

MUCH BUSINESS OF IMPORTANCE

City Council Held a Session Last Night of Interest and Concern to Taxpayers.

Hotels and Expressmen Precipitate a New Issue.

Objections to Building in Jane Street—Plumbing Ordinance Will Be Amended to Increase Its Efficiency—East End Hose House May Be Enlarged—Relating to Cesspools and Vaults—Gas and Electricity Franchise for Twenty-five Years.

Pendleton is the seat of war. For the past few days it has been the grocers, and now it is the hotel men who are hostile. At the meeting of the council last night the entire hotel proprietorship of the city, and a large number of the hackmen were present to state their cases to the council.

'Bus Privileges.

For some time past the 'bus of the Hotel Bickers has been standing on the property of the O. R. & N., and it being deemed dangerous by the company, was ordered to move. Mr. Bickers, considering that he had the oldest house in the city, and that his house had driven the first 'bus to the depot, where it had had the first place, ordered his man to take the first position nearest the depot. Then the trouble began. The other hotel men wanted their old positions.

Things were straightened out to a certain extent when the expressmen butted in. They claimed that as they paid licenses to the city they were entitled to the best positions, and took the places formerly occupied by the 'buses. A clash took place at the train last night, and the city marshal threw the hacks out and put the 'buses in, and all appeared at the council meeting to have a heart-to-heart talk with the city fathers. Mr. Bickers put the thing on a business footing by offering \$100 a year for the position recently occupied by his 'bus, and the council passed it up to the street committee, which will award the plum.

Wants to Build in the Street.

A petition was presented to the council, signed by a number of the residents of the west end, asking that J. W. Sewell be restrained from building a house in Jane street. The matter was discussed and referred to the street committee. The street in question, with others lying north and south between the tracks of the W. & C. R. and the O. R. & N., in that part of town, was closed as a thoroughfare on June 29, 1902, when the franchise was given to the W. & C. R. There is now some talk of opening one or two of the streets, as those who wish to cross in that neighborhood must go six blocks around to find a crossing.

Plumbing Ordinance.

The long looked for plumbing ordinance was introduced and required about half an hour to read. It was decided that there was a little which the council could cut out, and it was sent back to the ordinance committee for a little fixing, and the council will meet in special session Friday night to pass upon the completed document. There is great need that the law go into effect as soon as possible, as a great deal of the plumbing now being done is not sanitary, and will have to be changed when the inspector is appointed. The council wishes to do away with the complications which will arise as a result of this.

Want Hose House Enlarged.

A committee from the hose company in the east end, was present and asked that their hose house be enlarged to afford a meeting place for the company. In the absence of such a place the members of the company are compelled to come to the city hall on their meeting nights. The matter was referred to the fire committee.

Relating to Cesspools and Vaults.

Sewer Inspector Withee reported that a number of those who had put in sewer connections had filled in the old cesspools and privy vaults without cleaning or deodorizing them, and wished instructions on the subject. He was ordered to see that all such places were either cleaned or deodorized with lime before allowing them to be filled in.

Scheme to Advertise.

F. C. Welch and D. F. Carnes, of the Pacific Homestead of Salem, spoke to the council. They wished to secure the co-operation of the council in arranging a two-page write-up of the city for a special number of their paper. The matter

was referred to J. R. Dickson, who will present it to the next meeting of the Commercial Association.

Gas and Electricity Franchise.

An ordinance was introduced giving to the Northwestern Gas and Electric Company a franchise for a period of 25 years. The company offers to furnish gas at a rate of \$2 per 1,000 cubic feet for fuel purposes, \$2.25 for fuel and light, and \$2.50 for light alone.

In return for the franchise the company offers to pay into the treasury each of the second five years of the contract \$200; \$300 in each year in the third five; \$100 during the fourth five, and \$500 during the last five years of the franchise. The ordinance was referred to the ordinance committee for consideration.

MEXICO'S NEW TARIFF.

High Protection Policy Goes Into Effect Today.

