

DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL

WILLAMETTE VALLEY LEAGUE

Of Development Clubs Organized at Salem on Thursday.

Delegates Want to Know Why the State Convention at Portland Was Called Off.

The afternoon and evening sessions of the Development Convention were held in the Grand Opera House. The convention was called to order at 2 o'clock, and Col. Hofer, as temporary chairman, stated the objects of the convention. He outlined the program for the three sessions as including the consideration of trolley lines for the Willamette valley, independent and mutual telephone systems, the development of water powers and promoting the construction of branch lines and better transportation facilities. He briefly reviewed each of the objects of the convention, and then introduced the speakers provided on the regular program.

Hon. J. C. Cooper, of McMinnville, was introduced as one of the seven Cooper brothers of McMinnville. The subject of his address was "The Telephone as a Means of Development," and it was well handled by Mr. Cooper. He gave the history of the telephone, which was very interesting. He said the independent lines were established all over the United States, except Utah. The telephone system is quicker than the telegraph and cheaper than the postoffice. This subject is of great interest to the people of Oregon, and after the gentleman's address others spoke on the question, among those being E. T. Judd, of Aumsville; G. W. Weeks, R. R. Ryan, of Salem; W. J. Hadley, of Turner; Percy Brown, proprietor of the Silverton exchange; Jones of Lincoln; Judge Scott, of Salem, and J. K. Sears, of Polk county.

Hon. W. M. Killingsworth, of Portland, was the next speaker, and he gave a fine address on "Development of Oregon Water Powers." He said what Oregon needed was publicity. There were a great many people coming to Oregon this summer, and we wanted to show them the best Oregon has to put forth. There was no doubt about the great resources of Oregon, the only trouble was it was not made known. It is like being in a box with the lids down all it needed was some one to get it started, and this was what the conven-

tion was for. He compared Oregon to Washington, her sister state, and showed how much greater that state is developed beside of ours. He said the chief power of Oregon was its magnificent water powers, and that was not yet developed. His speech was one of great eloquence, and was received with great enthusiasm.

Hon. G. A. Westgate, of Albany, gave an address on "Wheat as a Staple of Western Oregon." He said there is no reason why wheat should not yield as much as it did in the years gone by. The milling industry in Western Oregon has suffered greatly in the past years for lack of wheat supply. Wheat enters more into the life and comfort of man than any other plant, and should be made the leading agricultural product of the state.

Hon. I. H. Bingham, of Cottage Grove, spoke on the transportation and manufactures of Oregon, and, perhaps, no other man could have handled the subject as well as he did himself. He said that one depended upon the other, for without transportation we could have no manufactures. He said he did not wish to condemn railroads, for we must have them, and "we have them, and they have got us." This statement was received with great applause and laughter. He told of the industries of his county, and of the greatest of them all, lumber. In that county there is more timber than in any other county in the world. He told of the car shortage in 1903, and the exorbitant railroad rates which were taxed upon interior sawmills afterwards. He said he could show 20 sawmills in his county standing idle, which had been caused by the greed and avarice of man. He said he did not wish to be put down as a knocker, as he was not. But he said let the railroad company beware, if they did not do anything for Oregon people soon, they would do something for themselves, and the legislature would pass a law which would put them out of business. His speech was received with cheers, and was followed by several other short speeches by Walter Lyons, of Independence; Mr. Jones, of Lincoln; Col. J. C. Cooper, of McMinnville, and W. L. Tooze. Mr. Lyons' talk was on the calling off of the Development Convention, which was to have been held at Portland April 4th and 5th. He said he thought a greater mistake had never been made in this procedure. He said their club had made great preparations to attend this convention, and that they were to have sent two special cars down, and now this calling off would dampen the spirits of the Polk county men, and they hardly knew where they stood. The other gentlemen spoke on the same lines, and quite a discussion followed.

G. A. Hurley, of Independence then spoke on the Salem-Dallas trolley line, which is causing a great deal of interest. His remarks were fitting to the subject, and shows the enthusiasm in which the people of Independence are willing to put forth in this effort.

Walter L. Tooze, of Woodburn, then took up the question of development by means of advertising the Lewis and Clark exposition. He treated the subject from the standpoint of the competition to which Oregon would be subjected at her own fair, and created a great deal of enthusiasm on the subject of better advertising.

The report of the committee on a general plan of permanent organization was received and adopted.

The convention adjourned to 7:30 p. m.

The surest way to satisfy yourself that our prices on

NOVELTY DRESS GOODS

are right is to examine the same goods at other dry goods stores. The ladies tell us that we have an exceptionally fine assortment, equal to any in the city. They are surprised at the wonderful difference in prices on the identical fabrics.

