

EXPERTS REPORT SHOWS REDUCTION IN THE COST OF CITY GOVERNMENT AND SAVING OF \$17,298 IN TWO YEARS

The report on the financial condition of the city of Medford from July 1, 1914, to December 31, 1915, compiled by E. M. Wilson, certified accountant, comprises a mass of figures and data and appears to be an exhaustive statement from careful examination of all of the facts and conditions found in the municipal records made during that period.

A summary at the close of the report exposes the interesting fact that the total of the salary, supplies and light expense of the city was reduced during the year 1914 in the sum of \$9638.12, as compared with the cost in these principal departments in 1913; and that the reduction in the same departments for 1915 from the total of 1914 is \$7560.82, making a total reduction of \$17,298.94 during the past two years.

The treasurer's collections of improvement funds show a marked decline in the amount of funds received. For instance, from July to December 31, six months, in 1914, \$57,999.75 was collected, while for twelve months of 1915 only \$32,516.60 was collected.

The appraisal of municipal property, consisting of water system, gravity and distribution, trunk and

storm sewers, real estate and equipment, is given as \$451,145.

The report recommends that a record be kept of water certificates. About \$30,000 in these certificates is outstanding. They are a city liability for the reason that they can be applied in payment of water rents. Certificates lost are not duplicated because there is no record of the original by which the credits indorsed thereon may be determined.

"Inoperative and unenforced ordinances (license ordinances in particular) should be repealed and new license ordinances adopted which will support and protect all classes of traders without discrimination, suggests the report.

In 1913, 1914 and 1915 no direct road levy was made by the county, but bond levies of 2.2 mills were included in the general county levy. No apportionment has been made to the city of Medford and other city road districts.

In regard to present diversion of funds to meet interest charges and the decline in collections the report says:

This exhibit shows a heavy decline during 1915 in the collection of improvement funds. The following gives total for 18 months:

1914—Improvement sinking fund, 6 months	.....	\$36,333.22	
1915—Improvement sinking fund, 12 months	.....	16,890.56	\$52,223.78
1914—Improvement interest fund, 6 months	.....	\$16,824.27	
1915—Improvement interest fund, 12 months	.....	7,311.94	24,136.21
1914—Water main sinking fund, 6 months	.....	\$ 2,688.80	
1915—Water main sinking fund, 12 months	.....	6,848.72	9,537.52
1914—Water main interest fund, 6 months	.....	\$ 2,152.46	
1915—Water main interest fund, 12 months	.....	2,465.38	94,618.84
Total			\$94,516.45

Bond Indebtedness
At the present time the financial condition brought about by the non-payment of street, sewer, and water assessments deserves careful consideration.

For the period February 1st, 1913, to June 30th, 1914, the period covered by my former report, interest transfers to improvement funds were made amounting to \$24,108.39.

July 1st, 1914, to December 31st, 1915, the following period of eighteen months, transfers of \$32,123.76 were made.

The interest fund to meet interest payments on the \$513,000 issues of gravity and general bonds, which requires \$25,900 per annum, was short during the 18 months period \$14,075.98.

Total transfers necessary to meet

1907—10 year 5 per cent, due in 1917	.....	\$ 45,000
1908—10 year 5 per cent, due in 1918	.....	25,000
1908—30 year 5 per cent, due in 1923	.....	10,000
1908—30 year 5 per cent, due in 1924	.....	10,000
1908—30 year 5 per cent, due in 1925	.....	10,000
1908—30 year 5 per cent, due in 1926	.....	10,000
1908—30 year 5 per cent, due in 1927	.....	10,000
1908—30 year 5 per cent, due in 1928	.....	10,000
1908—30 year 5 per cent, due in 1929	.....	10,000
1908—30 year 5 per cent, due in 1930	.....	10,000
1908—30 year 5 per cent, due in 1931	.....	10,000
1908—30 year 5 per cent, due in 1932	.....	10,000
1908—30 year 5 per cent, due in 1933	.....	10,000
1908—30 year 5 per cent, due in 1934	.....	10,000
1908—30 year 5 per cent, due in 1935	.....	10,000
1908—30 year 5 per cent, due in 1936	.....	10,000
1908—30 year 5 per cent, due in 1937	.....	10,000
1908—30 year 5 per cent, due in 1938	.....	205,000
1910—20 year 5 per cent, due in 1930	.....	39,000
1911—20 year 5 per cent, due in 1931	.....	38,000
1912—20 year 5 per cent, due in 1932	.....	20,000
		\$513,000

Refunding of bond issues at the time of maturity shows a lack of careful consideration and business attention in the matter of public debts which would not be tolerated in private affairs.

If refunding is to be continued there will be no use for sinking funds but if bonds are to be retired some provision is necessary for their redemption.