City of Mexico, March 31.—During the last week or so the custom houses of Mexico have had the busiest period of their existence owing to the rush of importers to get their goods through before the new tariff laws become effective tomorrow.

The new schedule is designed to protect growing manufactures of the republic, and the imports from the United States are expected to drop off considerably owing to the increased duties. For instance, the duty has been raised on machinery, dry goods, vehicles, clothing, iron, telegraph poles, belting, railroad rails, structural iron and steel, bottles and mirrors. Steel rails, hitherto free, will pay a duty of \$10 per metric ton, and leather belting will pay 50 cents per kilogram, against one cent formerly. Other commodities on which a prohibitive tariff has been placed are Virginia tobacco and fencing wire.

ORGANIZATION OF GROCERYMEN

PRINCIPAL OBJECT ECONOMY IN BUYING.

Selling Prices Will Be Agreed to Only as to a Few Staples—The Officers Were Selected From Different Points Throughout the County—Every Dealer in the County Expected to Join.

Representatives of the grocery firms of the entire county met last night in the office of Hailey & Lowell and perfected a grocers' organization. Men from Weston, Athena, Milton and Echo were at the meeting last night, besides the Pendleton representation, and a permanent organization was effected. J. B. Despain was elected president, Charles Rohrman vice-president, D. P. Smythe secretary, and Sam Cully, of Weston, treasurer.

A committee was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws for the organization, which will be sent to the different parties throughout the county, who have signified their intention of joining the order, for their signatures.

The purposes of the order are mutual advantage and profit. They will do their buying on a large scale and will thus be able to secure discounts which a single buyer could not get.

On baking powder, for instance, by ordering a 50-barrel shipment the company will allow a 17 per cent discount. This will not of necessity be of any advantage to the consumer, though it may be. The prices of the buyer will not be regulated by the association unless in a few cases and on staple goods.

MELLMAN IS BLUFFING.

Electric Road Promoter is Making a Play to Sell His Water Rights to Electric Light Company.

"Mellman will never build his electric road from Pendleton to Dayton," said a prominent business man from Milton to the East Oregonian today.

"He is just running a bluff, in hopes of selling his water rights on the Tukon and the Walla Walla rivers to the Northwestern Gas and Electric Company of Walla Walla and Pendleton. This company is now making arrangements for the installation of one of the biggest and most complete electric light and power plants in the Northwest on power plants in the Northwest on power plants by making a stir in the electric road scheme at this time, to force the Northwestern people to buy his water rights, or pay him a bonus to shut up."

"No; there is no prospect of riding in electric cars from Milton to Pendleton this fall."

The Pullman Company has decided to rebuild all old cars and make all new ones severely simple in furnishings and style, to do away with the accumulation of dust and microbes. All medical authorities have declared against the present style.

SIX WERE KILLED BY AN EXPLOSION

Extensive Fireworks Factory Destroyed Near Scranton, Pennsylvania.

THIRTY-ONE WERE MORE OR LESS BADLY INJURED.

Dangerous and Threatening Fire is Now Raging—Cause of Fire Probably Friction of Machinery—Nearly All the Victims, Both Killed and Injured, Are Girls—Immense Quantities of Explosives and Other Property in Danger.

Scranton, Pa., March 31.—Twenty-five girls lost their lives this morning by an explosion and fire in Dixon's squib factory, at Perceburg, four miles from this city. Two bodies were found two blocks from the scene and dozens of girls were badly wounded.

List of Fatalities.

Scranton, Pa., March 31.—Six persons were killed and five injured, some fatally, in the terrific explosion in the Dixon Squib Company's factory at Priceburg at 11 this morning. Five of the dead are girls, the other a boy. All the bodies were removed from the ruins, which afterwards took fire.

The dead are Laura Matthews, Bessie Lewis, Lizzie Mahon, Lizzie Bray, Mary Callahan. The cause of the explosion is unknown, but is believed to have been ignition of explosives from friction.

