

## KNOWLEDGE LACKING REGARDING AMOUNT OF DELINQUENT TAXES

Condition as Affecting City Brought to Attention of Councilmen.

### NEW PLAN IS SUGGESTED

Treasurer Says Books Contain This Information But That It Is Not Readily Accessible at Present.

No one at the city hall knows the amount of delinquent property assessments due the city.

No one knows on which particular properties the assessments and the interest have not been paid.

The chief thing that the city officials know is that the city's bonded and assessment indebtedness for public improvements, such as street and sewer work, is about \$15,000,000 and the city has to levy taxes to raise money to advance the payment for delinquent interest on various property assessments. The city is advancing, out of the taxpayers' pockets, hundreds of thousands of dollars for this purpose.

**Attention Is Called.** This condition of affairs was brought to attention the other day when the council asked City Treasurer William Adams for the amount of property assessments and interest now due the city. He said he did not know and that it would take several weeks' work to find out.

City Treasurer Adams says that the city has all this information in its books, but to date nothing has been done to make it available for ready use. He told the council that it would be necessary to check through the 53 books in the auditor's office to get the information desired. Two men have been put to work to do this and it will take them several weeks.

Once a year the auditor's office goes through those books and makes a list of the assessments and interest payments due, but the information is not kept up and available.

**New Plan Suggested.** The city treasurer has suggested to the council that a "control ledger" be installed, either in his office or the auditor's office. This ledger, he said, should contain in detail all the information about the city's financial condition that now requires weeks of effort to compile. He says such a ledger could be kept up so that definite information as to the amount of money due the city on current assessments, the financial standing of the various improvement districts, and other similar information needed by the city in a business-like conduct of affairs, would be always available.

Until City Auditor Harbur returns no action is to be taken by the council on Mr. Adams' recommendation.

### MONEY MAY BE TIED UP

Opening of East Broadway Street Is Involved.

The proposed opening of East Broadway street from Sandy boulevard to within a short distance of East Forty-fifth street, may run against a snag in the form of objections by two members of the city council.

This developed at today's meeting of the council when Mayor Albee and Commissioner Daly expressed doubt about whether the city will be justified in advancing the \$10,520.60 estimated to be necessary to acquire the right of way for the proposed street. They pointed out that the money, through probable litigation over the proposed opening, might be tied up for an indefinite time, while the final outcome would be uncertain.

An ordinance making an appropriation of the amount estimated was introduced by Commissioner Dick and read the first and second times. It likely will come up for final action at the next meeting of the council.

This is the first attempt made by the city to open a street under the new method known as the additional method. Proceedings were started last February. A remonstrance was filed, but did not include 60 per cent of the property involved as required under this method, so was overruled. The movement to open the street has now reached the stage where it is necessary for the city to advance the money to acquire the right of way. This money is to be returned when the

work is completed and the improvement assessments are collected.

Under the old method the city advanced no money, but a very small remonstrance could block the improvement so there was no hope of getting the street opened by that means.

Commissioner Brewster suggested that this would be a good time to test the validity of the new method in the courts if any of the property owners whose property would be condemned for right of way wanted to fight the proceedings. However, it was the fear of this, which would result in tying up the city's money, that caused Mayor Albee and Commissioner Daly to express doubt about proceeding further.

### CITY SHOPS BEING MOVED

Building at East First and Madison Being Vacated.

The city is today moving its municipal shops and garage from East First and Madison streets to Fourth and Market, where the city garage will be, and to the foot of East Washington, where the shops will be. City Purchasing Agent Wood said that by having the city garage near the city hall a close watch could now be kept on the use of city automobiles and that the use of the machines for private purposes or pleasure could largely be stopped even if nothing further was done with the suggestion, made some time ago, that the city brand its machines with prominent letters.

### METER CONTRACTS AWARDED

Jobs for 800 Meters Between Four Companies.

Contracts were awarded today by the city council, on recommendation of Commissioner Daly, for 800 water meters at an aggregate cost of \$38,650. The awards were divided among four companies, as follows: Worthington Meter company, 350 five-eighths inch meters, \$5.80 each, or \$2,030; Hersey Meter company, 250 five-eighths inch meters, \$5.92 each, or \$1,480; Badger Meter company, 50 five-eighths inch meters, \$5.89 each, or \$2,945; National Meter company, 25 four-fourths inch meters, \$10 each, or \$2,500. Commissioner Daly said these were the lowest prices ever paid by the city for water meters.

