

DECLINES TO ALLOW CITY TO TAKE OVER ORNAMENTAL LIGHTS

Commissioner Daly Rejects Plan Proposed for Murraymead District.

Taking the stand that the city cannot afford to assume and maintain ornamental lights instead of gas lights, Will H. Daly, commissioner of public utilities, this morning flatly refused to consider a plan of Judge C. G. Gantenbein to take over the ornamental lights in the Murraymead district on the east side. Judge Gantenbein, with others, appeared before the city council in an adjourned meeting and requested that the city pay the expense of lighting the Murraymead district with ornamental lights now installed.

The lights were placed in the district when platted some time ago and opened to the public, the expense being defrayed by the city. A short time ago the contract expired and the lights were turned off. The district has been in darkness since.

Commissioner Daly stated that he could see no good reason why the city should take over ornamental lights and maintain them for one district where in another district there were only gas lights.

"The man who lives in a house," said Mr. Daly, "would have as much right to have the street in front of his home lighted with ornamental lights as the man who lives in a mansion, if the city started in to maintain such lights, it would be impossible to discriminate and if the city started such a practice and took over every ornamental light it would lead to abuse and soon every property owner would be clamoring for an ornamental light to take the place of an arc light now maintained by the city."

"I am very much opposed to the city taking over any such lights, but am perfectly willing to install gas lights where needed. It seems to have been the practice of real estate promoters to put a plat on the market representing to the purchasers that the property is ideal for lighting with expensive ornamental lights without expense to them. These lights would be paid for by the promoters for a while but when the contract with the lighting company expires they expect to put the responsibility on the city."

Murraymead is the third district which has asked that the city take over the lighting systems and maintain them. Beaumont was without lights for some time and Laurelhurst is being given temporary relief, but it is probable that arc lights will soon take the place of gas lights now in use.

GAS COMPANY VALUATION

Amount Placed at \$6,412,145 in Quarterly Statement.

The property of the Portland Gas & Coke company in this city is valued at \$6,412,145, according to the quarterly statement of the company filed today with City Auditor Barbur, in accordance with a provision of the new commission charter. This provides that each quarter all public service corporations must file with the city a statement of their buildings, together with assets and liabilities.

The total assessed valuation, according to the statement, amounts to \$6,969,555, on which a levy of 23 mills is made. The value of the company's land outside of Portland is placed at \$155,000 and the plant at Union valued at \$150,000, making a total of \$7,574,155, 22.99 per cent of all its holdings.

The par value of all of the common stock of the company is placed at \$5,500,000, with the preferred stock at \$2,000,000. On the common stock is paid dividends of 6 and 7 per cent, amounting to \$125,000, while on the preferred stock 7 per cent dividends are paid, amounting to \$77,500. The company also controls the St. Johns Gas company, and the Northwest Gas Equipment company.

Following is the holdings of the company in Portland in detail:

Buildings, fixtures and grounds	\$1,023,384.26
Gas generating	252,869.32
Gas mains	655,083.52
Holders	655,083.52
Mains	2,857,803.28
Service	815,823.70
Meters	965,980.57
Commercial arc equipment	104,662.70
Tools	22,306.69
Printing plant	1,198.00
Transportation equipment	46,029.73
Office fixtures and furniture	16,742.70

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT PLAN

Tax on Vacant Land for the Water Mains Urged.

To require owners of vacant or improved property to pay an annual assessment or tax to the city for the installation and maintenance of water mains in front of the property instead of paying the cost from water revenue is the plan of Will H. Daly, commissioner of public utilities and with this in view it is probable that a measure will be

ASSERT THAT WOMAN DID NOT RECEIVE PAY FOR HER SERVICES

Woman Taken Away From Portland Residence by Authorities.

Elizabeth Larson, 55 years old, was yesterday taken from the home and custody of Miss Marie Paige, at Parkrose near Sandy road, by direction of the district attorney's office because of alleged peonage, covering a period of 16 years. Miss Larson is now at the home of Mrs. O. Tollison, 71 Russell street.

It is alleged that Miss Larson has been held in practical bondage by the Paige family ever since coming to America. They have been living in Portland for the past four years, coming to this city from Fargo, N. D., bringing the Larson woman as a servant. The circumstances surrounding her work at the Paige home were first investigated by the Associated Charities and then taken up by the Sons of Norway. More recently a committee composed of representative Norwegian-Americans has been working on the case.

The culmination of the affair came yesterday when Deputy Sheriff Curtis and Lumsden, accompanied by Emil Sivorp, a local attorney, visited the Paige home and took possession of the woman.

H. J. Langos, editor of the Pacific Scandinavian, who has taken a prominent part in the investigations, in speaking of the case this morning, said: "Miss Larson came originally to this country from Sogn, Norway, an older brother preceding her to North Dakota. A place was procured for her in Fargo by a girl friend. She started to work for the Paige family at \$2 per week, which at this time was a customary rate for domestic servants. At first she got part of her money, but was afterwards told that no fixed salary was possible and that she would be paid from time to time. From that time on her work has been without remuneration."

"She is a woman of little education and her treatment has not improved her mental state. From the household work she was turned to farm labor as well. The elder Paige died four years ago and his widow and daughter moved to Portland, bringing the Larson woman with them."

"The fear that she would be taken to the 'crazy house' has always made her afraid either to leave or to accept assistance. Her hands and body show that she has been subjected to severe tasks. She is in Mrs. Tollison's charge now and when she becomes rested some action will be taken to find her a home."