The city tax levy for 1916, in total 21 mills, includes 19.3 mills for interest. This will return \$42,272.51 on an assessed valuation of \$4,104,127.95. There is also .7 of one mill levied for sinking fund on straight bonds (bonds other than gravity bonds) which will return for this redemption reserve only \$2872.89. This, with the present reserve and perhaps the same levy for next year, will give about \$13,600 for the redemption of the \$45,000 bond issue coming due in 1917, and which has already been twice refunded, and exhausts all reserve for the redemption of the \$25,000 falling due in 1918 and which has also been twice refunded.

Investment of Sinking Funds
Sinking funds being carried over a period of years, as for the redemption of the gravity water and other

general bonds, are presumed to be invested, and should be so invested that interest returns thereon will meet and offset the interest being paid on these bonds. As suggested in my former reports these sinking funds could be profitably invested in improvement bonds which bear 6 per cent interest. The gravity and other bonds bear only 5 per cent. Thus 1 per cent profit would be gained to the city by such an investment.

I have given this subject particular attention for the reason that conditions warrant an early solution of the problem to the end that bonds be redeemed instead of being continually refunded and that the interest burden of \$62,000 per annum, on city and improvement obligations, be lightened as rapidly and as much as possible for the relief of taxburdened property owners.

The report calls attention to the fact that the county court has no turned over to Medford \$11,735.95 to which it is entitled as a road district and suggests that "the exact letter of the law be carried out in this and all other matters."

Many licenses are not collected by the city according to the report, the ordinance is not enforced, and sometimes have violated the ordin-

FIVE-ACT MASTERPIECE, "INSPIRATION," AT THE STAR TODAY



A SCENE FROM "INSPIRATION" FIVE ACT MUTUAL MASTERPIECE MADE BY THRUHOUSER

"Inspiration" is a five act daring romance of an artist's model. It tells of the wonderful adventures of a country girl—adrift in a great city—who overcomes every obstacle and becomes the most famous model in the world.

Andrey Munson was selected from hundreds of beautiful women to pose for the official statuery of the Panama exposition, the central figure on the Maine monument in Central Park New York, and other famous sculpture.

MARCH WELCOMED BY SNOW STORM

The storms that came by way of introducing March in this part of the coast, while not severe in Rogue River valley, did considerable damage to wires of telephone and telegraph lines crossing the Siskiyou mountains and in the Cow Creek canyon to the north. The snowfall in the mountains surrounding this valley was quite heavy for the brief period of the storm, the snow line extending to the edge of the valley this morning.

CIRCUS AND DOG FINES EXPLAINED

The incident referred to in the report of the financial condition of the city, in which a circus agent was fined \$25 for unlawfully posting show bills in the city, the fine being remitted, refers to "the chief" as having given the permission to post the bills. Reference to the police court would mislead the reader into the belief that Chief of Police Hittson was referred to. It was Chief of the Fire Department Lawton who expressed the opinion that it would be all right to post the bills, Chief Hittson having nothing to do with it. Nor was the fine remitted, because "tickets were given to the circus." City officials are always complimented by circus managers with free show tickets.

Aside from the disturbance of the means of wire communication, no damage appears to have been done. A bright sunshine this afternoon suggests that the snowfall may disappear rapidly, considerably affecting the stage of water in the streams both north and south of this valley. The precipitation came so gradually in this district last night that the farms will get the benefit of the entire rain and snowfall, about a fifth of an inch.

Another incident is the reference to the arrest of a dog, the imposition of a \$5 fine and its subsequent remission. The dog was owned by Mayor Emerick. On that morning, July 5, last year, a train wreck occurred in the yards at Ashland. A telegram was received by the mayor's brother at the former's home, urging him to "come at the earliest possible moment," as his son was injured and just taken to the hospital. Without stopping to tether or muzzle the dog, the brother jumped into the automobile and started. The dog finished its breakfast and took a morning ramble on the street. Chief Hittson arrested it. Under the circumstances it was deemed unjust to impose the fine—and it was remitted.

BROCCOLI PROFITABLE CROP FOR VALLEY

W. W. Harvey, representing the Pacific Fruit Express company of Portland, is in the city today gathering statistics on fruit acreage and yields. Mr. Harvey came down to the Roseburg district to look after shipments of broccoli, a hardy member of the cauliflower family. It is made a specialty in the Roseburg district, but the yield this season was less than 50 per cent on the total acreage planted, the excessive rainfall drowning out some of the fields on the lower levels. Broccoli is a very profitable crop and can be raised successfully in the Rogue River valley on the alluvial soils—soils in which there is an abundance of lime, bones and potash.

ance against selling supplies to the city while they are in office. The report compliments Recorder Foss upon the administration of his office, also Treasurer Samuels, the former having made but one error of 50 cents and the latter but one of six cents.