### Will Repair Union Avenue Bridge.

The council passed an ordinance this morning appropriating \$11,193 for repairing the deck of the Union avenue bridge over Sullivan's gulch. Commissioner Dick submitted a letter from the Portland Railway, Light & Power company, in which the company agreed to bear \$14,000 of the cost including the cost of taking up and relaying lighter rails as desired by the city. Commissioner Daly objected to this division of the cost, saying that the company should bear a greater portion of the cost of relaying the wood block paving. The city is proportioning the cost is to be fought out later.

### May Abandon Scheme.

It has been discovered by Commissioner Brewster that the city is tied up with a lease for the building at Second and Salmon, occupied by the municipal free employment bureau, until October 1, 1915, so Mayor Albee's scheme to move the free employment bureau to Second and Burnside streets in order to cooperate with W. Margulis in establishing a coffee house in the old hotel house will probably have to be abandoned.

### Speakers Oppose Prohibition Move

William Hanley, Mrs. Abigail Scott Duniway and Father Murphy Take Sides at Proposed Amendment.

Statewide prohibition came in for a number of hard knocks at the hands of William Hanley, Progressive candidate for the United States senate; Mrs. Abigail Scott Duniway and the Rev. Father E. P. Murphy yesterday at the luncheon of the Taxpayers' and Wage Earners' league held at the Portland hotel. Edward A. Cantrell president of the league, presided.

Infringement of personal liberty was the chief ground upon which the speakers attacked prohibition. Mrs. Duniway, exhorted her hearers to bring 10 "wet" votes apiece to the polls while Father Murphy spoke in favor of regulation and not prohibition. "Liquors are for us to use; not to abuse," he said, "and it is the abuse that we must fight."

"I am neither 'sloppy wet' nor 'dourly dry,'" said Bill Hanley. As protest against "freak" legislation, because of its infringement of personal liberty, making added burdens of taxation and throwing wage earners out of employment, those present at the luncheon adopted a resolution "covenanting" themselves to fight against "freak" legislation and to vote so as to maintain "our present industrial conditions."

## LIGHTNER IS CENTRAL FIGURE IN HEARING IN INQUIRY IN COUNTY

Statement Made That Figures Show Court House Architect Paid Excessively.

### COMMISSIONER CONFUSED

New Light Thrown on Method of Constructing County Business at Joint Inquiry This Morning.

County Commissioner W. L. Lightner spent two hours of discomfort at this morning's hearing called by the Taxpayers' and Nonpartisan leagues for investigation of county business administration.

George C. Mason, manager of the Nonpartisan league, asserted that, according to figures obtained from the county auditor, the net cost of the county courthouse was \$151,077, that the architect's fee was to be 5 per cent or \$7,553.81, that the amount actually paid was \$81,500, or approximately \$69,000 more than 5 per cent. William M. Whidden of the firm of Whidden & Lewis had refused to surrender the plans and specifications to Mason though he bore the authority to obtain them, consisting of a letter from the county commissioners.

Lightner was immediately confused. "I said if you were going into that court house business I wanted Whidden here and Whidden is out of town," he exclaimed.

"Whidden is in the city," retorted Mason and he refused to give up the plans and specifications.

**Answer Not forthcoming.** Mr. Lightner was unable to answer a question as to why the plans when paid for by the county were not the property and in the possession of the county.

"That's one of the things I have been trying to find out and I'll be right back," Whidden would make when reached by telephone.

Another feature of discomfort for Commissioner Lightner was the appearance of insurance Commissioner Ferguson.

Lightner said yesterday that he opposed the adoption and operation of an administrative code for departments under the county commission because the insurance commissioner was charged with responsibility for furnishing administrative methods.

The insurance commissioner appeared at the hearing and testified that the kind of administrative code to be used by the county commission was a matter of indifference to him; that he had supplied forms to the county treasurer and auditor for monthly reports, and that was all he expected, or was required by law to do.

"I said to anyone who asked that I neither approved nor disapproved the Sands system," he said, referring to the code that has been a year's subject of dispute between himself and Commissioner Holman. "They shouldn't shift responsibility to me," he continued, complaining of the county commissioners who have said they would have no code except the insurance commission's.

**Lightner Opposed Code.** The administrative code as formulated by Herbert R. Sands, expert of the New York Bureau of Municipal Research, was adopted over Lightner's negative vote about a year ago. With the exception of two or three departments it has never been used. The measure was adopted over Lightner's explanation for his opposition.

The third feature of discomfort for Commissioner Lightner was in the evidence given by John B. Yeon, roadmaster.

Yesterday Lightner testified that never before in its history had the road department been so disorganized and that one of the greatest mistakes in it had been the appointment of R. G. McMullen, Mr. Yeon's assistant. Mr. Yeon this morning made personal appearance, submitting detailed reports showing orderly and efficient progress on all road work, saying he got weekly reports covering every detail, but that the county commission had never asked them of him, or asked him to install a reporting system.

