

COMMERCIAL TRUST CO. WANTS FRANCHISE FOR STREET RAILWAY

Eastern capitalists are interested in a new street car system for Tacoma. At last night's meeting of the city council an ordinance was introduced by Councilman Mahneke granting the Commercial Trust company, of which Stuart Rice is president, the privilege of operating a street car system on certain streets of this city.

The new system will touch parts of the city that are not reached by other lines. One line will start at Fifteenth and Dock streets, where the city market will be built; thence west along Fifteenth street to O street; thence westerly to the Narrows.

Another division of the road will begin on Tacoma avenue at Division avenue and run south on Tacoma avenue to the North Pacific right of way; thence across the gulch to a point near the city reservoir. At the reservoir the line will divide, one line running along the flume to South Tacoma, and thence to American lake.

The other branch will run south along the west side of the gulch to Thompson avenue and Fortieth street, and east on Fortieth street to Pacific avenue; thence south on Pacific avenue to Sixty-fourth street, and east on Sixty-fourth street to Bismarck. Another branch from the main line will run to Point Defiance and the Narrows.

An ordinance was introduced by Bellingham providing for the construction of sewers in local improvement district No. 143. The sewers will commence at the intersection of South Eighth street and the alley between N and O streets and run to the south boundary of the Alliance addition.

An ordinance was introduced by Martens authorizing the commissioner of public works to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for the purchase of 14,000 pounds of copper wire. The sum of \$2,310 was appropriated to defray the expense.

An ordinance was introduced by Donahue authorizing the commissioner of public works to advertise for bids and enter into an agreement for the construction of a gridiron at Fifteenth and Dock streets, and appropriating \$537 for the same.

An ordinance was introduced by Councilman Donahue providing for the construction of a wharf by the city on lots 21 to 24, inclusive, block 62. This ordinance carried with it an appropriation of \$5,000 to pay for the same, and repeals ordinance No. 2025, which provided for an appropriation of \$2,850 for the building of the wharf.

After the third reading of the fire ordinance, by Donahue, relating to all buildings used as theaters, opera houses, etc., it was adopted. After the vote was taken, President Jones asked Fire Chief Poyns if it was understood that the firemen stationed at the theaters would stop performances when the ordinance was violated, or were they merely stationed there to act in case of fire.

Chief Poyns replied: "The men will be instructed to enforce the ordinance in every particular."

When the report of Dr. F. J. Selung in regard to the city water supply was read, several of the councilmen exchanged significant glances. There was not a word of comment until President Jones said: "What will you do with the report, gentlemen?"

Councilman Giblett then moved that the report be referred to the mayor, and the motion carried.

The recommendation from the streets and alleys committee that South Eighth street from Jmett to Cedar street be improved was adopted.

The police and license committee recommended the renewal of a saloon license to Christenson & Co., 1520 C street.

N. P. OFFICIAL WILL ARRIVE HERE SOON

Charles M. Levey, recently appointed assistant to the president of the Northern Pacific railway, with headquarters in Tacoma, will arrive here about February 19.

Mr. Levey is quoted as saying that his work will be largely of an executive nature and that many matters now referred to St. Paul for final settlement will be referred to him.

This will be his first trip West, but he feels sure of liking the country from what he has heard about it.

Mr. Levey will remain in St. Paul for several days in conference with President Elliott and other officials before coming West.

quiring knowledge. Buddhism's strides were swift. The opening of the seventh century saw 46 temples and about 1,400 priests in Japan.

Comprehensiveness has marked the race from the beginning. Suitable things were adopted and the useless rejected. Feudalism appeared in the seventh century. High offices were hereditary. Separating the civil from the military led to the foundation of great military families, chief of whom were the Minamoto and Taira. Battles between factions were frequent. The office of shogun, or military commander, grew more important than that of mikado.

The first shogun (show, general; gun, army), Yoritomo, held sway in 1192 A. D. The mikado grew more secluded and practically retired to the artistic court at Kyoto, control passing to the shogun at Yedo. Occasionally an energetic mikado would arise and assume his authority, the reigning shogun abdicating to save his head. Civil war occurred in the fifteenth century, and both mikado and shogun had to acknowledge the power of the samurai, or warriors, who knew no allegiance but their daimios or leaders.

As a result the country became impoverished, and taking advantage of the situation, succeeding shoguns overthrew the samurai and held power over the kingdom.

THE INVASION OF CHRISTIANITY. In 1545 Mendez Pinto, the Portuguese navigator, visited Japan and well received. He was followed four years later by the Jesuit missionary, St. Francis Xavier, who landed at Kagoshima, the Satsuma capital. Missionaries, sailors and merchants followed. Churches appeared and Christianity combatted the influence of Buddha.

