

INCREASE IN HEAT RATES IS DEBATED

Company Says It Faces Deficit of \$200,000.

CITY IS FIGHTING BOOST

Mr. LaRoche Declares This Is No Time to Grant Rise When All Other Prices Are Falling.

Declarations by officials of the Northwestern Electric company that the concern faces a deficit of nearly \$200,000 in the operation of its local steam heating plant during the coming year, and counter assertions by W. F. LaRoche, city attorney, that operating expenses should be much lower in 1921, featured the first day of the public service commission hearing on the application of the firm for higher rates.

Large advances in the price of fuel are given by the company as the basis for its plea for higher rates. The steam heating plant of the Northwestern Electric company supplies heat to many hotels and office buildings in Portland. A graduated table with varying amounts of increases was presented by the company for consideration. Acceptance of the new scale would mean a total increase of approximately 45 per cent over the present rates.

\$79,534 Declared Loss.

Exhibits were introduced by officials of the company to show that the concern had operated at an approximate loss of \$79,534 for the current year, and that under new fuel contracts which would be entered into January 1, this deficit would be increased to \$198,358 for 1921. Crude oil and "hog fuel" are used in the steam heating plant, according to the officials, and at the expiration of present contracts December 31, the price of crude oil will be increased from \$1.76 a barrel to \$2.25, while "hog fuel" will be advanced from \$1.76 to \$2.06 a unit.

In his opening statement opposing the proposed increase, City Attorney LaRoche maintained that the present is an era of falling prices, and is no time for the granting of permanent increases to public service corporations.

"This is an inopportune time to ask for a rise," he said, "for it is an era of falling prices. This request is for a permanent increase, not an emergency rate. The company uses 'hog fuel' and crude oil for making its steam, and I am informed that the price of crude oil is being reduced. The Texas oil has been lowered in price, and I understand that the California supply for the first time in two years exceeds the demand."

Change Held Expensive.

L. T. Merwin, of Portland, vice-president and general manager of the company, was the principal witness at the hearing. He testified to the general condition of the fuel market with special attention to the cost of the two fuels used in the heating plant, and said that the company could not change its contracts from oil to coal burners without considerable unwarranted expense. He introduced several charts dealing with fuel prices.

Samuel Smith of San Francisco, general auditor of the company, declared that within a short time the concern must meet notes totaling \$1,150,000. He asserted that recently the firm had offered for sale bonds worth \$200,000, but they were withdrawn as only 80 per cent of their valuation was offered by buyers. A. N. Cudworth, local auditor of the company, was the first witness called. He testified as to the financial status of the heating plant, giving the operating expenses and income for the past 12 months.

Entire Commission Attends.

The hearing is being held before the entire public service commission. Fred G. Buchtel, Fred Williams and H. H. Corey, Professor W. H. Martin of Oregon Agricultural college, who made a study of the situation at the local heating plant, is sitting with the commission in an advisory capacity.

Besides Mr. LaRoche, Frank S. Grant, representing the Oregon State Hotel association; G. Dieck, representing the Portland Association of Building Owners, are opposing the proposed increase. Lawrence A. McNairy, Attorney Merwin and other officials are appearing for the company.

STREET TO BE VACATED

COUNCIL GRANTS APPLICATION OF SCHOOL BOARD.

Right of Way Running Through Ground Purchased in District No. 1 to Be Eliminated.

The first of a number of requests for vacation of portions of certain streets which run through property purchased by the school board of district No. 1 as school sites was granted by the city council yesterday, when the council voted to vacate Wygant street from Denver avenue to Concord street.

William F. Woodward, school director, explained to the council that the site was purchased about a year ago for the new Beach school, and although that, Wygant street cuts through the tract almost at the center, was common knowledge, proceedings instituted at that time for the vacation of the street were not pressed.

The council referred two other similar petitions filed by the school board to the city attorney. One was for the vacation of a portion of Kellogg street in the St. Johns district and the other a portion of Murray street, which cuts into the site of the Hoarford school. Public hearings will be held on these vacations January 12.

