly situated.

The timber company also alleges that

the equalization of the taxes on its lands an arbitrary value was fixed without any reference to the corresponding valuation of other lands and property in Lewis county, making it higher than it should be. A third cause is given in an allegation that a large amount of the land and other property in the county was omitted from the tax rolls and for the reason that a large amount was assessed at a greatly disproportionate percentage of its true value as compared with the actual value at which the Weyerhaeuser lands were assessed.

The company has not paid all of its 1908 taxes here. Its total tax for the past year aggregated in round numbers about \$125,000. Of this it had paid \$72,881.71. Its total 1907 tax was about \$33,000, and of this sum it had previously paid up about \$28,000. On deferred taxes the company has within the past year paid the county of Lewis interest aggregating \$11,000. Tax payments in the closing hours of the month of May are unusually heavy. It will be several days before the footings can be made. Warrants aggregating many thousands have been called in within recent months; \$40,000 in February, \$75,000 in March, \$100,000 in April, and another \$100,000 will be called early in June. In this call will be wiped up the last fund, some of which have run for about 10 years.

Voyage Not Much Extra Expense.

From Philadelphia Post.

The extra cost of sending the American battleship fleet around the world compared with the cost of maintaining the ships at home is too trifling to form a valid basis for national controversy. A fleet is not a toy to be kept in a parlor.

It must be affirmed, it must burn coal. It must be manned, it must be provisioned, it must be repaired, whether the fleet cruise up and down the Atlantic coast or traverse the seven seas.

A little more coal was consumed and a few more sailors were on duty during the great 40,000 mile journey than would have been the case had the entire navy remained idle at home. But that was the extent of the extravagance. As for repairs, they are about the same.

The New Hungarian land bill contemplates the distribution of seven acres plots to farmers, who will be taught scientific methods of agriculture by experts, who will cultivate adjoining farms.

Council Crest Dancing Pavilion
Grand opening and free refreshments Sunday evening at 8:30, weather permitting.

MAY EXPORTS ARE VERY LIGHT

Little Remains to Be Shipped Until the New Crops Come In.

Exports from the entire Pacific coast have been light during the month closing tomorrow principally because of the fact that this is the time of year when most of the soil's products have already been marketed. But the fact that the price of wheat and flour soared to such lofty heights, also served to reduce the volume of business.

Portland, like the rest of the large ports on the coast, points back to light records, with only \$73,847 worth of goods having been sent away to foreign ports since May 1. This is about as small a showing as has been made for a long time. And it so happened that vessels that came in for lumber are still here and therefore the quantity has been going on board during the month will be credited to June instead. Following are the shipments:

To Foreign Ports.

May 8.—Clan Macfarlane, Br. ss., for Santhal, 3,510,168 feet of lumber, valued at \$37,873.

May 13.—Alesia, Ger. ss., 1,463,194 feet lumber, valued at \$14,722; 6725 barrels flour, valued at \$24,900; making total value of cargo \$40,774.

Total, 5,073,362 feet, value \$51,945. Including flour the total value of exports aggregates \$78,847.

Coastwise Lumber Shipments.

Vessel.	Destination.	No. Ft.
Majestic, ss.	San Fran.	950,000
Johan Poulsen, ss.	San Fran.	750,000
Daisy Mitchell, ss.	San Pedro.	665,000
Northland, ss.	San Fran.	540,000
St. Helena, ss.	San Fran.	400,000
S. Loop, ss.	San Fran.	350,000
Yellowstone, ss.	San Fran.	300,000
Nome City, ss.	San Pedro.	400,000
San Francisco, ss.	San Pedro.	500,000
Shoshone, ss.	San Fran.	475,000
Claremont, ss.	San Fran.	750,000
Casco, ss.	San Fran.	550,000
J. B. Stetson, ss.	San Fran.	475,000
Johan Poulsen, ss.	San Fran.	750,000
Thos. L. Ward, ss.	San Fran.	700,000
S. Loop, ss.	San Fran.	350,000
Northland, ss.	San Fran.	540,000
Total		11,690,000

*Ties and pling.
This is a good showing for the coastwise lumber trade, the average monthly shipments being about 10,000,000 feet.