Ever quick to adopt good things, the natives copied the firearms of the Portuguese and adopted their ideas. Hideyoshi, the ruling shogun, was suspicious, and other leaders taking his view, started to counteract the influence of the foreigners. In this they were aided by the sailors, who had been carrying women and children into captivity.

In 1638 Christianity, after horrible massacres, was exterminated in the kingdom. Intercourse with foreigners was stopped and the Japs were forbidden to leave the island. Only the Dutch and Chinese were allowed to trade at Nagasaki. For two centuries the edicts obtained and Japan was a sealed book to the world.

The Tokugawa shoguns caused the expulsion. The third of this line instituted a spy system, likened to that in effect in Russia today, which left its mark on the country in the form of dishonesty, fear and suspicion. The most powerful felt its insidious influence and the most lowly was under its sway. In time it became a national characteristic. The daimios at first honored guests at the court of Yedo, were reduced to vassalage and the samurai were dispersed.

JAPAN'S ENTRY INTO THE ARTS. During the isolation period, after the expulsion of foreigners, Japan made great strides in art. A studious class arose, who propagated the idea that patriotism demanded the restoration of the mikado to full powers. Dutch literature, smuggled into the island, helped to spread a spirit of revolt against medievalism, and in 1854 the power of the shogun began to totter.

The United States sent Commodore Perry, and England, Russia and France helped awaken Japan, not in the commercial way of today, but by vigorous methods.

Recognizing the power of the foreigners, the attitude of the Japs changed. In two years after issuing orders to clear the land of foreigners, the Japs were glad to sign a friendly treaty. Says Professor A. H. Keane:

"Thus the highly gifted people are being rapidly assimilated to the Western world in their social, religious and political institutions. Their intellectual powers, already tested in the fields of war, science, diplomacy and self-government, are superior to all other Asiatic peoples, and this is, perhaps, the best guarantee for the stability of the stupendous transformation that a single generation has witnessed from an exaggerated form of medieval feudalism to a political and social system in harmony with the most advanced phases of modern thought."

great power to present things in a favorable or unfavorable light, and the concession hunter is almost bound to do all he can to win their friendliness. This means a very liberal passing around of money, which, if the bribery is successful, is charged up in the bill under other headings for the government to pay.

One of the best milk cows St. Petersburg officialdom has ever had is a project to build a new bridge across the Neva at a point opposite the admiralty. The river is wide here and such a bridge with proper ornamentation would cost at least half a million dollars, and probably more. It has, therefore, been a very tempting plum to contractors.

Ten years ago it was first talked of and to this day not a single sod has been turned in its construction.

Meanwhile scarcely a month goes by but what a new contractor turns up to make a determined effort to get a job of building the bridge. Of course he sees a lot of officials, gives wine suppers and makes a judicious distribution of money. After a while he gets tired or has spent all he has got and retires in favor of a new man who thinks he can buy an inside track.

The officials know that were the bridge once built this source of revenue would be stopped, and it being such a good thing they do their best to nurse it along.

The great Siberian railway has been a source of almost unending loot. It was a straight away job across an almost unending plain, with plenty of timber close at hand for construction work. Labor was cheap and there was no reason why it could not have been a record in cheap construction. An American railway under similar conditions but with more costly labor and material would probably not have exceeded \$30,000 a mile, with \$50,000 for the rougher parts. The average for the Siberian railway for the whole distance was \$80,000 a mile.

No branch of the Russian government appears to be free from corruption. There are periodical scandals in both the army and navy and as many as sixteen naval officers have been sent to Siberia in a batch for wholesale swindling in the purchase of naval stores.

The spy system and the tyrannical laws of the empire give great scope to blackmail on the part of the police. Even the most innocent and the most cautious man knows that a plausible story told to his discredit in certain quarters may be enough to ruin him, and when a policeman comes round to borrow money or with some other equally transparent effort at blackmail, he is usually wise enough to pay up and say nothing. Judges themselves are not above taking bribes, and in civil actions many a case is decided in favor of the contestant who has made the largest golden stain upon the judicial ermine.

Fortunately for Russia there is a leaven of intelligent, upright and patriotic men who occasionally by a happy chance get into a high position or secure the ear of the czar. M. Witte who is a Dutchman and not a Russian at all, was one of these, but six months ago the corrupt and reactionary forces of the empire were too much for him and the czar, following the advice of the unspeakable Plehve, forced him to resign.

JOHN VANDERCOOK.

OLD DRAMA REPEATED.

That celebrated old comedy drama, "Ten Nights in a Bar Room," will be given Sunday afternoon and evening at the Tacoma theater.