The remonstrations of property owners against the vacation of Wygant street was overruled.

Mr. Woodward explained that the school board has agreed to donate 10 feet on Blandens street so that this thoroughfare might be widened, and did not agree with the property owners that vacation of Wygant street would have a deteriorating effect on the property in the vicinity of the Beach school site.

BOISE MAN NOW JUDGE

Raymond L. Givens Is Appointed to Third District Bench.

BOISE, Idaho, Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Raymond L. Givens of Boise today was appointed judge of the third judicial district by Governor Davis, to succeed Judge Charles P. McCarthy, who was elected to the supreme court bench for a four-year term. Judge McCarthy presented his resignation to Governor Davis some time ago to become effective January 3, when he takes up his new duties on the bench. Judge Givens will succeed Judge McCarthy to the third district court bench at that time.

Judge Givens has lived in Idaho almost all his life, having been reared in Blackfoot, where his father, for some years, was medical superintendent of the asylum. Later Superintendent Givens was assigned to the superintendency of the state asylum at Orofino and Judge Givens lived there until he entered college. He is a graduate of the Colorado college and of the law department of Denver university.

Judge Givens came to Boise in 1911 and opened a law office. In 1912 he was appointed prosecuting attorney for Ada county. In May, 1918, he was appointed assistant to Roy L. Black, attorney general, and assigned to the public utilities commission as its legal counsel. He will resign this position to take up his new duties as judge.

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TRAVELERS BOOST FAIR

EXPOSITION IS INDORSED AND CASH CONTRIBUTED.

Stanhope S. Pier Re-elected President of Association—Gain in Membership Reported.

Re-election of the officers of Post A, Travelers' Protective association, endorsement of the proposed electrical and highway exposition in 1921 and election of delegates to the state convention were the main features of the convention held in the Multnomah hotel yesterday afternoon. Last evening the members had a dance at the Multnomah, with a mountain of refreshments.

The first voluntary contribution to the exposition fund, amounting to \$500, was made by the traveling men and was promptly acknowledged by the Columbia Hydro-Electric league.

Officers re-elected were: Stanhope S. Pier, president; Willis S. Fisher, first vice-president; Albert E. Brown, second vice-president; Clyde Evans, secretary-treasurer; Paul C. Morton, Paul J. Sullivan, Marion E. Johnson, Theodore Rothschild, W. L. Grinnell and David M. Dunne, directors. Life memberships were given to Mr. Pier and Mr. Evans in recognition of their service to the organization.

A bit of information valuable to traveling men was offered. Heretofore traveling men have been permitted to deduct transportation only in their income tax statements. Under a new ruling they may also deduct the cost of meals and lodging.

The Oregon-Washington division, Post A, shows a membership of 682, a gain of 43 per cent.

Following are the delegates elected to the state convention:

Paul J. Sullivan, S. S. Pier, George C. Galloway, Paul C. Morton, Clyde Evans, Roy C. Sisson, L. F. Fuller, Charles E. Bailey, W. L. Grinnell, F. A. Ford, D. C. Bogart, Charles Ringler, Earl Bunting, E. L. Krieger, Willis Fisher, Theodore Rothschild, F. P. Cunner, M. F. Brennan, A. E. Brown, David M. Dunne, M. R. Johnson, C. C. McGinnis, Fred Raymond, W. Stephens, Otto S. Windfelder, Fred J. Meady, F. A. Smith, E. P. Simpson, Ben Levin, Paul H. Semler, Albert Berger, J. A. Ockwig, Fred Marx, George A. Thomas, Charles W. Stubbs, James D. Davenport, H. W. Farrington, L. A. New, Tom Frank W. Shannon.

FRIEND ASKS \$12,850

AGED WOMEN ADMINISTERED TO FOR 72 MONTHS WEALTHY.

Miss Katherine E. Franklin Sues Administrator of Estate of Mrs. Louis Humphrey-Smith.

The suit of Miss Katherine E. Franklin against H. H. Northup, administrator of the estate of the late Mrs. Louis Humphrey-Smith, was before Circuit Judge Tazewell yesterday and will continue through today. The plaintiff asks judgment for \$12,850 for the care of Mrs. Smith for a period of 72 months previous to her death.