HELENA PLANT DEFIES WORKMEN

Refuses to Grant Increase of Wages, and Sends Ore Into Colorado.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Helena, Mont., May 29.—F. M. Smith, manager of the East Helena plant of the American Smelting and Refining company, today delivered to 500 employees the answer of the executive officials in New York respecting their demand for a 50 cent daily increase. It was to the effect that no increase would be considered at this time, owing to the low price of metals. The smeltermen's union held a meeting tonight to consider the question of striking, but took no definite action. It is expected that another meeting will be held Monday, when the question will be settled. This is the leading plant of the American company in the northwest and its closing would mean the shutting down of numerous mining camps. Count d'Alene ores, usually treated here, are being sent to Colorado points in anticipation of a strike.

College Men in Public Offices.

From the Boston Transcript.

New England, with one fifty-fourth of our continental area and about one fourteenth of the total population of the states and territories, has schooled the president, four ninths of his cabinet and four of the newly appointed first assistants. It may be added that Henry Clay Ide, the new ambassador to Spain, is a Dartmouth graduate, and that the honor roll which is to be headed by ex-President Eliot of Harvard, it seems safe to assume that New England colleges will figure as largely and brilliantly in the diplomatic as in the executive appointments. For the judiciary, in which changes are so frequent that it seems ungracious to preview any one surely point with pride to the fact that our colleges provided four ninths of the present supreme court of the United States—the chief justice being a graduate of Bowdoin, and Yale being represented by one and Harvard by two associate justices.

COUNT MANSFELD



This is a picture of Count Ferdinand Coloredo-Mansfeld, the Austrian nobleman who married Miss Nora Iselin, daughter of C. Oliver Iselin, of New York.

We Store Pianos.
We'll store your piano this summer, and if you wish give it a thorough overhauling—putting action, case, keys, etc., in perfect shape. Call up Exchange 23 or A-2350, Eilers Piano House.

Anyone can understand the divine joy when it is in terms of human kindness.

NEW TODAY.

A Bargain

IF THERE EVER WAS ONE BRAND NEW 7 ROOM HOUSE GAS, BATH AND ELECTRICITY, FULL CEMENT BASEMENT, WASH TRAYS, WOOD LIFT, PIPED FOR FURNACE, TWO TOILETS, SLEEPING PORCH, BUILT-IN CHINA CLOSET, PANTRY, NICE AND LARGE, WALLS TINTED IN BEAUTIFUL COLORS, BATHROOM WITH IMITATION TILE, FINE KITCHEN WITH IMITATION TILE, BURLAP IN PANELS.

This is a fine modern home and the best buy in Sunnyside. See this place while I hold it at this low figure of \$3800—\$1500 down, the balance terms. Home-seekers will find this to be a good buy. Only 3 blocks from Sunnyside car. It will pay you to look this place up. 87th and Belmont—take S. car.

D. C. Saling
Phone Tabor 164.

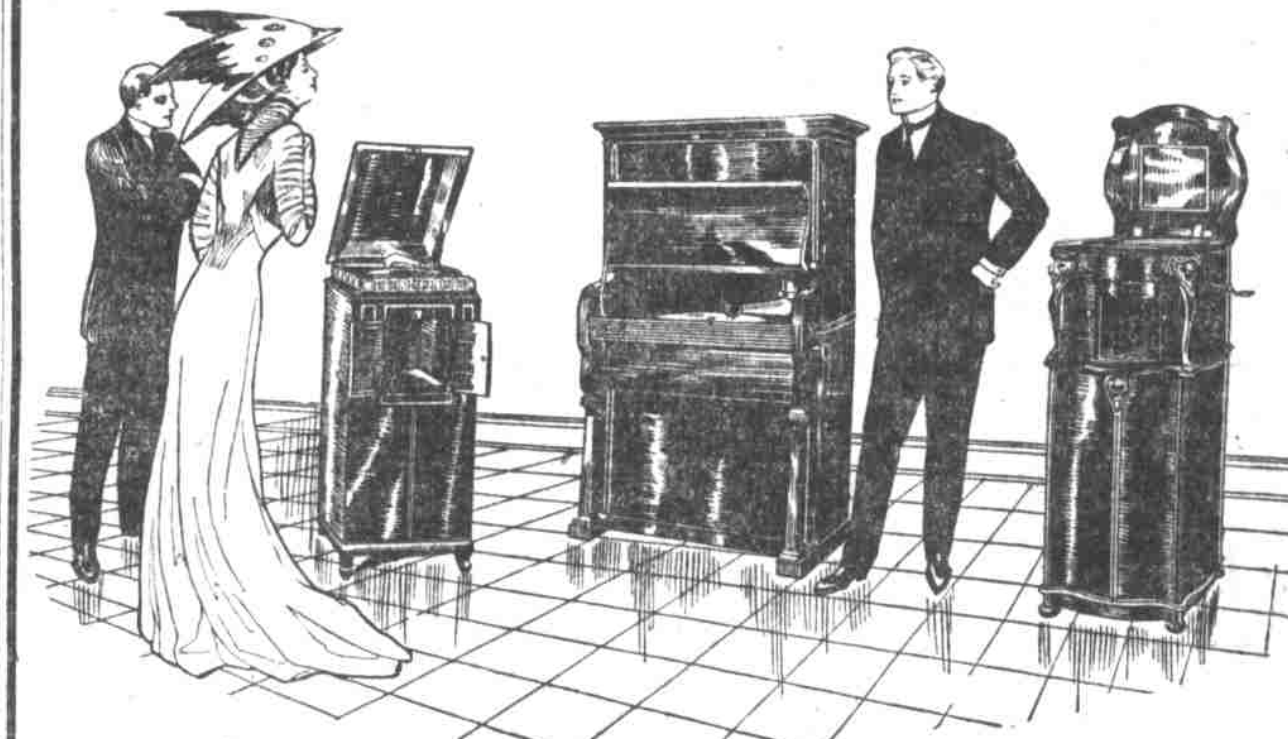
\$1250 Piedmont District
60x132, corner E. 9th and Killingsworth, \$500 down, balance \$200 per month. This is an exceptional buy, so act quickly.

