

OREGON VERDANT SPOT FOR SPANISH LETTER WRITERS

Even Yet Recipients Become Hypnotized Into Belief That They Had Relative in Spain —No Recourse.

News of Oregon's prosperity seems to have reached Spain, because never before in the memory of the Portland postal officials have so many Spanish swindle letters come to Portland as have been received the past month. United States Attorney John McCourt has been receiving as many as a dozen reports a week from persons who received specimens of the time honored swindling letters.

The persons addressed are not confined to Portland. Saturday The Journal received copies of two that had been sent to M. S. A. Underwood, of the Hotel Packwood, Baker. Today another one reached The Journal that had been addressed to A. A. Stoltz, head of a plumbing company at 773 Williams avenue. The letter was forwarded to The Journal by Mr. Stoltz.

Some Believe Letters Genuine.

While the majority of those receiving the letters recognize them as swindles, there are some who evidently believe them genuine as the number of solicitations issued seems to be increasing so rapidly.

There is no way of preventing the swindlers from operating in this country excepting by a campaign of education which might warn those tempted to bite on the Spanish bait, of the foolishness of paying any attention to the communication.

"There is nothing the United States officers can do," said Mr. McCourt. "The crime, if there is any, is committed in Spain, beyond our jurisdiction. We have no extradition treaty in Spain that will enable us to bring one of these swindlers over to the United States for trial. I simply advise people who come in to see me about these letters to tear them up and forget them. It's the only way."

Not Prosecuted in Spain.

"Some years ago the state department at Washington made a determined effort to prevent the operation of the swindle. They took it up repeatedly with the Spanish minister, and after many conferences all the satisfaction they could get was that he agreed to have the swindlers prosecuted in cases where Americans had actually been robbed. He refused to consider cases where letters had been sent but had not resulted in fraud. I've never heard of a case being prosecuted by the Spanish government, however."

"One of the most curious features about the whole business is that in many instances persons receiving these letters and who never knew of and probably never had any relatives who ever traveled in Spain, succeeded in convincing themselves that they did have some second cousin twice removed there at one time, and that he might have told the writer of the letter of the trustworthy and honest traits of his cousin in Oregon. They got so they really believe there's something to the man's contention—it's a self-hypnotizing as having your palm read."

HOW TO BEAUTIFY THE SMALL LOT

Landscape Architect Weed of Chicago Gives Advice to Portland Owners.

In the club rooms of the Rose City Park Improvement club, Fifty-fifth and Alameda streets, Monday night, Howard Everts Weed, landscape architect, gave an address on the "Beautification of the Small Lot." Stereopticon views, taken largely in Portland, illustrated the lecture, showing what to do compared with what not to do in the arranging of the small lot so that a home will appear to the best advantage.

Twenty-five views of the Bennett plans for a Greater Portland were also shown and an explanation made of their merits. In this explanation Mr. Weed pointed out the idea that any city plan has for its foundation the convenience of the people in getting in and out of the business portion of a city. Hence the need of main thoroughfares and diagonal streets, so arranged that easy access to all parts of a city may be obtained and in this respect, said Mr. Weed, the Bennett plans for Portland are most excellent and practical.

Plan Is Suggestive.

He also emphasized the fact that the Bennett plan was suggestive in its character, rather than a cut and dried plan which absolutely said that this must be so and so. Many details will doubtless never be carried out, but the suggestions covering the city as a whole must be carried forward in a large measure if we are to have a city of 2,000,000 people.

Mr. Weed showed the necessity for the city having a city forester to have charge of the planting and care of all shade trees and stated that this work should be under the control of the city park board because the beauty of a street lies in a large measure in the beauty of the shade trees along that street. He also stated the varieties best adapted for street planting in Portland.

The advantages to be gained by adequate school grounds in a park-like condition were brought out by several photographs and plans. School gardens as an integral part of a child's education were favored.

Beautifying Small Lot.

The main part of the lecture, however, was taken up with the subject of the "Ornamentation of the Small Lot." Many slides were shown to point out in detail just where trees, shrubs and flowers should be placed on the average Portland lot. Examples of poor planting were given and suggestions made as to how these could be improved.

"Most people," said the speaker, "have the idea that no landscape effects can be obtained on a small lot. While it is true that a better effect can be made on a large lot, it is not true that the smaller the lot the more important it is that what we do have is just right. Our yard is small to begin with and we should so plant it with flowers and shrubs that it may appear to cover a larger area than otherwise, for one of the main objects of landscape gardening is to make a given place appear as large as possible. This is accomplished by the planting of shrubs along the border lines of a lot and by having only green grass in the center of the little lawn."

Connecting Link.

"By all means plant a few shrubs in masses against the house foundations so as to make a connecting link between the ground and the house itself. This will take away the present bare effect so many of the homes of Portland have today. What is desired is to have the special or ornamental portion of the picture presented to the eye with trees and shrubs as a framework for that picture."

One slide attracted special comment for it showed a plan of the average city lot. Starting at the corner and another plan of how this same lot should be arranged. In the one case the house was placed in the center of the lot with shrubs planted all over the lawn as individual specimens, while the other plan showed the house at one side of the lot with masses of shrubs along the border lines. This last arrangement gave plenty of lawn space at one side of the lot.

A vote of thanks was given Mr. Weed for the instructive character of his lecture. Postmaster Merrick and others stated that it was the most instructive talk on the subject they had ever heard.

CITY IS NOW FREE TO ACCEPT INCINERATOR

The temporary injunction restraining the city from accepting the new garbage incinerator was dissolved yesterday afternoon by Presiding Judge Gatens of the circuit court. The injunction also carried the order against paying the \$4,000 balance to the Public Works Engineering company. This was also dissolved.