The elderly woman went to live with Miss Franklin in June, 1918, when she asked to share the expenses of the home so as to receive care in her old age. She was then more than 70 years old and an invalid, becoming more and more infirm in years passed. Miss Franklin was under the impression that Mrs. Smith was not financially able to pay more for her care. After death sufficient funds were found in the estate. Witnesses testified that Mrs. Smith was always secretive about her financial condition.

It is contended by the defense that Mrs. Smith carried out the terms of the only agreement made between the two women and that her share of the household expenses was paid regularly.

BORAH'S SECRETARY QUILTS

Earl Venable to Return to Idaho to Enter Business.

BOISE, Idaho, Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Earl Venable, for 12 years secretary to Senator Borah, has resigned and will return to this state where he will enter business. It is announced, Miss Cora Rubin, for many years assistant secretary to the senior senator from this state, has been appointed secretary.

Mr. Venable has been associated with the republican party national committee in numerous capacities during the campaign and has done exceptional work. It is announced. He is a newspaper man, having been engaged in the newspaper business before going to Washington to take up his duties as secretary to Senator Borah.

Medical Examiner Appointed.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Dr. J. K. Locke of Portland today was appointed a member of the state board of medical examiners to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Frank W. Wood, resigned. The appointment was made by Governor Olcott. Dr. Locke's term as a member of the board will expire February 28, 1922.

Read The Oregonian Classified ads.

Ask for The ORIGINAL Malted Milk

Safe Milk

For Infants & Invalids

NO COOKING

The "Food-Drink" for All Ages.

Quick Lunch at Home, Office, and Fountains. Ask for **HORLICK'S**.

Avoid Imitations & Substitutes.

ALL CHARGE PURCHASES MADE TODAY AND REMAINDER OF MONTH GO ON JANUARY ACCOUNTS, PAYABLE FEB. 1

Pay Your Bill and Get Double Stamps

—Charge customers will receive Double Trading Stamps on January 1st bills if paid in full on or before January 10. Don't fail to take advantage of this saving.

The Standard Store of the Northwest

Olds, Wortman & King

Reliable Merchandise—Reliable Methods

CORSETS 1/4 Off

—This includes our entire stock with the exception of a contract line. Second Floor.

Annual CLEARANCE SALE

EVERY ARTICLE REDUCED

Except Groceries and a Very Few Contract Lines

—IN ADDITION to phenomenal underprice offerings in broken lines, small lots and odds and ends throughout the store—EVERY ARTICLE—with the exception of groceries and a few contract lines—now on sale at Reduced Prices. Thousands of dollars' worth of high-grade dependable merchandise to select from. Extraordinary bargains in all departments of the store. COME AND SHARE IN THE SAVINGS. Trading Stamps with all purchases.

Women's Plaid Skirts —2 Great Sales!

Second Floor—Thursday we shall feature a remarkable Clearance Sale of Women's and Misses' Plaid Skirts at greatly reduced prices. Smart, up-to-date models—very latest patterns. Take advantage!

\$22.50 Skirts \$14.98

—Beautiful Skirts of high-grade wool plaid materials in assorted patterns and colors. Various combinations of browns, blues, greens, tans, etc. Accordion plaited, knife plaited and box plaited styles. Values up to \$22.50—at **\$14.98**

\$25.00 Skirts \$17.95

—Women's and Misses' Wool Plaid Skirts in a splendid range of the season's best styles. Box, knife and accordion plaited effects, also gathered models. All the very newest color combinations. **\$17.95** Skirts selling formerly to \$25—special

Bath Robes | House Dresses \$5.98 | \$3.98

Center Circle, 1st Floor—Women's Blanket Bath Robes specially priced for the Clean-Up Sale. Attractive styles with roll collars and long sleeves. Floral, Indian and conventional designs. Light and dark colors. Full range of sizes. **\$5.98** Priced very special, each

Second Floor—Women's Slip-on Dresses and House Aprons in general smart styles. Made up in ginghams and percales. Long or short sleeves, round, V or square necks. Stripes, checks, plaids and plain **\$3.98** —Ask for your S. & H. Stamps!