At this hour, 1:30, the fire department and a large force of volunteers is engaged in preventing a spread of the flames to the storage cellars and towers of the works, where 18 tons of powder, 12 tons of dynamite and upwards of 90 tons of manufactured products are kept. Should their efforts not be successful, the entire town of Priceburg and much valuable railroad property is in danger.

Later—Thirty-one persons, most of whom were girls, were more or less injured.

CLEVELAND TRUST ASSIGNS.

Cause, a Defalcation for an Unknown Amount.

Cleveland, O., March 31.—The federal Trust Company assigned this morning. It has deposits amounting to \$800,000. An assignment was decided because Secretary-Treasurer Clowell is out of the city and the officers are unable to locate him or understand his absence.

Due to Defalcation.

Cleveland, March 31.—It has been ascertained that the missing official of the Federal Trust Company is a defaulter, but the amount is not given.

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT.

Everett Buckingham Will Succeed E. E. Calvin on the Oregon Short Line.

Salt Lake, March 31.—It is officially announced as effective tomorrow, that Everett Buckingham, superintendent of transportation of the Union Pacific, has been appointed general superintendent of the Oregon Short Line, succeeding E. E. Calvin, and the office of assistant manager will be abolished.

Habeas Corpus for Marx.

Chicago, March 31.—Judge Chytrous this morning issued a writ of habeas corpus returnable Monday, in the case of Marx, the carbarner. His counsel allege error in sentencing the bandits, as the date conflicts with the statutes, being two days over the time allowed, and also errors in the clerk's records. A big legal fight is on.

The Pettingill Advertising Agency which recently failed in Boston, has been declared legally bankrupt. Liabilities, \$1,000,000; assets, \$250,000. The firm was founded in 1848.

RUSSIAN PAPERS ROAST AMERICA

Trying to Develop an Entente Cordiale Between Russia and England.

POLITICAL PRISONERS REFUSE TO ENTER ARMY.

Were Offered Pardons as the Price of Voluntary Enlistments—Small-pox Rages in Irkutsk Province—Russians Fled Precipitately From Chong Ju—Immense Quantities of English Coal Going to Japan—Discipline at Port Arthur.

St. Petersburg, March 31.—The Novosti today graphically describes Port Arthur as a place markedly changed. Trains from the city are filled with fugitives and the military are almost the only persons left at the port, which resembles a city of the dead.

General Stoessel has ordered all shops to remain open during the bombardment.

The newspapers of Russia continue to praise England and attack America, taking statements of witnesses of the Chemulpo battle as a text. The British captain threatened to fire if the Japanese pursued the sinking Russian vessels for the purpose of destroying them in the inner harbor. The American ship Vicksburg alone refused to act the humane part due from a commander of sound mind and morals.

Do Not Want Clemency.

Berlin, March 31.—The Vossische Zeitung reports that the offer of clemency to pardon any political prisoner who would volunteer, has not been accepted in a single instance.

Smallpox at Irkutsk.

London, March 31.—An eastern correspondent of the Gazette, reports an increase of smallpox epidemic in the province of Irkutsk. Thirty per cent of the population of Matchae is infected.

Russians Fled Hastily.

A correspondent of the Central News at Rome telegraphs that Seoul advices state that General Mischenko, the Russian commander in the Chong Ju fight, narrowly escaped capture by the Japanese. The Russians left many sabres and rifles behind in their flight.

English Coal to Japan.

Liverpool, March 31.—It is reported that an English firm is sending 100,000 tons of coal, ostensibly to China, but really to Japan, at 25 shillings per ton.

Shoot to Kill.

St. Petersburg, March 31.—General Stoessel, commander at Port Arthur, has ordered sentinels to shoot to kill all unauthorized persons approaching the fortifications and batteries.

Admiral Makaroff's reply to congratulations by the commander of the Black Sea fleet, states that Lieutenant Krinske, commander of the torpedo boat destroyer Stini, is the real hero to be honored for repelling the Japanese attack.

The ice breaker Ermack has arrived at Kronstadt.

Troops for Canada.

