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## THE ORIGINAL ORDINANCES ARE LOST CITY WITHOUT LAWS ON MANY SUBJECTS

The ordinances of the city of Salem prior to 1893 are not in existence--Franchises are clouded--The right of way and switches of the Southern Pacific railroad, are wiped out; The franchises of the Water Company, the Gas Company, the Mill companies and their rights of way for ditches, and the electric car and electric light franchises are non est. The ordinances licensing saloons, in fact, the foundation ordinances of the city do not exist. In these respects, we have anarchy.

Salem is practically without laws. The ordinances passed by the city for the past half century are entirely lost, defunct, non-est, gone, vanished. It will be remembered that one of the first steps upon the inauguration of the present mayor and council, was the appointment of the committee to check up the books and records of the past. This committee is composed of Mayor Waters and Councilmen Walker and Crossan. They have diligently pursued looking into the matter of the records of the city, more especially with a view to ascertaining the correctness of its accounts, but this work has developed some startling matters. The greatest of these is the fact that somewhere among the archives of the city can be found the original laws and ordinances from the beginning of the city's history up to the time of Ed. N.

Edes' first term as city recorder, which was in 1892, be found. This discovery is partly the result of the recent agitation on the subject of enforcement of city ordinances. In looking up the matter of the city's laws on this subject, and the duties and powers of its officials, Mayor Waters went to the original sources of his information. His long experience and practice in the work of handling public records and doing an abstract business, has made that gentleman very particular as to what he accepts as a record. Many persons are content with a copy or duplicate, but Mayor Waters' life training has been such that he wants to know the real facts and records upon which public matters are based. As he has had occasion to look up the laws and the status of affairs that govern his

office, he has made the unwelcome discovery that Salem is practically without law; that Oregon's capital city is in a state of chaos. In short, anarchy reigns in Salem, so far as having laws to execute, is concerned. **May Affect Charte.** This discovery reveals the fact that all the franchises granted by this city up to that time are out of existence, whatever the ultimate effect of this fact may be. This includes the charter of the Southern Pacific railroad and its right-of-way given by the city, its switch to the freight depot, and down the river front to the big mills. It wipes out of existence the franchise under which the Salem Water Company has put mains in the street and served the public. It annihilates the franchise of the gas company, and also the big mill companies for open-

ing ditches through our city. The original street car and electric light franchises are also wiped out by the disappearance of the original ordinances. **Wipes Out License Ordinances.** It is revealed that most of the ordinances have been copied into record books, but these are not the original laws, and could not be used in court, in case of litigation. For instance, the liquor license ordinance, which regulates and governs the conduct of saloons and gambling places, and those which regulate all manner of public nuisances could not be enforced in the courts, if contested, for the reason that the original law, which bears the approval of the mayor and recorder, giving dates of its passage, could not be produced in court. Copies of these ordinances, unless certi-

fied to by the proper official, as having been made from the original, would not be accepted, and, as far as the effect goes in court, our city might as well not have had such ordinances, she has none now. **Copies Not Good in Court.** Just what particular ordinances are involved in this discovery it would be difficult to ascertain at this time, as it would require long research to sift out what exists, and what does not. Recorder Judah has made a thorough search of the building, and finds in the old archives of the city hall very little in the way of original laws, previous to the year mentioned, and, although they may still come to the surface, little hope is entertained of finding these original laws. It is more than probable that some city official, in whose custody these ordi-

ances were, concluded that the copies, written into books of record, were all that were necessary, and hence destroyed them. But such is not the case, for whenever a law is brought into court, it is necessary to prove, first, that the law exists, and no copy can be accepted, unless it is certified to by the official who made it from the record. What the outcome of this discovery may be, it will be difficult to guess at this time, as it involves difficult legal points, which will be differently interpreted by different persons. The council might take up the matter of making an entirely new code of laws, but this would involve months of arduous labor. The difficulty might also be met by asking the legislature to

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## BISHOP SEES NAVAL BATTLE

Writes Vivid Description of the First Fight and the Sinking of the Russian Battle Ships at Chemulpo

St. Petersburg, March 16.—The Journal today prints a comparison of the opposing forces of Russia and Japan in the Far East, saying Russia has superiority in land armament by 76 cannon, but is inferior in warships, which, however, is compensated by the artillery in the Russian forts, the valor of the Russian sailors, and the necessity for the Japanese to set apart a number of warships for transport escorts and to guard communications. There is no doubt as to the issue of the naval war being the destruction of the Japanese fleet. It is only a question of time when the Baltic squadron makes its appearance in eastern waters under the most brilliant of Russian admirals. The article is apparently written to calm public opinion.

anchored the morning of the 8th at Chemulpo, near the Russian cruisers Variag and Korietz. Not a Japanese ship was in sight then. About 4 o'clock next day 12 Japanese ships steamed in and anchored. Three thousand troops were landed, and the six cruisers and six torpedo boats withdrew eight miles, and formed a line across the channel. On the 9th the consul notified the Russians to leave the harbor, and the ships stripped for action and at noon sailed out.