LYCEUM THEATER.

The attendance at the Lyceum is increasing and the vaudeville bill presented there this week deserves it. Every act is good. Next Monday there will be an entire change of program.

TACOMA THEATER.

"The Geisha" will be presented at the Tacoma theater tonight by the Pollard Lilliputian opera company. The scene is laid in Japan and the story concerns several of the Japanese nobility, a few bold English sailors and a host of "Geisha Girls." The music is very catchy.

SCOTS ARE COMING.

The Kilties band, the famous Scottish Canadian organization, will come to the Tacoma theater Monday night. The Kilties are making a great hit this season and are drawing big houses wherever they go.

The chances of a government appropriation for the improvement of Ballard harbor are not flattering. A conference will be held at the capital next Wednesday between the rivers and harbors committee and members of the Washington delegation, but little hope is entertained that the Ballard proposition will go through.

Our Souvenir Dept. is now ready for your inspection. We have eight thousand names on our list this week. Want as many more as we can get. Send in your name and address. And then you will be entitled to one of these handsome presents.



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AMUSEMENTS.

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ADMISSION 10c TO ALL PARTS OF THE HOUSE

Specialties at the Edison Theater

914 C Street, Tacoma Theater Building. Specialties for this week include: The Shone Family! The Great Clive. Harney & Haines. Frank Fay. Wayne & Lamar. Moving Pictures.

Entire change of Program every Monday.

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ACTOR JAMES AND HIS SEVENTY-CENT NEMESIS



Imagine a man of such grim visage as the subject of this photograph being chased about the country by such a mild-looking pursuer as the subject in the background.

And yet it is not an imaginary case. Louis James, the actor, is the pursued. A supper bill for 70 cents is the pursuer, and never was chaser less relenting.

According to the story attaching to the mute bill itself, the tragedian, James, with his partner, Warde, partook of certain food in a railway restaurant in Denver about a month ago, and, while Warde's memory did not fail, James is said to have become absent-minded and hiked to his train, unmindful of having left a void in the railway institution which only 70 cents could fill.

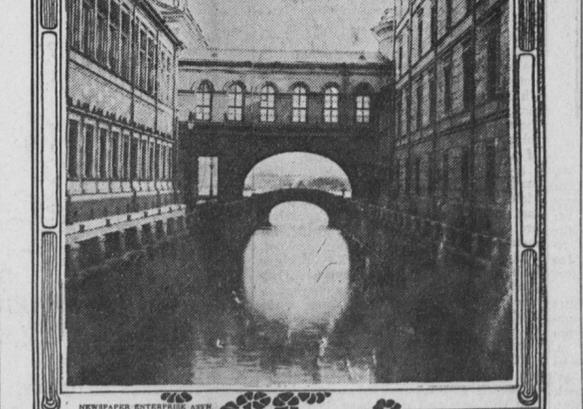
James, when he arrived in Los Angeles not long ago, found an envelope awaiting him in his mail at the Hotel Angelus, and on it was printed in large letters: "SUPPER CHECK FOR 70 CENTS."

Then there were doings in which "Alexander the Great," "Richard III" and "Othello" got together in the person of Louis James and consigned railroad eating-houses in general to a point several miles below where Hamlet found what was left of Yorick.

The story came out that in every town in which the James-Warde company had stopped since leaving Denver the supper bill had appeared.

"The bill was paid," says James. "Somebody thinks he is a practical joker. The 70 cents will not be paid again by me, even though I live to be 700 years old!"

IF YOU SPEND THE MONEY YOU CAN GET ANYTHING IN RUSSIA



ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 11.—It was stated in a previous article that the average official in St. Petersburg who received a salary of \$1,000 a year spent \$10,000. This is a fairly safe average, as those who spend more than this are liable to run into debt. The greatest source of illicit revenue for corrupt officialdom is the desire of contractors and others to get concessions from the Russian government.