Barnes' Cash Store

Undersells regular stores. Their spot cash plan does it

Permanent Organization.
When the Willamette Valley Development Convention was called at Salem it was with no thought of organizing a permanent league, but this senti-

(Continued on page two.)

FEDERAL GRAND JURY AFTER BEEF TRUST

Chicago, March 24.—Michael R. Murphy, Manager of the Cudahy Packing Company, of Omaha, was the principal witness this morning before the federal grand jury, which is investigating the alleged beef trust. The managers of several packing concerns are

scheduled to appear before the jury today. It is understood that the jury is questioning witnesses regarding prices of dressed meats at wholesale and retail prices covering the past three years. Every precaution is being taken to prevent information reaching the progress of the cases.

CZAR AGAINST PEACE

St. Petersburg, March 24.—A correspondent called on one of the most influential ministers of the present Russian cabinet shortly before midnight Thursday and discussed with him the present status of the peace negotiations. After being assured that his identity would be concealed, the minister declared that the reports of peace negotiations were hardly likely to be born out by the facts, but for this circumstance he blamed the grand dual party, and not either the Russian ministry or the Czar.

There was a conference between the officers of the general naval and military staffs and the Czar and his advisors yesterday, at which the entire question of war and peace was thoroughly discussed. Eventually the ministers were called in, and the army and navy experts, and the ministry agreed that it was useless for the nation to continue the struggle, and that there was no good reason to postpone seeking for peace on the best possible terms.

The Czar made a strong address, in which he declared that no true son of Russia could wish the nation to grovel at her enemy's feet. He declared that the mistakes of the past would be all rectified in the future, and that the army and navy, realizing full well the weight of their responsibility, would from now henceforth wipe out in blood the disgrace that had been placed upon them by officers who failed to appreciate the weight of their responsibilities. His majesty stuck to his position, and the discussion finally took on a serious phase. One of the ministers took it upon himself to try to explain to the Czar that the prestige of the nation abroad was at stake, but his majesty insisted that he was right.

The emperor finally dismissed the conference in anger, and it seems certain that, if he does not consent to a peace movement, a cabinet crisis may result.

St. Petersburg, March 24.—The possibility that, if the Russian army should be unable to hold the lower line of the Sungari river, at Chunchiatou, it may be compelled to retreat, not only to Harbin, but also further westward along the railroad, abandoning to the Japanese Northern Manchuria and the Russian maritime Amur provinces as well, is the latest startling news from the front.

Port Said, March 24.—Admiral Nebogatoff's fleet which forms the third division of Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron, has been sighted.

London, March 24.—The signature of the agreement between Venezuela and the Anglo-German bond holders adjusting the exterior debt, was completed today. Sixty per cent of the customs of all ports, except Lagayria and Puerto Cabello, will be collected as security.

Port Said, March 24.—Admiral Nebogatoff's fleet (which forms the third division of Admiral Rojestvensky's Russian squadron, and which left Suda Bay, Island of Crete, March 21st) has been sighted.

St. Petersburg, March 24.—Word was received here late last night that all of the non-combatants, including many women, were expelled from Vladivostok yesterday, it being explained that, if they did not leave, they might be compelled to remain in the city for a period of years.

The city has supplies and ammunition for a period of two years.

Guntzing, Manchuria, March 24.—Russian officers connected with the headquarters staff are convinced that General Kuroki is moving northeast, with the intention of investing Vladivostok. It is reported that all women and children are leaving Harbin, and that the business houses are closing.

ATTEMPT TO WRECK TRAIN

Albany, March 24.—The narrow escape from damage to the overland, due here at 11:30 Wednesday night, turns out to have been a dastardly attempt on the part of some one to deliberately ditch that train with its human freight. The attempt was made in this city, within a few hundred feet of the depot, and the fact that the timber used was not sound, but badly rotten, probably saved the train from being piled in the ditch, and prevented the loss of precious lives.

When the train came in Wednesday night it was found that a piece of timber about eight inches square was wedged under the pilot in such a manner as to require the united efforts of several of the trainmen to extricate it. Investigation showed that it had been picked up by the engine within a block of the depot, where it had been placed across the rail with a view to ditching the train. At that point a street crosses the track, and a guard rail is inside the main track. The end of this guard rail is between the second and third switch light, and is a little higher than the rail of the main line. Against the end of this guard rail, and braced against the ends, a timber from an old bridge on a street near-by had been laid in such a manner that when the engine struck it, running at a high rate of speed, the wheels would be thrown off the track. The fender who placed the timber there overlooked one thing, and that was the fact that the timber from the old bridge was rotten, and, but for this, his hellish plans would not have miscarried. When the engine struck the bridge timber the rotten condition of the latter allowed the guard rails to cut through the edge, and the beam was pushed away by the engine. A part of it was broken and splintered, and parts of it were wedged in between the main rail and the guard rail, while another piece, as was stated before, wedged under the pilot of the engine.