The action was brought 10 days ago by Joseph Slussen and Gust Wilde, in which they charged the incinerator is not built according to plans and has many defects. The chief complaint was that the plant would not consume the required amount of garbage. In the hearing yesterday the plaintiffs were represented by the legal firm of Cohan & Whitefield. Deputy City Attorney LaTourrette represented the city.

Affidavits were introduced in evidence from Dr. C. H. Wheeler, city health officer, and D. E. Otis, superintendent of the incinerator. These affidavits showed the new plant consumed 314 tons of garbage in October at an average cost of 51.5 cents a ton. In November the plant consumed 2899 tons at an average of 50.5 cents a ton. The contract calls for the destruction of garbage at a cost of no more than 25.5 cents a ton.

It was further shown in the hearing that the capacity to incinerate is all that is required by the specifications. The plant is required to incinerate 100 tons in one unit each 24 hours, and 150 tons in two units of furnace room in 24 hours. The report of the superintendent shows the plant incinerated 119 tons in one unit each 24 hours for seven days, and 168 tons in two units.

GOLDS GAVE HEADACHE.

LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE, the world wide Cold and Grip remedy removes cause. See signature E. W. GROVE, 25c.

The Left Hand

Plays the accompaniment—the right hand accents the melody. Give music its entirely right will. Why not have a player piano that plays exactly the same way? The new Apollo will. This is real music. For sale only by Sherman, Clay & Co., Morrison at Sixth.

Select patronage with efficient service makes Oaks Rink popular place.

WATER BOARD IN GRAFT INQUIRY

Alleged Misconduct by Certain Emploees to Be Fully Investigated.

The city water board yesterday ordered a complete investigation of the meter department to ascertain whether or not there has been wholesale grafting on a petty scale on the part of employees of the department. Superintendent Dodge reported to the board that Head Meterman Cornelius Murphy had admitted selling a load of lead and brass to a junk dealer for \$32.35. Mr. Murphy says the junk sold by him did not belong to the city.

Mayor Rushlight said he had heard that plumbers are selling brass cocks at a much lower figure than they cost the manufacturer, and that he is convinced these came from the water department's supplies. The records of the department will be checked over with the supplies on hand to discover just what has been stolen, if anything.

This board received bids yesterday for the delivery of 12,000 tons of cast iron water pipe and 500 tons of castings and specials to be used by the city in making extensions of the water system next year.

Competition for the contract is keen, eight bids being tendered. The bids were all referred to the engineer for tabulation. The bid of the Oregon Iron & Steel Co., \$398,575, is apparently the lowest of those submitted.

CHARGE OF WIFE MURDER PUT AGAINST CANADIAN

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 13.—Samuel Abercrombie has been arrested by Chief of Police Needes of the municipality of Richmond on the charge of murdering his wife, at their home in Edmonds on the night of the 17th or morning of the 18th of November last. At the coroner's inquest a physician stated that when he was called to examine the body of the woman he found it face downward with the nose flattened as if by pressure. The lips were blue and the cheeks almost black, while the eyes were in a state of congestion.

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WHITE BLUFFS TRADE LOST DURING WINTERS

(Special to The Journal.)
White Bluffs, Wash., Dec. 13.—Portland in the winter months loses practically all the trade of the White Bluffs country which it builds up in the summer through the efforts of its Open River Transportation company's line of boats above Celilo. There is an emprise between Pasco and Priest Rapids, which is rapidly filling up with settlers, and some millions of dollars is being expended in development work of both private and public character. All this domain is naturally tributary to Portland by the river route, but the navigators of the steamers state that one small spot on this section of the Columbia prevents operations at times. That spot is Homiee rapids, a few miles below Pasco, and which could be obliterated with comparatively small outlay.

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SELECT YOUR GIFTS NOW

While the lines are extensive and complete and our salespeople can serve you with undivided attention. Why wait until the real Christmas rush is on?

WHILE AT OUR STORE

Look through the holiday specials we offer in Ladies' and Misses' Suits, Gowns, Dresses, Coats, Furs, Waists, Skirts and Petticoats. If style, merit and workmanship are of any interest, they will, indeed, appeal to you.

CHARGE ACCOUNTS SOLICITED

Our easy payment plan relieves you of the burden of expenditure the gift-buying season incurs. You can remit in weekly or monthly payments, which amount to only a few cents a day, and these you'll not miss.

SANTA CLAUS DAY

The children are invited to visit our store Friday, December 15, from 3 to 5 p. m. Big Santa will be here with lots of toys, horns and dolls for the good boys and girls. The mothers will receive something nice, too. Bring the children and join them to enjoy the fun. There'll be plenty of it. Bring the little ones

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ONE BLOCK FROM ANY CAR LINE
Rooms Without \$1.00 Per Day and Up.
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FIFTH AND WASHINGTON STREETS
In the Very Heart of Portland's Activity—Modern in Every Respect
Desirable Suites for Permanent Occupancy at Reduced Rates
RATES \$1.00 AND UP. MODERATE PRICE RESTAURANT
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THE BOWERS HOTEL

Change of Management Announcement.
Special Winter Rates, in effect Nov. 11, 1911.
Single rooms, transient, without bath \$1.00 up
Single rooms, transient, with private bath \$1.50 up
Table d'hôte breakfast50
Table d'hôte lunch50
Table d'hôte dinner 1.00
Also a la carte menu

Only First-Class Hotel in Portland Featuring American Plan. Drop in and take over our attractive permanent rates to families and single people for the winter. Private dinner parties, luncheons, teas and banquets given personal attention. Perfect service in all departments. More homelike than hotel-like, yet with all the advantages and comforts of hotel service at extremely low rates. E. P. WILLIAMS, Mgr. Eleventh and Stark Sts., Portland, Oregon.

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