Halifax, March 31.—The military authorities are expecting that 10 regiments of the line will next month be stationed in Canada in the event of certain developments in the Far East.

New District Attorney.

Washington, March 31.—It has been decided to appoint Cyril Baxter of Omaha, United States district attorney of Nebraska, vice Summers.

Francis B. Wright, who misappropriated \$30,000 of the funds of the bank of which he was cashier at Dundee, Ill., has been sent to the penitentiary for five years. It will be noted that it was funds of the bank which he stole; not the funds of scattered outsiders.

FEAST OF PASSOVER.

Jewish Easter is Now in Effect—Methods of Observance.

New York, March 31.—Sundown this evening marks the beginning of the Feast of the Passover. It is the Jewish Easter, according to the Hebrew chronology, and is observed by all branches of the faith, the reformed section abbreviating the season of unleavened bread to seven days, and being less strict as to the fulfillment of the ancient traditions. The initial services of the feast are in the homes of the worshippers, after a season in the synagogue. Services are held in the synagogues the first two and the last two days of the feast.

The method varies according to the beliefs of each congregation. The unleavened bread is made of flour and water and usually in the form of thin wafers. It was the old custom in Jerusalem to bake the matzoth in the sun. There is no rule as to meats or vegetables, but nothing of liquors, save wine, is permitted.

Kansas Socialists.

Wichita, Kas., March 31.—The socialists of Kansas assembled in convention here today with delegates present from many parts of the state. The convention will nominate a full state ticket and perfect plans for waging an active campaign.

Chicago Grain.

Chicago, March 31.—May wheat opened \$6, closed \$5 1/4; old July opened \$9 1/4, closed \$9 1/4; new July opened \$8, closed \$7 1/4. July corn opened \$3 1/4, closed the same.

Trust Company Failure.

Boston, March 31.—The United Trust Company closed its doors this morning. Capital, \$100,000; deposits, \$1,500,000. It is a state institution.

AMENDED BILL IN GRAVE PERIL

LEWIS AND CLARK FAIR APPROPRIATION NOT SURE

Bill Has Been Cut Down, Amended, Squeezed Out and Buffeted Owing to Lack of Harmony Between President and Oregon Delegation—Will Now Come Up for Passage on Monday Under Suspension.

Owing to the lack of influence of the Oregon delegation in congress, the Lewis and Clark fair bill has been cut down, squeezed out, amended, postponed and buffeted through congress, until there are now grave doubts about its passing even in its present amended form, carrying but \$450,000 instead of over \$1,000,000, as presented in the senate.

It will now come up for final consideration in the house on Monday, having been laid over from Wednesday on account of a light attendance at the session. Under the rules it will come up for hearing under suspension, when it will be necessary to muster a two-thirds majority to pass it.

A special from Washington says that the general disagreement and friction between the Oregon delegation and the president is working against the bill, as against all other legislation intended to help Oregon.

There has been little headway made for any Oregon legislation in the house during this session of congress, owing to the election of Mr. Williamson, who is a new member and out of touch with the legislation that has been under progress for the past four years.

LOG DRIVE STOPPED.

Perry Lumber Company Forced to Postpone Spring Drive on Account of Low Water.

While the creeks and river in Umatilla county are full to overflowing, the water in Grand Ronde river is so low that the Perry Lumber Company has been forced to postpone their annual log drive until a few warm days in the high mountains, starts the snow to melting.

A large force of men had been sent to Starkey Prairie and Camp Carson, to begin the monster drive, about 20,000,000 feet of logs having been banked out, but the entire crew is idle, waiting for a rise in the river, before it will carry any portion of the drive.

To California on a Visit.

John F. Hill, of Helix, has sold his farm to his son, H. T. Hill, and will leave in a short time for Southern California, where he will visit. On his return he will come by the way of Spokane and Seattle. The farm will be managed in the future by the son.

It was a poor automobile bubble dot don't work both ways.

BUSINESS HOUSE ABLAZE AT NOON

Fire Started, Probably by a Candle, in the Attic of the Peoples Warehouse.

