

BIG BATTLE IMMINENT IN MEXICO

STRONG LINE-UP FOR PORTLAND

(By United Press Leased Wire.) PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 27.—Manager Williams when he comes to Portland to take hold of the Northwestern league club will be presented with a long list of players from which he will select the team that will represent Portland in that league. McCredie has received word that four men from the Toledo club in the American Association would report to the Portland Northwestern team when the training season opens. They are Lamline, a big right-handed pitcher, who comes from the same league as Krapp; Harris, a catcher, Second Baseman Anderson and Outfielder Miller. Two young California pitchers probably will attach their signatures to a Portland contract in the near future. They are Yates, formerly of the San Jose club, and Kanthelener of the Santa Clara college. Thompson, an outfielder, formerly of the California State league, has been signed by the McCredies also. The total number of players he will try for positions on the new team now numbers 21, and before the training season opens 30 players will be on the list. The following line-up is made up of players who are signed up and those who are expected to sign. Catchers—Burch, Harris, Kirby. Pitchers—Garrett, Boice, Bloomfield, Wright, Lamline, Kanthelener, Yates. First base—Peters or Williams. Second base—Casey or Williams. Shortstop—Mensor or McCune. Third base—Mundorf. Fielders—Thompson, Miller, Speas, Ort. Of the above list all but McCune, Yates and Kanthelener are expected to report. Williams is dickering with Dugdale for the release of McCune, but it is likely that Mensor will play shortstop as he is a better hitter than the former Oakland player.

FIGHT FOR CHEAPER GAS RATE

There is trouble brewing for the public service corporations before the city council. The other night Councilman John Gray introduced a resolution for an investigation of the right of the gas company to make a charge of \$5 as a meter deposit. In addition thereto Captain Gray is of the opinion that \$1 per 1000 is enough to pay for artificial gas, in line with the fight being conducted by The Press. Not only that, but Councilman Gray believes the telephone company is also robbing the people. He cites the case of his own office, where he pays \$4.50 a month for a two-party line, or \$54 a year. In addition to this two other men pay \$1.50 a month each, or \$3 to get their names in the book for the same phone, making \$90 a year the company gets out of that two-party line. If the other phone on that line pays another \$90 this makes \$180 a year the phone company gets out of that one line, which is going some. Councilman Charles Mohr is with Gray in going after both the phone company and the gas company. INVESTIGATE GAS COMBINE Councilman Andrew Cartwright announces his intention of introducing a resolution tonight in the city council for an investigation as to the reason why the gas company has paid no franchise tax for four years on the Roger Williams franchise, passed in 1904. It requires a payment of 2 per cent per annum on its gross earnings, yet it has not paid a penny tax on this franchise for four years, in spite of the fact that Mayor Pratt, who helped to pass that franchise as a member of the city council, is now the chief executive of the city.

SANTIA IN HEAVEN

BY FRANCES GILBREATH INGERSOLL Could I but turn backward old time in his flight, And be as a child again, just for one night, With faith-as a child in its christmasy love, That the largess I craved would be mine as of yore: I would wish I might empty the stocking of life, Of all of its bitterness, envy, and strife; Heart-hunger and longing, and sorrow and ruth, And dreams unfulfilled of that faraway youth. I would ask for the peace and the joy that were mine, and the friendships I missed, the dear ones unloved, the freedom to grasp a God-given birthright, and respond to conquer the world in its might. The music and pleasure, the sunshine and life; The beauty of living, the clear light to see; The chances of life, to few only, given; To walk "bravely shodden" the pathway to heaven. When embers burn low on the hearthstone of fate, And the whitening hair speaks that "tis late," I'll pray—"O thy 'children' tho' poorest I be, Dear Santa in heaven, forget not thou me."

REBELS ENTRENCHED IN THE MOUNTAINS

(By United Press Leased Wire.) ELPASO, Texas, Dec. 27.—Fortified in the mountain fastnesses and able to repel an attack by a greatly superior force, a large band of rebels are in control of the big bend country and are making that the base of the rebel supplies, according to a report sent here by a field representative of the El Paso Herald. The rebels, according to the correspondent, are in absolute control of the country from Marfa to Alpine. They have planted brass cannon and are prepared to withstand an attack by an immense army for an indefinite number of days. Large quantities of arms and ammunition are being smuggled across into the Big Bend country, according to these advices. Hundreds of revolutionists are reported to be joining the rebels in the field near Chihuahua.