Garment Salons, Second Floor

Women's Crepe Waists \$4.49

Second Floor—This is a special group of high-class Waists selected from our regular stock and greatly reduced on account of lines being broken. Beautiful models in embroidered, beaded, braided and lace trimmed effects. High or low necks, long or short sleeves. **\$4.49** Good colors. On sale at **Second Floor**

EVERY ARTICLE REDUCED!

except GROCERIES and a very few CONTRACT LINES.

Choice of Our Entire Stock of Art Needle Package Goods At HALF PRICE

Bargain Circle, Main Floor—The most important Sale of its kind we have ever announced as it takes in the entire stock of Package Goods. Hundreds of different articles—Gowns, Chemise, Pajamas, Aprons, Scarfs, Pillows, Center Pieces, Caps, Bibs, Children's Apparel, Lunch Cloths, Collar Bags, etc., etc. Fresh, clean stock, not odds and ends.

—Regular 75c Packages special **38c**
—Regular 85c Packages special **43c**
—Regular 90c Packages special **45c**
—Regular \$1.00 Packages special **50c**
—Regular \$1.25 Packages special **63c**

All Footwear Reduced!

—Extraordinary Savings!

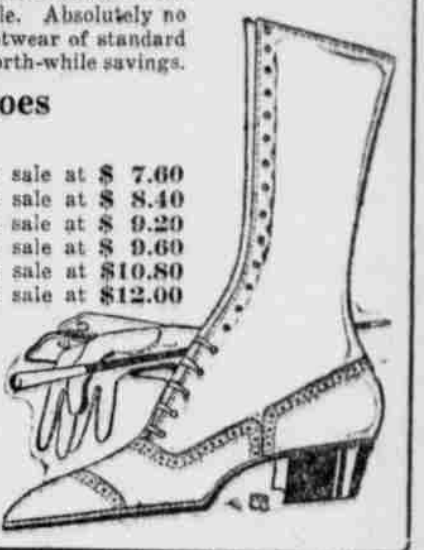
—Every pair of Men's, Women's and Children's Shoes in the house reduced in price for the Clean-Up Sale. Absolutely no reserve! Here is an opportunity to buy Footwear of standard makes in the latest styles and leathers at worth-while savings.

Men's, Women's Shoes At 20% Off

—All \$ 9.50 Shoes priced special for this sale at **\$ 7.60**
—All \$10.50 Shoes priced special for this sale at **\$ 8.40**
—All \$11.50 Shoes priced special for this sale at **\$ 9.20**
—All \$12.00 Shoes priced special for this sale at **\$ 9.60**
—All \$13.50 Shoes priced special for this sale at **\$10.80**
—All \$15.00 Shoes priced special for this sale at **\$12.00**

Children's Shoes

—Every pair of Misses' and Children's Shoes—including Buster Brown—at special low prices.—Dept., Main Floor.



OWK Coffee 39c lb.

—No delivery except with other grocery purchases. OWK Imperial Roast Coffee. Special 3 lbs. **\$1.15**—a pound **39c**
—60c TEA—Ceylon or English Breakfast, on sale Thursday special a pound, only **49c**
—ROYAL Baking Powder, 45c size—priced special **35c**

Model Grocery 4th Floor

Sale of Men's Clothing

Every Man's Suit and Overcoat Reduced

—There are Clothing Sales and Clothing Sales, but here is one that MEANS SOMETHING! Not a lot of undesirable styles and broken sizes, but high-grade clothing in the very smart styles and fabrics. Step into the Men's Store and select any Suit or Overcoat in our stock at a substantial saving. And the best of it is you get Clothing of DEPENDABLE QUALITY.