GREATEST DAMAGE DONE WAS BY SMOKE AND WATER.

Attic Was Undergoing Repairs to Make it Suitable for the Storage of New Goods, and Some Workman's Carelessness is Responsible—Extent of Damage Cannot Be Told at This Time, as There Was an Immense Amount of Goods on Hand—Insurance, \$45,000.

An alarm of fire was turned in from the Peoples Warehouse this afternoon at about 12:30 and when the department reached the scene it was discovered that the attic was ablaze. A line of hose was run into the upper story and after a determined struggle the fire was conquered, but not until an immense amount of damage had been done.

As much of the stock as could be, was covered with oilcloths and canvas, but the greater part of the goods stored in the front part of the building will be badly damaged by smoke and water.

Probable Origin a Candle.

The origin of the fire is not definitely known, but is supposed to have been caused by a candle left by one of the employes while at work in the attic. For several days the men have been at work putting a flooring on the rafters of the attic in order that a large amount of surplus stock could be stored away until it was needed in the store rooms below. As much of the work as could be, was done after night in order that electric light could be used, but owing to the necessity for room the men have been at work during the daytime, using candles to light them in their work. It is supposed that a candle was left burning when the workmen quit at noon.

Discovery of Fire.

Ed Eben discovered the fire during the noon hour, when smoke began to issue through the ceiling in one corner of the room. He immediately gave the alarm and by the time the firemen arrived the smoke was issuing from between the bricks of the upper story. The water used ran through the ceiling in streams, drenching and ruining everything in its path. A number of the clerks from the other stores, and citizens, did all in their power to cover the exposed stock and remove everything possible to a place of safety.

Extent of Damage Unknown.

Mr. Cohen cannot at this time estimate his loss. The stock was valued on March 8, and at that time there was \$57,000 worth of goods on the shelves. Since that time not a day has passed but that a large quantity of new goods has been received and stored away. The goods which were ordered by Mr. Cohen and Mrs. Clarke on their Eastern trip has been coming for several days, and a large part of it is in the store. How much is damaged is not at this time known, but at least half of the stock will be damaged to some extent, either by smoke or water.

The stock was insured for \$45,000.

TRAINLOAD OF TOBACCO.

Durham, N. C., Ships First Solid Trainload in History of Business.

For the first time in the history of the tobacco business a shipment has been made in one order, to one concern, of a solid train of manufactured smoking tobacco.

On March 1, the Norfolk & Western railroad started from Durham, N. C., a train consisting of 30 cars, all loaded with "Duke's Mixture," the entire lot of tobacco being a purchase made by Messrs. Sprague, Warner & Co., wholesale grocers, of Chicago, Illinois.

Durham, where this tobacco is manufactured, is the famous tobacco town situated in the golden tobacco belt of North Carolina. "Duke's Mixture" was named many years ago for Mr. J. B. Duke, the famous tobacco man, and its enormous growth has made it his pet, and the greatest care is exercised in its manufacture.

This shipment contains 2,800,000 single packages of tobacco, and would furnish each male adult in the United States with five smokes each, or one package to each of the soldiers of the standing armies of the United States, England, France, Germany, Italy, Austria and Russia.

This train has gone direct from Durham, N. C., to Chicago, Ill., and has attracted much attention en route.

PROHIBITION CONVENTION NOMINATES

Portland, March 31.—The state prohibition convention which has been in session here for two days, nominated the following state and congressional ticket last night:

Justice of the supreme court, C. J. Bright, of Sherman county; dairy and food commissioner, Ira W. Berry, Milton; representative to congress from the first district, R. W. Kelsey, of Yamhill county; second district, H. W. Stone, of Multnomah; joint senator Multnomah, Columbia and Washington counties, F. M. Kercher, Multnomah.

Presidential electors: T. H. Ames, Multnomah; W. P. Elmore, Linn; Leslie Butler, Wasco; and T. S. McDaniels, Multnomah.