Night Bulletins

(By United Press Leased Wire.) McALESTER, Okla., Dec. 27.—Green McCurtain, governor of the Choctaw Indian nation, one of the most important witnesses during the Indian land frauds investigation, died at Kinta, Okla., today. McCurtain testified before the Gore bribery investigation committee that he had received large sums of money to induce Indians to sell their land to the McMurray syndicate.

GUADALAJARA, Mex., Dec. 27.—Broken in health and with his vitality sapped by malignant cancer, Ramon Corral, vice president of the Mexican republic, is reported by his closest associates to be at death's door. Confirmation of this report is expected today in the shape of an announcement of the abandonment of the proposed voyage to France, on which Corral had expected to start this month.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Dec. 27.—Governor Gillett settled down to work today in his office to begin a week of hard work before making over the state to Hiram Johnson, his successor. He was interrupted many times during the day by callers, who were obliged to wait a considerable period to see the governor.

'POWER TO LET CONTRACTS WITHOUT COMPETITION'

In order that the voters may know both sides of the charter proposition, The Press is printing the arguments of Attorney Fred C. Robertson, the leader of the opposition forces. Here is what he says regarding two features in the proposed charter which he believes to be against the people's interests: Th commissioners under the proposed charter will have power to let every contract without competition and at any price and to the favored contractors. The entire policy of the city as to franchises and to every other governmental function is placed in their hands with practically no limit to their power. There would be no other governing body nor auditing committee. In their absolute sway, hindered only by legislation that they may adopt and repeal at will, in a single night they will have the power to saddle a staggering burden of indebtedness against the city and its people, from which there will be no escape. The charter has entirely removed every safeguard that protects the people against hasty, ill-advised, corrupt or extravagant expenditures of the public funds. "Dangerous to the individual property owners is the unwise provision with reference to damages. It is provided in the new charter as follows: "That the owner of abutting property, in case any injury or damage to any person shall be caused by the defective condition of any sidewalk, or by ice and snow thereon, or by lack of proper guards or railings, the abutting property owner will be liable in a suit for damages."

AFTER ALLEGED ELECTRICAL TRUST

(By United Press Leased Wire.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—A suit to dissolve the alleged "electrical trust" will be instituted as soon as the papers can be drawn up, it was semi-officially announced today. Wade H. Ellis, former assistant attorney general, is handling the case for the department of justice. Final action in the preparation of the suit will be taken at the conference between Attorney General Wickersham, his associates, and Ellis, which is to take place this week.

SPOKANE'S GAS PROBLEM

One of the biggest items of expense in every home in Spokane is the matter of fuel, especially fuel for domestic purposes. The modern fuel is gas, especially when gas is sold at moderate prices. In this respect Spokane is behind any city of its size in the country, in that only part of the city is served with gas mains, and the people so reached are compelled to pay a price for the service that is from 50 to 75 per cent higher than most cities of any size in the country. There is no reason for this. The people have a remedy. The present gas company can be forced to bring its price down to what is charged in other cities of the same kind and extend its mains so that all can avail themselves of the privilege of gas, or else let some come into the field that will do these things. The city officials to be elected next spring, under any form of government that prevails, will regulate the price of gas for the next 10 years. DOLLAR GAS is high enough for Spokane, and officials should be chosen pledged to DOLLAR GAS. Also adequate provisions should be insisted upon for the extension of the mains to populous sections now not enjoying that service. If the holdings of the present gas company, with comparatively moderate investment of new capital in the last six years, are capable of being stocked and bonded for \$7,500,000, the company can well afford to divide a little of this "rake-off" with the people and give gas at a figure in keeping with the prices paid elsewhere.

LOST WIFE AND HOTEL; FRANTIC SEARCH FOR 'EM

No, he wasn't carrying too much holiday cheer. He was lost in a big town, that's all, and he wanted above all things to find his hotel and his wife again. He had visited Spokane years ago, when it wasn't half as large as it is now. He arrived this time from the east, with his wife. They registered at a hotel, nearly opposite the N. P. depot, and then Mr. Man went out on business. After transacting it he walked on up Riverside and branched off on the street he thought would lead him to his hotel. But the longer he walked on that street the stranger it

HE SLEPT WITH A DEAD MAN

To wake up shortly after 6 o'clock this morning and find himself in bed with a corpse was the greswome experience of John Larsen, a railroad laborer living at the North Pole lodging house, on Howard street near Main avenue. Larsen had been out among his friends last evening and went to bed somewhat under the joyful influence of the cup that cheers. His partner, Gustave Will, was to have slept with him, and when Larsen awoke this morning the dead man in his bed so closely resembled Will that Larsen hesitated not at all, but dashed half dressed to the police station and excitedly informed the police that his partner had died. An officer was sent with Larsen to make an investigation, but as they were mounting the stairway to the room where John had slept they were surprised to see the supposed dead man step from another room and confront them. Larsen was so excited at seeing