W. K. S. ROSS REALTY CO.
708-7-8 Swetland Bldg.

33 ACRES on the BEEHIVE
PRIME land cleared and in high state of cultivation, all facing on leading public road, all in crop; good orchard mixed fruit, well watered, good 5 room house, large barn, in good repair, good chicken house and other outbuildings. Can now be had reasonably and on easy terms to suit purchaser. Call or address D. E. WHEELER, Wheeler station on Fourth street railway.

an exhibition of the latest achievements in the phonograph field

at Eilers continues all week



Ever see a "talking machine" worth \$500? Ever see one worth \$225, or \$200? Eilers Piano House has arranged for a showing of modern Reproducers of Sound that will hold the keenest interest of every one who loves the choicest in music.

To designate such superb instruments as "talking machines" would be doing them an injustice—"music phones" would probably be the correct name for them—they are so thoroughly musical.

The finest of all the display is undoubtedly the new \$225 Reginaphone, this being unquestionably the highest achievement yet attained in the phonographic field. Its case design, too, is magnificent and finished in deep, rich, genuine mahogany. It is immensely popular.

Another style of instrument shaped somewhat like a miniature piano and called the "Symphony Grand," deserves special mention for its remarkably smooth and velvety tone and all around convenience. It is priced at \$200.

The Victor Victrola is also shown in handsome mahogany cases—there are Victrolas also in mottled oak and in French or dull finish, Circassian walnut and other rare and costly woods.

An instrument known as the "Auxetophone," a style wherein an electric motor creates a powerful air current, which is forced against the reproducing diaphragm, thereby greatly increasing the volume of sound, is also displayed. These are intended for large auditoriums—places where large tone volume is required, and they cost \$500.

Alongside such superb instruments, the little \$10 Victor or even somewhat higher priced Columbia or Victor machines seem insignificant—yet the development of Talking Machine making nowadays has progressed to such an extent that even these little machines produce beautiful music, both vocal and instrumental, with surprising fidelity.

ALL MAKES SIDE BY SIDE
Eilers Piano House is the only establishment in Portland where all makes and all styles of the talking machine, phonograph, gramophone, etc., etc., are shown side by side, and is the only place where intelligent and careful comparison can be made as between one make and another.

Individual talking machine parlors facilitate a buyer's investigation, and talking machine purchasers are assured every facility in making selections.

RECORDS, TOO
The latest Columbia and Victor double-faced disc records, too, are also included in this display, as well as the new Edison four-minute Amberol records.

Many of Portland's finest homes now enjoy the latest songs, music, speeches and dialogues on the talking machine and phonograph. Why not yours?

Remember the place—"The Always Busy Corner"—353 Washington street, at Park (8th) street. Portland's home piano house, the biggest, busiest and best.