While the heads of departments may be above bribery, their subordinates have

THE AWAKENING OF JAPAN

- Arrival of Commodore Perry, Yedo bay, July 8, 1853.
- Treaty with the United States signed March 31, 1854.
- Townsend Harris treaty of foreign residence, 1858.
- Yokohama, Nagasaki and Hakodate opened to trade, 1859.
- Embassy to the United States, January, 1860.
- The regent, Ti Hamon no Kami, assassinated, March 3, 1860.
- Mr. Heusken, interpreter United States legation, assassinated, 1861.
- Attack on United States legation, July 5, 1861.
- First embassy to Europe, 1862.
- Five hundred thousand dollars paid by government for attack on British legation by followers of Shimadzu Saburo, 1862.
- American, Dutch and French ships fired on by men-of-war belonging to Prince of Kiusiu, 1863.
- United States corvette "Wyoming" engaged the two men-of-war, July, 1863.
- French men-of-war destroy shore battery, 1863.
- English bombard Kagoshima, August, 1863.
- American and British legations burned, 1863.
- Shimonoseki bombarded by American, British, French and Dutch men-of-war, September 5 and 6, 1864.
- Revocation of edicts against Christians, 1876.
- Japanese-Korean treaty, 1876.
- Rebellion at Kumamoto, 1876-7.
- Okubo assassinated, May 14, 1878.
- National exposition, Tokyo, opened March 11, 1881.
- Return of Shimonoseki indemnity, 1883.
- Rehabilitation of old nobility, July 9, 1884.
- Official priesthood abolished August 11, 1884.
- Japanese troops attacked in Seoul by Koreans and Chinese, 1884.
- Constitutions granted by emperor promulgated February 11, 1889.
- Imperial diet meets, November, 1890.
- International exposition, Tokyo, 1890.
- Attempt to assassinate czar while traveling in Japan, 1894.
- War declared on China, February 12, 1895.
- Surrender of Chinese navy, 1895.
- Surrender of Wei-hai-Wei, 1895.
- Peace treaty between Japan and China and acquisition of Formosa, 1895.
- Gold standard adopted, 1895.
- Treaty revision; end of extraterritoriality, 1899.
- Japan joins powers against China, 1900.
- Alliance with Great Britain, 1902.

ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF THE JAPANESE

TOKIO, Japan, Feb. 11.—Diplomats, statesmen, military and naval authorities, correspondents and the reading public have for the past few months watched the island kingdom with intense interest while the diplomats of Japan and Russia matched wits over the Korean question.

The mere demonstration of a capacity to enter a diplomatic struggle with the crafty and supposedly powerful Russ caused the world to pause and think; pausing long enough to become aware of the astounding strides Japan has made in 33 years—for 1870 witnessed the awakening of the mikado's domain.

The Americanizing or westernizing of the kingdom was one of the wonders of the nineteenth century, not universally realized, however, until the twentieth century was about three years old. Japan's progress is complex, but a retrospect is not impossible. The supposed existence of a triple alliance including the United States, England and Japan, and the actual existence of an alliance between England and Japan, makes the following of more than passing interest to Anglo-American readers.

ORIGIN OF THE JAPANESE.

Many of the best qualities of the Japanese seem to be hereditary, having been transmitted from their earliest ancestors, and this alone makes their origin of interest.

The island was originally the habitat of a Caucasian race which occupies in history a place parallel to the men the Romans found in Britain. These people are now represented by the Ainus, of northern Yedo, who were driven north by the Mongolians, who flocked around the north of China, through Korea and into Japan.

About 600 B. C., Jimmu Tenno, founded his dynasty; he has been deified as the descendant of the goddess of the sun and until recently succeeding emperors have been regarded as sacred by their subjects, and this made possible the peculiar regime of Japan.

When Jimmu-Tenno entered Japan he found, declares history, "men of his own race," from which the supposition arises that a double incursion occurred about this time.

The Jap's mercurial temperament is supposed to come from the southern strain in the blood, imparted by a host of strangers that flocked to Jimmu-Tenno's banner and mixed with his Mongolic followers. They came from Malaysia by way of the island chain depending from the Japanese archipelago.

Formerly, men not given to studying racial expression classed the Japs as Chinese. At first they seem to resemble the Chinese, but a second glance dispels the illusion—the race has been evolved independent of the Chinese.

Early in her career Japan completely absorbed Chinese civilization, much the same as she has absorbed modern ideas. This, scientists say, accounts for the resemblance to the Chinese, which is less noticeable every year as the race shakes off the East and adopts the West.

From the time of Jimmu-Tenno to 200 A. D., Japan's history is chiefly legendary. About this time, Jingo, an Amazonian empress, made a successful campaign against Korea. The Japs were primitive. Their religion was simple. Korean envoys, bringing annual tribute, also brought to the island the first knowledge of writing. This also brought the so-called civilization of China.

SHAKING OFF PRIMITIVE STAGE.

These were the first steps toward civilization. In time the silk worm and mulberry were introduced and prospered. Spinning and weaving followed and in the year 522 A. D. the first sign of Buddhism made its appearance in the form of an image of Buddha.

The next century witnessed a wonderful absorption of knowledge which finds its equal nowhere in the world's history except in Japan during the last three decades. Arts and customs, opinions on society, morals and politics were assimilated with the same avidity shown today in ac-

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