CUSTOMS PROBE GOING DEEPER

(By United Press Leased Wire.) VANCOUVER, B. C. Dec. 27.—Three customs officials, Harris, Cosgrove and Schuller, and a leading Chinese merchant named Sam Kee, were on the witness stand at the Chinese immigration inquiry this morning, and the evidence adduced was of an interesting character. Inspired from the mass of private information which the crown counsel seems to have at his finger's end, Mr. McCrossan fired out questions which probed into a redistribution of the watchmen and landing waiters. Two of the officers admitted that it was their belief that they were detailed to other duties than those of watching for the smuggling of Chinese because they were too strict. Mr. Harris especially gave evidence showing how he had come into conflict with Collector Bowell because he had been too strict, and was forced to acknowledge that Mr. Bowser, formerly chief landing waiter, showed him a diamond ring which he had given to him as a present by the interpreter, Charlie Yip Yen, the predecessor and relative of Yip On.

VOTE ON CHARTER IS TOMORROW

Tomorrow the people will assemble in their respective voting precincts over the city to ballot on the proposed new city charter. It is one of the most momentous elections held in the history of the city, as the adoption or rejection of the charter means much to the city's future. The new charter at first had but little opposition, but in the last 10 days the opposition has grown until it looks as if the result will be close. A majority vote only is required to secure the adoption of the proposed charter. Since the phases of the proposed charter relating to public improvements and the power resting in the proposed commissioner have become known the fight on the charter has been vigorous, especially in the region of the north hill, where a sewer referendum has been in progress. The limitations placed on the power to exercise the referendum have also been severely criticized and combatted, until the people today know more about the charter than they did two weeks ago. The defeat of the present charter would not kill the movement for a commission form of government in Spokane, as those who have urged this system have announced their intention to renew the fight in case the present charter is beaten. The polls will open at 8 a. m. and close at 8 p. m. The result will be known before 9 o'clock tomorrow night. WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The population of Oroville, Cal., was announced by the census bureau today at 3859.

PEARL FOUND IN OYSTER SOUP

(United Press Leased Wire.) KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., Dec. 27.—A pearl as large as a grain of corn is an unexpected Christmas gift that F. W. Richie, a local barber is rejoicing over today. Richie found the pearl in a plate of oyster soup served at his home last night. "The oysters had been shipped from the east in cans," Richie hurried to a jeweler with his find and was told that the pearl was a perfect gem and was valuable. "That can of oysters cost me just 15 cents," said Richietoday. "It certainly is the best investment I ever made."

WILL SPOKANE BE BETTER GOVERNED? THAT'S ISSUE

If men and women of Spokane believe that they will be properly safeguarded from possible official graft and in efficiency under the proposed new charter, and if its weak points may be remedied at the following election, The Press advises them to vote for the commission form of charter. If, on the other hand, the people think that they will not be properly safeguarded, if they think that the commissioners will have the right to pass ordinances spending huge sums of money without recourse to the referendum and without advertising for bids, and if they do not

think these bad features could be remedied in time, then they should consider very carefully whether they should not vote against the proposed charter. As everyone knows, The Press started the educational movement for a commission form of government in Spokane, and it is emphatically in favor of the theory, as an advance over the old system of municipal government. But, as this newspaper has stated before, there is sometimes a world of difference between theory and practice, and in getting the commission theory into shape for practice here, it is believed that the charter committee framed

some very weak provisions. Chief among these is the "emergency ordinance" clause, allowing the passage of any ordinance at once by tacking the word "emergency" on it, and thereby practically nullifying the referendum provision. Contracts can also be let without advertising for bids, and, as a whole, the proposed charter does not protect the taxpayers as well as does the present one. The real provision is not as clear as it should be. The park board is not under the control of the commissioners. These are its chief weak points. If they can all be remedied at the next election, and it is possible that they

might be, although not by any means certain, The Press would actively urge the adoption of the charter. But because the charter is not as good as the Grand Junction, Col., or Des Moines charters, and because the corporations seem to be more protected than the people, The Press thought the best course, in the people's interests, was to clearly show all the weak as well as the good points, and urge the people to study them and vote as they saw fit. Outside the provisions of the charter itself, a factor that has materially hurt the movement is the activity of the