**Surveys Are Ignored.** Lightner had said surveys were made on the Skyline boulevard and

Sauvies island, ignoring surveys already made. McMullen testified that these surveys were used in resurveys necessary to eliminate curvatures. Lightner had called attention to an item reported by the roadmaster of "redressing" Germantown road. The roadmaster explained that the expression should have been "repaired," then turned to Lightner.

"Why do you keep these things up your sleeve to hurt someone, when they really reflect most on me?" he questioned. "Wouldn't it have shown the proper degree of cooperation and been much nicer if you had just come to me, instead of keeping these things until you thought you could spring them on someone?"

Words were exchanged by Commissioner Holman and County Auditor Martin, the former accusing the latter of failure to answer his letters or give information.

### \$40,000 Saving Shows.

"You can get information any time you come after it," said Martin.

"I can't, either. It's all a policy of saving up things to get it on me that I'll make a failure of it," all hide-around-the-corner method at the courthouse," retorted Holman.

Lightner said he was satisfied with the system of lack of accounting in county departments, and referred to Commissioner Holman as a "young man" who had made trouble with his measvles since he had gotten into office a year ago.

Among other things Roadmaster Yeon showed that Multnomah county road methods have resulted in a saving of \$40,000 in the construction of the Columbia highway, compared with Columbia county. Commissioner Lightner said he had no fault to find with this highway.

### Fire Almost Traps Father and Baby

Prineville Hotel, Postoffice and Phone Office Burnt; N. T. Towne and Infant Rescued.

Prineville, Or., Aug. 7.—The hotel and store of N. T. Towne, including the postoffice and pioneer telephone office were burned at Lamonts late last night. Origin of fire is unknown.

Frank Towne, his wife and infant were sleeping in the second story and were cut off by the flames. Mrs. Towne escaped through a window, but the husband with the baby attempted to escape by the stairway and were both badly burned, but will live.

In descending the stairs they were overcome and fell to the bottom. They only statement was "Whidden would make when reached by telephone."

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## MRS. WILSON'S DEATH COMES AS SHOCK TO PEOPLE OF PORTLAND

Flags of City Half Masted as Badge of Respect to the Memory of First Lady.

### CONDOLENCES ARE WIRED

Practically All Organizations of City Will Express Sorrow at Next Meetings.

With flags at half mast throughout the city, Portland is today wearing a badge of mourning in respect to the memory of Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, wife of the president, who died at Washington yesterday.

The news of Mrs. Wilson's death came as a great shock, and expressions of the deepest sympathy for President Wilson in the hour of his bereavement are heard on every side.

Scores of personal messages of condolence have been sent by Portlanders, government officials and others, and it is expected that practically all of the organizations of the city will express their sorrow in some form or another at their next meetings.

The Jackson club, the leading Democratic organization of the city, will take formal action at its meeting tonight.

The Rev. S. R. Hawkins, pastor of the Central Christian church, and president of the Portland Ministerial Federation, wired President Wilson as follows this morning:

"On behalf of the ministers of all churches of Portland, we wish to express to you our deepest and most sincere sympathy in your great bereavement."

Although the federation has postponed its meetings until September, Mr. Hawkins sent the telegram on his own initiative.

Collector of Customs Thomas C. Burke was notified by the treasury department last night to keep all flags at half mast until after the funeral.

Speaking of Mrs. Wilson's death this morning, Collector Burke said: "It is a great blow to fall on the president's shoulders, and more especially so when he is faced with the necessity of preserving this country's

## Fire Breaks Out in Journal Basement

Early Morning Blaze Melts Rollers, But Big Presses Unharmed—Oregonian Pressmen Give Aid.

Fire of unknown origin broke out in the basement of The Journal building at 6:15 o'clock this morning. The blaze, which spread to a quantity of paper, was brought under control before any damage was done to the presses. The intense heat melted the rollers on the upper decks of the three big presses and a supply of paper stored in the basement was damaged by water.

The total damage is estimated at between \$3000 and \$4000, fully covered by insurance.

The fire was discovered by newsboys who notified Engine company No. 1. Chief Laudonkios and crew of 18 men had difficulty in getting into the basement because of the thick volume of smoke and the intense heat. They finally lowered the hose down through the elevator shaft.

Macdonald Potts, The Journal cashier, was at the building when the fire department arrived, and gave active assistance.

F. J. Cody, of the Commercial Fire Dispatch, notified F. C. Jackson of the fire and brought him from his home to The Journal building.

Pressmen of the Oregonian who were just reporting off duty, volunteered to help The Journal crew clear away the debris and get the presses in shape. Foreman H. A. Frederich, of the stereotypers' department, was told of the fire over the telephone and a stereotyper of the Oregonian. The Journal presses are running as usual this afternoon.