\$30 Suits at \$19.75

—Men's regular \$35 Suits, special **\$23.25**
—Men's regular \$45 Suits, special **\$29.75**
—Men's regular \$55 Suits, special **\$36.50**
—Men's regular \$60 Suits, special **\$39.95**

\$85 Suits \$56.50

—Men's regular \$85 Suits, special **\$43.25**
—Men's regular \$70 Suits, special **\$46.25**
—Men's regular \$75 Suits, special **\$49.75**
—Men's regular \$80 Suits, special **\$53.25**

\$35 Overcoats \$23.25

\$95 Grades \$63

—Men's regular \$40 Overcoats at **\$26.50**
—Men's regular \$45 Overcoats at **\$29.75**
—Men's regular \$55 Overcoats at **\$36.50**

—Men's regular \$65 Overcoats at **\$43.25**
—Men's regular \$75 Overcoats at **\$49.75**
—Men's regular \$85 Overcoats at **\$56.50**

Boys' Clothing Reduced!

—All Boys' Overcoats Reduced—All Boys' Suits Reduced—All Boys' Sweaters Reduced—All Boys' Underwear and Hosiery Reduced—All Boys' Waists Reduced—Supply the youngsters' needs now at THE LOWEST PRICES OF THE YEAR!

Boys' Corduroy Suits Special \$9.35

—BOYS' Corduroy Suits, good dark colors. Regular \$13.50 values at **\$9.35**
—2-PANT SUITS in the latest belted models. Ages range 8 to 14 years. **\$12.45** Clearance Sale at

—BOYS' Mackinaws; to \$20 kind **\$12.45**
—BOYS' Junior Norfolks with straight pants. Full lined and taped. Mostly blue **\$6.85** Serges. Ages 4 to 10 Ask for your S. & H. Stamps.

Boys' \$1.50, \$1.75 Blouses at 98c



Sheets, Sheeting, Pillow Cases At Reduced Prices

—BLEACHED SHEETS of good heavy quality. One of the very best standard makes. 3 yards **\$1.95** long. Priced very special **\$1.95**

—PILOW TUBING in 42 and 45-inch widths. Splendid, firm quality and weight. Priced special **37 1/2c** for the Clearance Sale

—BLEACHED SHEETING, 72 inches wide. Not more than 10 yards to a customer. Priced very special **48c** for Clearance Sale at a yard

—PILOW CASES of excellent quality bleached sheeting. Size 45x36 inches. Only 100 dozen in **25c** this lot. On special sale, each

Bath Robe Patterns—Clearance—\$3.95

Sale of Novelty Ribbons

—Values to \$1.95 at \$1 a Yard

—Values to \$10.00 at \$3.95 Yard

Main Floor—Hundreds of yards of high-grade Novelty Ribbons priced for quick Clearance at an average less than half price. Ribbons suitable for Bags, Camisoles, Sashes, Girdles and Vests. Latest designs and colors in the sale.

—LOT 1—Ribbons former-ly priced to \$1.95; special **\$1.00**

—LOT 2—Ribbons former-ly priced to \$3.00; special **\$1.95**

—LOT 3—Ribbons former-ly priced to \$3.95; special **\$2.25**

—LOT 4—Ribbons former-ly priced to \$10; special **\$3.95**

—We Give S. & H. Green Trading Stamps

Basement Underprice Store Annual Clearance Sale

—EVERY ARTICLE REDUCED with the exception of a few contract lines. The Basement Clearance brings extraordinary values in Women's and Children's Apparel, Men's Furnishings, Household Needs, Shoes, Underwear, Corsets, etc.

Pillow Cases 17c

Basement—Bleached Pillow Cases made from good heavy quality muslin. Size 36x36 inches. It will pay you to lay in a good supply of these, for they are wonderful values. **17c** On special sale today, only

27-In. Percales 16c

Basement—1200 yards of standard quality Percale in a special Clearance offering in the Basement. Large selection of light patterns for house dresses, aprons, etc. On special sale in the Basement, yard

Large Comfort Batts at 95c

200 in This Very Special Offering

Basement—Fine quality Batts—72x90 inches, sufficient for making of a large size comforter. Weight 2 1/2 pounds each. No telephone orders accepted on account of quantity being limited. Clearance Sale price **95c**

We Give S. & H. Green Trading Stamps