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**EUGENE WANTS BETTER
TELEPHONE SERVICE**

Merchants Protective Association
Appoints a Committee to Con-
fer With the Company.

The citizens of Eugene appear to be getting a hard deal as the result of their loyalty to Pacific States Telephone Company as the following would indicate, which is a news dispatch to the Portland Journal from Eugene. "The Eugene Merchants' Protective Association has appointed a committee to confer with J. H. Thatcher, superintendent of the north-west lines of the Pacific States Telephone Company and demand a better telephone system for this city. Several months ago an improved system was installed, and it was expected that the service would be better, but instead it is alleged that it has gradually grown worse"

It was only this last December that these same business men signed a remonstrance to the granting of a franchise to an automatic telephone company and on their request the council would not allow the new company to put in their system of telephones in Eugene. To show their appreciation of having a monopoly of the telephone business of Eugene the Pacific States Company installed their much lauded central energy system in that town, but it has not proven the success that was claimed for it as the vigorous demand for a better system would indicate.

Should the Automatic company again apply for a franchise in Eugene the business men of that place will likely not be so straightforward as before and will allow the company to secure a franchise. And all is not serene and contentment in Ashland and Medford with the doings of the Pacific States Telephone Company in those towns as the following from the Medford Tribune would indicate: "The Ashland Tidings thinks the Pacific States Telephone Co. has considerable nerve in asking a franchise in that city drawn wholly in favor of the company, while said company is discriminating against Ashland in rates for house telephones. If the Tidings expects the Pacific States Telephone Co. to be anything but hoggish, they don't know the policy of that corporation."

And again: "The Pacific States Telephone Company has a kind of a plant in this city and the subscribers get a kind of a service, but it is of a very poor kind. It's all the fault of the company, not of the operators."

The automatic system is making a tremendous growth in the United States in the last two years. Indianapolis, a city larger than Portland, is entirely supplied by automatic telephones and there is not a Bell telephone in the city. Over 22,000 automatic telephones have been installed in Los Angeles during the past year and soon the Bells will be out of that progressive city. A company has secured the franchises and has commenced the installation of an automatic system that is to embrace San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley and all the other places about San Francisco bay. The company announces that they will spend \$4,000,000 on the work and will put all their wires in the business districts under ground.

A complete automatic telephone system is being installed in Portland and its suburbs and franchises have been secured in Salem and Albany for this system. In Seattle over 8000 automatic telephones have been installed in the last three months and this system is soon to be introduced in all the other Sound cities. Work is to be begun this Summer to put in a long distance system to extend from Seattle to Los Angeles and take in the entire Pacific Coast.

New Use for Copper.
"It is an ill wind that blows no one good." There is evidence forthcoming from the conflagration in San Francisco, such as will stimulate the demand for copper. Our friends who are engaged in mining the red metal will be interested to know that the offices in the Kobl building, one of the best, and in many respects the most modern in construction, of all the larger structures in San Francisco, was protected by copper. The doors, casings and bases, all the interior finish of the offices, together with window-sashes, are covered with sheet copper. The people who have offices in that building, above the sixth floor, have found their papers intact. This use of copper is comparatively recent and the evidence just quoted should do much to encourage the innovation.—Mining and Scientific Press.

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**THE ASHLAND FOREST
RESERVE ENLARGED**

For the Purpose of More Fully
Protecting the Watersheds
of Ashland Creek.

The Ashland forest reserve in Oregon has just been enlarged and the Vernon forest reserve in Utah created by proclamation of the president.

The expansion of the boundary of the Ashland reserve was made for the purpose of including more fully the watersheds of Ashland creek, which is the source of water supply for the city of Ashland and for a large territory of agricultural land in that vicinity. The reserve, which was originally established upon request of the common council and board of trade of the city of Ashland, presented in a memorial and petition to the president, includes a rough, mountainous tract, covered largely with timber of an inferior quality and a dense growth of underbrush needed as a protection cover to Ashland creek.