Shortly with a roar the fight began. Fifteen minutes we thought would suffice to end the unequal combat, but the earth and sea shook under the awful thunder of the guns thirty minutes, forty, fifty. Unable to break through, and scorning to surrender, the Russians swung around and steamed back to their anchorage with flags flying. Sure of their prey, the Japanese resumed their station in the roadstead, blocking only the channel. The four-funneled Variag was evidently badly wounded, and had a list to

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Cincinnati, March 16.—Bishop Moore, Methodist, who witnessed the naval battle between the Russians and Japanese at Chemulpo, vividly describes the clash in a letter to the Post. The bishop left Shanghai February 6th in a Russian liner, which

### MAIL ORDERS

are a special feature of our business — thoroughly experienced shoppers take proper care of your wants.



### AGENCY FOR

Butterick patterns. Full and complete stock of patterns. Fashion sheet and catalogue sent on request.

## ALL OVER THE STORE

Easter merchandise blooms and blossoms with a myriad of brilliant colors. This is the greatest and most ambitious spring display put forth in this store. On every side in every nook and corner, bright fashion blossoms may be gathered. Every department is budding forth with springtime beauty. This Eastertide we have striven for two results—complete variety and lowest prices. How well we have accomplished what we have striven for we ask you to judge.

Some Pronounced Values In Women's Spring Outerwear



We are ready with admittedly the greatest and most tastefully chosen early spring showing of women's and misses outerwear in Salem. No pains have been spared in collecting the most exclusive styles. In fact our whole energy has been concentrated in the grouping of this important display. New suits arriving daily.

\$15.00 to \$40.00

### Spring Dress Goods

Beautiful dress fabrics for Easter colors and black in comprehensive variety. Do you realize that Easter is only two and one half weeks away? Have you planned for your new gown? You know the hardest part is usually the selection of material, and the time for preparation is little enough. We are glad to tell you, however, that the task of selection has been somewhat lessened for you by months of preparation on our part, and that now you may see in our store

#### A Matchless Display

of the best styles the mills afford, at prices that will save dollars. Late arrivals in the newest weaves of the soft clinging fabrics are now ready for your approval. NEW SILKS, NEW VOILES, NEW MOHAIRS, CHIFFON VOILES, CREPE DE CHINE, PEAU DE SOIE, SHAN TUNG, LOUISINES, TAF-FETA, ETC., ETC., ETC.



## Men's Spring Clothes

Ready tailored just describes them. They are entirely different from the usual run of ready-made clothing. Every suit is hand-made; tailored by the highest paid workmen in America.

The cutting is superb. The coat fits snug over the collar, square concave shoulders, without a sign of a wrinkle. Hair cloth lining in front, prevents breaking or creasing. It's to your interest to see this line of swell clothing before making your purchase.

## Let Us Show You New Ideas in

Spring Dress Goods, Spring Waistings, New Silks, New Dress Trimmings, White and Colored Wash Goods, Gilt Belts, Crush Leather Belts, Laces, Embroideries, Ribbons, Gilt and Gun Metal Waist Sets.

### Shoes, Oxford Ties

Our customers tell us we have the best assortments in the city. They have seen the other lines, and ought to know.

If you got it at

## The New York Racket

E. T. BARNES, Prop.

It is reliable. Our goods give satisfaction; our prices are lower than at "regular stores." It is because our business management is economical and we stick to the spot cash plan.



### Spring Wash Goods

It is generally conceded that the wash fabrics of this season are more beautiful and better adapted for comfort than of any previous season. Their texture is very fine, slimy and in plain, dignified designs, which refreshes one to look at let alone wear. It seems the makers have kept more in mind the idea of conveying a cool, refreshing appearance, as well as the actual comfort to the wearer.

### Attractive Neckwear for Easter

This year my ladies' neckwear will play a conspicuous part in the Easter toilet. In keeping with the demands of fashion we have prepared an exhibit of fashionable neckwear, the daintiness of which surpasses description.

### New Laces

Got your laces here. It means big savings. An avalanche of marvelous lace values. We have laces for ornament, laces for trimming, laces for entire robes. Now's your time.

### Trimmings

Great shipment of new dress trimmings arrived. We know you will be glad to see them. They are so handsome you cannot help admiring the beautiful patterns, the rich colorings, the handsome effect and reasonable prices.

### Brand New Shirt Waists

Yesterday we received another large lot of shirt waists which have been added to our great stock. Yesterday's sunshine was the cause of a great many ladies securing their seasons waists. Were you one of them?

### Shirt Waist Suits

The biggest, best and brightest display of the new shirt waist suits from lawn to silk. All the best styles are shown.

### New Skirts

They're here. Another lot of those All Wool fancy Melton Eloquent gored skirts, in green tan and gray colors. Best values shown.

\$3.95



## The Proper Furnishings for Men

When it comes to furnishings, men are no less critical than women. We've carefully studied the male taste in everything contained in our men's furnishing goods department. That's why so many men leave the question of selection entirely to us. Our new styles are now in and ready for your inspection. See them.