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HEARING COMMENCED IN INTERSTATE RATE CASES IN PORTLAND

Leo J. Flynn, Attorney and Special Examiner, Appears for Commerce Commission.

Before Leo J. Flynn, attorney and special examiner for the interstate commerce commission of Washington, D. C., a hearing was held in the offices of the state railroad commission building this morning on three interstate rate cases of interest to shippers of this state.

The cases heard were those of the Northwest Fruit Exchange against the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation company on the question of rates on green fruit from points in Idaho, Oregon and Utah to eastern destinations; Mitchell, Lewis & Staver company complainants against the Southern Pacific and Dallas Lumber & Logging company of Dallas, Or., against the Southern Pacific.

The fruit growers contended that a recent through rate ruling of the railroad demanding that through shipments for points east of the Mississippi must be routed east of Denver over the Union Pacific route was unjust to shippers because it would not permit diversion of cars en route. The railroad, on the other hand, thinks their ruling is eminently just, saying that the company should have the benefit of the long haul over its own lines.

Mitchell, Lewis & Staver as complainants asked for reparation in the case of rates on weeders from Ventura, Calif., to Portland over the Southern Pacific. The railroad contended that the present rates were water compelled, because of steamship competition and therefore exceedingly low. Joseph N. Teal and William N. McCulloch represented the local firm, the latter appearing before Examiner Flynn. William D. Fenton and Ben C. Day were counsel for the railroad.

James Hill, traffic manager for Mitchell, Lewis & Staver, offered testimony, while W. N. Gray, rate expert, appeared for the railroad.

The same attorneys appeared in the Dallas lumber reparation case. George Gerlinger, president and general manager of the company, gave testimony to the effect that his company received an unjust rate on four carloads of lumber shipped from Dallas to Weed, Calif., last March. F. G. Donaldson, traffic manager of the West Coast Lumber Manufacturers' association, also testified for the Dallas concern.

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HEARTY WELCOME TO BE EXTENDED CHIEFS OF GREAT NORTHERN

Banquet With Men From All Parts of State to Be Tendered Hills and Hannaford.

All Oregon will bid welcome to James J. Hill, "empire builder," and John M. Hannaford, new president of the Northern Pacific, when the special train of railway magnates pulls into Portland Saturday afternoon. At the depot to greet the visitors will be a special committee of commercial club and a reception will be held in the green room of the club.

After the reception, which will be strictly informal, a banquet will be held. This will be a \$2 a plate affair, and already reservations have been sent in from nearly every section of the state. E. E. Piper will be toastmaster, and Mr. Hill will be the chief speaker, though the others of the visiting party are expected also to make addresses.

This reception committee was appointed today to convey the railroad men from the depot. Theodore E. Will Campbell, H. R. Albree, Julius L. Meler, Walter F. Burrall, J. H. Young, president of the North Bank road; A. C. Charlton of the Northern Pacific; A. C. Sheldon of the Burlington; William Harder of the Great Northern; J. P. O'Brien of the O-W R. & N.; D. W. Campbell of the Southern Pacific; President A. H. Averill of the Chamber of Commerce; F. C. Riggs, E. B. Piper and G. F. Johnson.

The exact time of arrival of the visitors is not yet known, though present plans are that it will leave Tacoma at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, which would bring it into Portland about 3 p. m. It may be as late as 5 o'clock, however, before the visitors arrive. Today the party is at Vancouver, B. C.

In the party are L. W. Hill, son of the veteran magnate; George F. Baker, president of the First National Bank of New York; George B. Harris, chairman of the Burlington board of directors; R. A. Jackson, vice president of the Great Northern; in addition to other railroad men, attorneys and financiers.

Despite numerous rumors, revived in some quarters whenever any of the Hills come to Portland, the specific mission of the venerable railroad builder is not known. Among the revived rumors is one that the Hill lines are to be extended into California from the present terminus of the Oregon Trunk at Bend, for which surveys are said to have been made. The opinion among Portland railway men, however, is that the two Hills are plotting Mr. Hannaford over the lines over which he has control. Mr. Hannaford has not been so far west since his election as president. They are also showing the properties to the eastern financiers for purposes of demonstrating the value of their investments.

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NEIGHBOR SHOOTS BOY INSTEAD OF BURGLAR

Lad Pokes Head Out of Window to See Commotion; Injury Slight.

Fifteen-year-old Walter Cunningham raised a window in his bathroom and looked out to ascertain the cause of a commotion at an early hour this morning, and at the same moment Anton Burkhart, a neighbor, fired a shotgun at the boy, who he supposed was a burglar. One of the shots struck young Cunningham in the neck. The wound is not serious. The assistant city physician removed the shot.

Burkhart is a scavenger, living at 1028 East Twenty-fifth street. He was attracted by a noise between his house and that occupied by the Cunningham family, and saw someone fumbling at a window. Taking his shotgun, he fired one shot, and then ran around the building to capture the supposed burglar.

The police were called and found W. W. Gibbs, who lives in that neighborhood, walking down the street. He was taken into custody on a charge of being intoxicated. The best information he was able to give was that he thought was at his own home. In the municipal court this morning, Gibbs entered a plea of guilty and was given another chance to quit drinking.

Demurrer Overruled in Disbarment. Circuit Judge Davis this morning overruled a demurrer interposed by Attorneys Booth and Richardson, representing A. E. Hooker, to the petition asking that Hooker be cited to show cause why he should not be disbarred.

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