The narrow strip of country which has been added to it is of a similar character, consisting of a tract lying along the summit of a spur from the Siskiyou mountains, which has an average elevation of about 7200 feet, and culminates in one of the most prominent landmarks in Southern Oregon, known as Siskiyou peak, or Ashland Butte, which rises to a height of 8025 feet.

The tract is unfit for cultivation and has no settlements on it. As, however, it forms the watershed of various tributaries to Ashland creek, it is important to insure proper protection to its forest cover and to prevent the streams from being contaminated in any way. This will now be carefully attended to by the forest officer in charge of the reserve.

**METER FOR MEASURING
THE ATMOSPHERE**

The Next on the Program Will
Be the Manufacturing of
Wooden Suits.

It was scornfully said when the anti-monopoly agitation was started that the next thing monopoly would seek would be to make a commercial commodity of the air we breathe and that is being done. Compressed air has within the last few months been made into a commercial commodity. It is now being sold to consumers for so much a cubic foot, the same way as gas is sold. George Westinghouse, head of the Westinghouse Company, made this possible by putting on the market an "air meter," which measures air exactly as gas is measured. The capacity of a meter is 50,000 cubic feet an hour. It is expected that compressed air factories will shortly be established in large cities for the sale of air.

It will probably not be very long before we can go into one of the dry goods stores and say to the clerk, "Let me see what you have in the line of wooden suits," says the Technical World Magazine. He may reply, "Hard or Soft," whereupon it will be our part to specify that we want a suit of "good" pine, "without any cheap sapwood." Vests of this kind are already worn by the cardingroom foremen in some of the woolen mills. The material resembles a stiff, thick cloth and is apparently as durable as leather. It is not improbable that in the future cheap suits, costing about 50 cents and guaranteed to last for years, will be made of spruce or pine.

Kodaks—Courier Building.

**DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRY
ON PACIFIC COAST**

Eastern Capitalists Looking Over
the Field—Will Invest Millions
of Dollars in Enterprise.

Henry Spackman, of Philadelphia, was in Portland Saturday with Frank L. Brown, of San Francisco, in the interest of a syndicate that plans to invest millions in the development of the cement industry on the Pacific Coast. Deposits of cement in Oregon, Washington and California are being secured by the syndicate, which is composed of leading capitalists of the East, who expect to invest nearly \$5,000,000 in the properties.

Engineers will arrive on the Coast this Summer from the East to look over the deposits and verify the flattering reports that have been sent to the men interested. Options have been taken in many localities and as soon as plans are approved by those interested, plants will be erected for the manufacture of cement.

Location of the properties for the works cannot be announced until arrangements for taking over the holdings by the Eastern syndicate are fully perfected. Experts who were sent here some time ago located promising cement properties and it is believed that the ultimate investment by Eastern capitalists will be limited only by the possibilities of the industry.—Oregonian.

It is more than likely that some of the plants will be located in Josephine county as there is plenty of material here with which to make cement.

**WANT ESSAYS UPON
INDUSTRIES OF OREGON**

School Children Offered Prizes
for Best Articles—Successful
Ones to Be Published.

The Portland Ad. Men's League and representatives of all commercial organizations, including the Oregon Development League, desire practical, short essays upon industries of Oregon from the school children of every county. In order to induce school boys and girls to reveal what general knowledge of a practical value they have concerning the county in which they reside, the committee is offering inducements in the form of cash. The rules of the contest are wide open. The contest will close May 22, 1906, at which time every competing essay must be in the hands of the secretary. The state superintendent of public instruction, J. H. Ackerman, has given his hearty endorsement to the educational value of the move. Successful essays are to be published. The prizes are: Ten dollars in gold for the best essay under the title: "Benefits Derived from Patronizing Home Industries," limit of article, 600 words. Five dollars will be paid for the best 500-word essay upon "Commodities of Oregon." Two prizes of \$2.50 each, five silver watches and 31 cash prizes of \$1 each, will be presented for the next best essays from all counties on the topic: "Manufacturing Facilities of Our County." The movement is in connection with the exhibit of Oregon manufacturers to take place in Portland the week of May 19th to 26th.

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