

**THE EVENING NEWS**  
CARL D. SHOEMAKER,  
Editor and Sole Proprietor.

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MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1912.

**DAILY WEATHER REPORT.**

U. S. Weather Bureau, local office,  
Roseburg, Ore., 24 hours ending 5  
a. m., March 25, 1912.  
Precipitation in inches and hundredths:  
Highest temperature yesterday 52  
Lowest temperature last night 34  
Precipitation, last 24 hours .09  
Total precip. since 1st of month 3.65  
Normal precip. for this month 3.98  
Total precip. from Sep. 1, 1911,  
to date . . . . .24.55  
Average precip. from September 1, 1877 . . . . .27.76  
Total deficiency from Sep. 1,  
1911 . . . . .3.21  
Average precip. for 34 wet  
seasons (Sep. to May inclusive) . . . . .32.36  
WILLIAM BELLI,  
Observer.

**THE WATER & LIGHT QUESTION.**

This paper has heretofore printed in its news columns matter pertaining to the water and light contracts that the city of Roseburg has with Kendall Brothers, who are the owners of the light and water plant which supplies the consumers in Roseburg. There has been much comment back and forth, but the one feature of all the articles and letters which we published was that the citizens and consumers here were dissatisfied with the present unsatisfactory service and wanted a change. This change could only be brought about by municipal ownership of the light and water plant. It was argued. This paper interviewed nine out of the twelve councilmen and all of these were in favor of municipal ownership if the city could afford to bond itself and install the plant and if this was the proper time for the change. The entire matter was brought about by the high rates charged the city for lighting and water and the inefficient and unsatisfactory and uneven service of the present owners of these commodities. The general feeling among consumers is that some change should take place. It is not probable that any step will be taken by the city council looking toward municipal ownership at this time. It is probable, however, that unless the service is bettered in the near future and a better rate is made with the city that this will be the one big issue in the municipal campaign a year from this coming fall. If some good responsible company were to purchase the present plant and be watchful of the service that it gave the people no such thought would be in the minds of the voters and consumers. What the people want is the highest possible service with a fair and just rate. But service is what they demand. A public service corporation, which depends for its existence upon the service that it renders the public, is more or less responsible to the public and the public has more than ordinary rights in the manner in which that commodity is sold to them. It is different from buying a yard of calico. If the first merchant wants too high a price for his cloth the customer may go to the next store and buy. If the calico is not as good as the customer wanted he need not purchase it. Not so with the citizen who buys water and light from a public service corporation. The city gives the corporation a franchise which usually gives the exclusive right to use the streets for these purposes for a period of years. The corporation erects its poles and lays its mains, turns on the water and light and sells the same to all consumers. It then sometimes forgets that it was by the grace of the people that it was allowed to do business at all. If the service is not what it should be the people have no recourse except to agitate municipal ownership—which is not always the cure for the evil. If that same corporation had made it its aim to see that the people's requests had been examined into, if it had been conscientious in its treatment of its patrons; if it had tried to make efficiency instead of increasing dividends; if it had done these things there would have been no cry for municipal ownership. Private ownership of light and water plants has been tried and proven a complete success in hundreds of communities in the United States. Municipal ownership has met with some signal successes and some equally signal failures, depending largely upon its complete removal from politics and eliminating the "spoils system" from its operation. One of two things is bound to happen in this city. Either the present owners of the light and water plant will have to increase the efficiency of its service to the public or a new company, seeing the possibilities for good here, will take over the proposition, and render such service to its patrons that municipal ownership will not be an issue in the coming campaign.

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**POEM FOR TODAY.**

**The Difference.**  
"She sought her 'Rights'  
Robber by some cruel chance of life's  
delights,  
With a dissatisfied and restless soul,  
With a half logic, which she counted  
whole;  
Earnest, no doubt, and honest, not  
unsexed,  
But hungering, and querulous, and  
vexed  
With starving instincts in a fruitless  
frame,  
And with an itching for the sore of  
fame  
Which comes from the mere printing  
of a name,  
She clamored for her 'Rights'; showed  
solemn craft,  
And men,  
Brute men,  
They only laughed.

"She did not seek her 'Rights';  
She dreamed not of some path to  
mannish heights,  
But followed nature's way and deemed  
it good,  
And bloomed from flower to fruit  
of womanhood;  
She loved the 'tyrant'; bare her noble  
part  
In life with him, and thought with  
all her heart  
She had her rights.  
She held that something men and  
women meant  
To be unlike, but each a supplement  
unto the other, 'twas her gentle  
whim  
He was not more to her than she  
to him;  
And little children gathered at her  
knee,  
And men,  
Brute men,  
Would die for such as she."

**LAUGHING GAS.**

**Bryan As a Business Man.**  
William Jennings Bryan was never a book agent, but he at one time came near enough to it to qualify as a counselor of those who followed the business. On one occasion he undertook to sell to the citizens of the Salem neighborhood, in Illinois, 10 maps which his brother had been peddling unsuccessfully for several weeks. "All you want me to do, as I understand it, is to sell these maps," said Bryan. "Yes, that's all," agreed the brother. That night William returned home with the announcement: "I have sold them all." This astounded the brother, who

insisted that the 10 maps could not have been disposed of within so short a time. "Oh, it was easy enough," said the future presidential candidate. "I did not bother about the money. One map I sold to the barber, who will keep me shaved for weeks. Another I turned over to a groceryman, and I used the remainder to pay off some little bills I owed around town." "But where do I get off?" asked the brother. "How do I get my percentage?" "Well," said Bryan, without enthusiasm, "you can come around and have supper with me some time." Popular Magazine.

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**New Complaint.**  
"How do you like your new minister's wife?"  
"Not very well. She's just as stylish as the rest of us."—Detroit Free Press.

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—Trimmed with the smartest of French Novelty Feathers.  
—This is our specialty—in fact we pride ourselves on the diversity of styles at such small prices.  
—See what we are offering at these prices.  
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