From the point where the engine struck the timber to where it was stopped, splinters of the rotten wood covered the track, having been cut by the action of the machinery and the grinding of the timber on the rails. The sticks found wedged in the aperture between the guard rail and the main track were cut and crushed by the action of the wheels passing over it.

The train at this point runs slow, owing to the fact that, before reaching the yard, a full stop has to be made, at the crossing north of the city. The wreck, if one had occurred, would probably not have been a very serious one, as the speed was not great. Still, had the timber been sound, it would have not given away before the engine, and the latter would have been ditched and some of the cars would probably have been derailed.

The matter was carefully investigated yesterday, and the railroad people have a suspicion as to the identity of the would-be train wrecker and murderer, and it is possible that some arrests will be made in a day or two.

Lightweight Champion.
Chicago, March 24.—Jabez White, the British lightweight champion, arrived in Chicago this morning with his manager, Charlie Mitchell, on their way to the coast for a battle with Britt and Battling Nelson. White declined to be interviewed, but Mitchell volunteered the information that the British pugilist was in grand form, and does not need much training. They will probably leave for the coast tonight.

Murder at Drain.
Drain, Or., March 24.—Hermon Shook shot and killed A. E. Cooper and Paul Howse with a rifle today, and then killed himself. The men had a quarrel, which resulted in the triple killing.

Verne Is Dead.
Amiens, March 24.—Jules Verne died today.

TRADING STAMP CURSE

Business Men Aroused Lest It Gets Into Salem.

There is considerable flurry among the business men of Salem today over the introduction of the "trading stamp curse" in our midst. Where the trading stamp methods have been pursued, they have, to a large extent, been unsatisfactory, so much so that, in some states, the system is being legislated against. A solicitor for this kind of business has been in town recently and has closed several contracts with merchants. Upon close inspection these merchants find that the contracts made by them are intangible thing which can do them little good, and possibly great harm. The company represented here during the past week by solicitors leaves no intimation of whence it comes, or where it can be found. It agrees to furnish merchants, one only in each line of business, with stamps to be given out to purchasers to the value of 5 per cent of the goods furnished, and these stamps are to be redeemable in goods by the stamp company. In other words, the local merchant pays 5 per cent tribute to the so-called stamp company on all goods he sells under their system in order to get this company to advertise the local stores that hold membership, and thus induce trade with the redeemable stamps as an incentive. The Salem merchants who have signed up these contracts now find them a very imperfect affair. They virtually have no consideration and no penalty, and thus, literally, are not a

contract. The signers feel they have been duped, and propose to unite in turning down the whole proposition. This would be done at once, but, unfortunately, there is no clue as to the whereabouts of the company making the contracts. The solicitors have disappeared, and it seems a little difficult to get out of the dilemma.

Wherever the stamp process has been employed, there has been more or less dissatisfaction, and, in time, great loss, not merely to the merchants who become parties to it, but to the customers of these merchants who receive the stamps as an inducement to buy goods. In short, it appears on the face of it to be a "something for nothing" proposition, and all know that such schemes do not successfully materialize.

Venezuela Is Naughty.
Washington, March 24.—Word was received at the state department today that President Castro formally refused to arbitrate the question at issue between Venezuela and the United States.

French Send Troops.
Marseilles, March 24.—Fresh reinforcements of 4000 men and ammunition has been ordered to Tonquin and 4000 troops to Madagascar early in April.

CHILDREN DRY FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA.



SALEM'S GREATEST STORE
THE WHITE CORNER

WE SELL THE BEST DRESS SUIT CASES IN AMERICA

..OUR STOCK IS COMPLETE..

£ ALL STYLES || 2 ALL PRICES || 2

Genuine Leather Suit Cases at prices that will save you from \$2.00 to \$4.00 on your purchase. We guarantee these cases. No better made in America. Come in and make your selection.

New Suit Cases

Largest assortment we have ever carried has just been received. The line comprises full stock sole leather cases in Russet Brown or Olive colors; straps or bolts; leather and linen lined—in fact, all that is best in suit cases. We are showing a full stock leather case, linen lined, shirt fold, bolts or straps, Browns or Olive colors, full size, steel frames, reinforced corners.

\$5.00



"MÉRODE"
Hand Finished
UNDERWEAR

KNITWEAR

For women and children. We are ready for spring business with the largest variety of perfect-fitting undergarments, marked at prices that more than ever before will maintain our reputation as the greatest value-giving house in the city.

10¢ to \$3.50.



MEN'S CLOTHING

Suits and Top Coats. New spring suits and Top Coats of the newest styles and materials. Values are the best to be found in the city, and are much lower in price for equal quality to those shown elsewhere. Come in and see what we can do for you.

\$10.00 to \$25.00