SOCIALISTS VOTING UPON A NOMINEE

CHICAGO, March 1.—Voting on the first presidential nomination by referendum was started by the socialist party today and by March 8 the vote will have been cast. The following are the candidates for the presidency: Allan L. Benson of Youkers, N. Y.; Arthur Le Sueur, Miami, N. D.; James H. Maurer, Reading, Pa. For vice-president: George H. Kirkpatrick, Newark, N. J.; Kate Richards O'Hare, St. Louis.

121 CONVERTED BY MATHIS REVIVAL MEETINGS AT NAT

The storm did not keep the people from filling the Natatorium last evening to participate in one of the very best services thus far held in the series of revival meetings. The choir was splendidly represented and did effective work. Mr. Vessey sang with much spirit "Ship Aho!" while the congregation sang or whistled as the director willed, for Mr. Vessey seems to be able to do anything with the people along musical lines.

The sermon was short, sharp and effective. The text of the evening was, "And There Was No Room for Him in the Inn." Mr. Mathis was especially happy in presenting the claims of Christ to enthronement in the individual life. Among other things he said:

"The Bible is a star to lead men today into the best things of life as did the star of old lead the wise men to the babe in Bethlehem. With too many there is no room for Christ in their conversation. Time and inclination to talk freely of almost everything else save the claims of Jesus Christ.

"With a large number of people there is no room for Christ in the business life. It is sometimes said a man cannot be a Christian and be in business. Of one thing you may be sure—either the man is using dishonest business methods or his business is dishonest if this is true. In social life Christ is crowded out. No room for Him there. Society is good—and the best type of society is where Christ is recognized and honored. No room for Him in the home life—the place of all places where Jesus Christ should be most welcome. Where the teachings of the Master and the presence of Jesus are

recognized there you find the happy home. "But have you room for the teacher in your individual life? Here is the final test. If men will enthroned Jesus Christ in their individual life they may expect the fruits of righteousness."

In response to the invitation to the congregation to make room for Jesus Christ in their lives twenty-one persons responded—making some 121 who have decided for the Christian life in these last few days.

The service tonight will be of especial value. Mr. Mathis will preach on "Repentance." The music will be unusually attractive.

SEVERE COLD WAVE PREVAILS IN MONTANA AND DAKOTA

HELENA, Mont., March 1.—A severe cold wave prevailed over northern Montana and northwestern South Dakota today. The lowest temperature reported was 16 degrees below zero at Havre.

ASSERTS BRANDEIS REPUTE EXCELLENT

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Edward P. McClintock, of Boston, member of Louis D. Brandeis' law firm, testified again today before the senate sub-committee investigating the fitness of Mr. Brandeis to be a member of the supreme court.

Today the witness continued his statement regarding the United Shoe Machinery company matters, which he began late yesterday.

Stephen S. Gregory, of Chicago, former president of the American Bar association, testified that Mr. Brandeis' reputation so far as he knew was "excellent" both as to ability and character. He said he was speaking of his reputation outside of Boston, as he had only talked with one or two Boston lawyers about him.

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Take a Package Home!

Special
Mrs. D. Barringer of San Francisco will be with us all week, demonstrating the "Standard" Patterns.

Mann's
The Woman's Store
CENTRAL AV., Near P. O.

Special Offer
The "Designer" for 12 months, one spring fashion book and one pattern, all for **50c**

Thursday's Specials

New Challies For Comforters
Fast Colors yard **6c**

New Silklines For Curtains and Comforters
36 inches wide yard **12 1/2c**

Wool Batts Large Size 72x90
Very special each **\$2.19**

Important Skirt News NEW ARRIVALS

Our weekly shipment of Skirts just arrived, includes some of the prettiest models we have ever shown. Several especially clever effects are carried out in the much-wanted Silk Taffetas.

Any of these skirts will make a noteworthy addition to your Spring wardrobe.

There is also a group of entirely new, totally different wool skirts, consisting of Wool Velours, All-Worsted Checks, Poplins, Serges, etc.

We make a specialty of the woman hard to fit, and always carry a complete line for stout figures.

The prices are reasonable and range from **\$5 to \$15**



"La Vogue" Coats and Suits on Sale

It will pay you to buy now as goods are very scarce. Beautiful new suits at **\$12.50, \$15, \$20, \$25, \$35** in the much wanted shades for Spring

Stylish New Coats at \$6.50, \$8.50, \$12, \$18, \$20, \$25

NEW WAISTS—Just arrived, our new Spring line of Silk Waists, in all the new shades, many new styles to choose from **\$2.48 up to \$5.98**

New Bath Towels
With wash cloths to match very special at each **29c**

Spring Underwear
Women's union suits, Spring weight, special a suit **25c**

Corsets
New Spring model, good as most \$1 grades, special, a pair **59c**

Velvet Joe
TOBACCO
If you want to really live, get close to nature. If you want to really smoke, get close to VELVET—Nature's best tobacco, naturally cured.
Velvet Joe
TOBACCO
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