## Illinois Women May Come to Exposition

Mrs. J. Margaret Lawson, a Boise, Idaho, school teacher, is arranging for a personally conducted excursion next year of 50 or more young women from Illinois to the Pacific northwest and California. She called at the Commercial club this morning and asked for literature, souvenir buttons and general information.

The railroads are assisting her in arranging itineraries and schedules. If the excursion is given, the young women will spend at least two days in and around Portland and will go by boat from here to the exposition at San Francisco.

neutrality because of the European war, and the important matters now before congress."

## Mohammed's Piety Did Not Win Suit

Judge McGinn Finds in Favor of Peer Bokish in Action to Secure Partnership Accounting.

Notwithstanding the stress laid by Mohammed Din on his piety in his suit against Peer Bokish in Circuit Judge McGinn's court this morning, the latter was given a verdict.

Din sued Bokish for an accounting of an alleged partnership in a popcorn wagon at Second and Morrison streets. Bokish answered that Din did not own any interest in the wagon; that he had never accounted for money received and spent while he was employed by Bokish, and that he owed \$500 on a loan and \$150 on \$250 advanced as bail when Din was arrested on charges of embezzlement in the federal court.

The Koran was used in swearing in the witnesses, who were for the most part East Indians, and the swearing in process caused considerable trouble, as it was found that several religions of the orient were represented. After all of the evidence was in Judge McGinn said that he could not determine much from the evidence, but that the demeanor of Bokish and his witnesses led him to believe that Bokish was the nearest to right. The suit was dismissed.

### Germans to Raise Funds.

Los Angeles, Aug. 7.—Southern California German-Americans announced a mass meeting tonight to raise funds to care for families of reservists who have gone to join their regiments in Germany.

## Store Open Saturday Night Until 9:30

The Holtz Store—Fifth and Washington—The Holtz Store

## HOLTZ Selling Out

\$1.98 Children's Dresses 79c

A nice lot of Little Girls' Dresses, made of good cotton materials, nicely trimmed and finished, sizes 2 to 6 years, values up to \$1.98, on sale tomorrow, Saturday, while they last, less than half. Choice at 79c

98c Children's Dresses at 29c

Another lot of Dresses of the quality sold regularly at 75c to 98c go in this great clean-up sale at 29c

\$1.25 Mocha Gloves at 49c

200 pairs of Women's White Mocha Gloves, one-button style, in sizes from 5½ to 7½. Regular \$1.25 grade. None to be fitted and none exchanged at this closing-out price, the pair 49c

\$3.50 Gloves at \$1.69

For Saturday only we offer a limited number of pairs of Women's Washable Chamomile Gloves in 16-button length, sizes 5½ to 7½. \$3.50 grade \$1.69

\$1.50 Baby Shoes 50c

Infants' Shoes and Slippers, sizes 2 to 5, the grade sold regularly at \$1.00 to \$1.50 a pr., tomorrow at 50c

Baby Shoes, sizes 6 to 8, \$1.50 val. 75c

Men's 75c Neckties 49c

Men's Pure Silk Neckties in flowing end and reversible styles; new black and white stripe effects; Persians, tangos and figured effects; many patterns and all desirable colors; usually 75c values, tomorrow 49c

50c Bath Caps 25c

Pure Gum Rubber Bathing Caps, 50c values now on sale at, each, only 25c

25c Peroxide Tooth Paste on sale at, tube 12c

30c Toilet Soap 20c

Jergens' Carnation Toilet Soap, 3 cakes in a box, with Turkish Wash Rags, go regular 30c value, at 20c

Spool Cotton 1c

Pennant and Veribest Black Thread on sale at 1c

10c Black and White Boudoir Pins, 3 papers 10c

2 for 5c Beatal Hairpins 1c

5c Stocking Darners only 3c

2c to 5c Ironing Wax for 1c

18c Dustless Dusters for 10c

15c new short-length French Twist Hair Rolls go in this sale for only 10c

All Hair Goods to Go at Bargain Prices

Real German Hair Switches, All Being Closed Out

20-inch Wavy Switches are now priced at only 69c

26-inch Wavy Switches are now priced only \$1.49

30-inch Wavy Switches are now priced only \$1.98

36-inch Wavy Switches are now priced only \$3.79

A Perfect Match Guaranteed

Jelly Glasses at the Dozen 27c

50 dozen Jelly Glasses with bright tin covers, the kind sold regularly at 35c a dozen, in the Holtz Basement 27c

39c Pitchers 27c

Glass Syrup or Covered Cream Pitchers, with nickel-plated removable tops, perfectly sanitary; 39c val. 27c

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