

R. R. Commission Report

Regulation of public utilities, together with steady growth of railroad business, has increased the work of the Railroad Commission of Oregon just 274 per cent in one year, measured by the volume of formal complaints handled. This is one of the features disclosed by the annual report of the Commission for the year ending December 1, 1913, which has just been made public.

Chairman Frank J. Miller and his colleagues, Thomas K. Campbell and Clyde B. Atchison, in telling the story of the year's work, have naturally covered a much broader field than usual, and the report is especially interesting in its explanation of the progress made in the new duties assigned by the public utilities act.

The net operating revenue of all the railroads of the state for the year ending June 30, 1913, was \$86,632,734.82, the report shows a gain of \$66,156.25 over the figures for the previous year. Total operating revenue of all roads on state business was \$14,865,885.53, of which \$15,160,464.78 came from freight, \$8,777,926.56 from passengers, \$380,626.44 from other passenger train revenue, \$235,429.75 from other transportation services, and \$311,438 from sources other than transportation.

Oregon's proportion of interstate railroad revenue is almost equal to the state revenue, being \$14,597,155.66, making the total rail revenue \$29,463,042.09. The operating expenses assigned to Oregon amounts to \$192,516,590.90, leaving a net operating revenue for the railroad balance sheets of \$10,201,532.19. As the taxes totaled \$1,568,788.237 the clear net returns stands at \$8,632,743.82.

The total railroad mileage operated in the state is given as 3,278, of which 426 is electric road mileage. Increase in mileage in the state in the line owned is 64 miles, and 47 additional miles are shown to have been placed in operation. The electric roads show well in revenue in proportion to their mileage, the 426 miles of electric line having yielded \$1,643,680.28 in net operating return, after deducting over half a million dollars in taxes, or about twice the return per mile, taken collectively, made by the team lines.

Reviewing the great amount of work required to properly classify the utilities of the state, 1913 being the first year that electric, gas, water, telephone and street railway companies have been under regulation by the state, the report proceeds to discuss the principles applied to the making of rates, saying:

"It was early apparent that considerable time would be required before rate making problems for the larger utilities of the state could be properly considered and solved. Rate making, as required by the law and by sound public policy, is not a matter of guess work. To be upheld by the courts, to be permanent in results, to be just alike to the public and to the corporations concerned, it must be founded upon exact information, and it must proceed upon a reasonable application of the laws governing the complex relations that have grown up around modern industrial conditions. The blind fixing of rates, upon inadequate information, or no information at all, as has been attempted in some instances with in the public memory, cannot be defended either in law or in equity, and has nearly always resulted in confusion and disaster.

"The Commission has therefore been constrained to proceed only over ground that has been fully prospected and tried. It is not bound by technical

rules, and it does not need to adhere to outworn precedents unfitted to the day, but it has refused to depart from the reliable rules of progress; investigation, information, sanity, success.

"So if in some instances the work has seemed slow, it is nevertheless being advanced as fast as facilities, funds and circumstances will permit. Accuracy, not guesswork, is required, and it is essential that the findings of the Commission, when made, shall be demonstrably correct—that is, just so nearly correct as fallible human judgment will permit."

It is stated that 226 utility companies have been listed under the jurisdiction of the Commission and considerable progress made in the valuation of several of the larger utilities, this being necessary before rates are fixed. The report brings the narrative of work performed down to December 15, 1913, and valuation investigations stated to be nearing completion are those of the Portland Railway, Light and Power Company, Coos Bay Water Company, St. Johns Water Works and Lighting Company, Rogue River Water Company of Grants Pass, Home Telephone and Telegraph Company of Southern Oregon, and the Salem Water, Light and Power Company. Water plant valuation is under way at Dallas, also valuation of the Pacific Telephone Company's plant at Oregon City, and it is stated that substantial reductions have been secured in light and power rates, without necessity for formal proceedings, in Dallas, Monmouth, Independence, Junction City, Corvallis and other towns of the Willamette Valley.

The report describes the steps taken in three general hearings that involved extended investigation. In one of these proceedings rules and regulations were prescribed for furnishing, loading and unloading cars, and for demurrage. In another rules were issued to govern overhead and underground construction of all manner of electric wires, to provide safety for workmen and the public. In the third, not yet concluded, the Commission is working out regulations of standards under which public utilities must measure pressure, quality, voltage and other conditions in supplying service to the public.

Orders were made during the year for refunding \$4,423 to shippers because of overcharges or of special circumstances appearing to justify reparation. Railroads and other carriers have filed 580 passenger and 475 freight schedules with the Commission, and the utilities have added 469 rate schedules during the year.

Other topics covered by the report, aside from the statistical portion, are cases that have been appealed to the courts, proceedings before the Interstate Commerce Commission, manner of handling complaints, railroad valuation, improvement of Corvallis and Eastern Railroad between Corvallis and Yaquina, train delay reports, suspension of railroad tariffs, accident investigations, scope of work under the utilities act, methods of utility valuation, telephone and water rate cases, accounting department work, and commission merchant's act.

State Industrial News

Salem, Ore., Feb. 21—During the past week the Supreme Court has decided against Labor Commissioner Hoff in his contention that the eight hour law for public works applied to all public employment, such as police, firemen, state employes, etc.

The case of Frank Stettler, paper box manufacturer at Portland, against the Public Welfare Commission was argued before the highest court here,

and in either case, will be appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States.

A representative of Going and Harvey of Marshfield has been spending two weeks at Portland buying merchandise direct from the manufacturers, to eliminate middlemen's profits, and reduce the high cost of living.

The Oregon Woodenware Manufacturing Co., has an order for sixty carloads of butter tubs from the Swift Packing Co.

The Made in Oregon movement received substantial encouragement when 1,500,000 brick were used in the North western Bank Building at Portland, 500,000 being the cream pressed face brick.

Frederic City has a new flouring mill operated by electricity grinding thirty barrels a day besides feed.

Amity people voted down a city waterworks proposition recently but the matter is to be brought up in a more practical way.

Central Point is considering a water system with a pump system forcing 400 gallons per minute through the mains.

W. L. Chappell of Oakville will establish an up to date creamery at Medford.

The Board of Education are planning to add a first class gymnasium and swimming tank to the Marshfield high school.

The Farmers Manufacturing and Supply Co., of Bandon, are taking steps to establish a cheese factory.

A fifty room annex to the St. Francis hotel at Albany is being completed. The Eugene Fruit Growers Association is extending contracts for larger acreage of vegetables for the cannery.

The Springfield planing mills are enlarging the box manufacturing department to employ about twenty more hands.

The Pythian Lodge of Aurora is to erect a two story brick block 100 by 100, to cost \$15,000.

The Tidewater mill at Florence has been reconstructed and is preparing to saw \$100,000 worth of logs this spring.

A \$20,000 central heating plant has been installed by the First National Bank of Dallas.

Plans for a \$3,000 high school for the Fulton Park district, Portland, are to be ready by the middle of March.

The German Turnverein of Portland is completing a big club house and gymnasium at a cost of about \$80,000.

Growers in the vicinity of Sherwood received more than \$150,000 for their hops recently.

The new cannery erected at Salem by Hunt Bros., of San Francisco will give employment to 250 persons during the season.

In their big fight for a pure water supply Pendleton people will next vote on a forty thousand dollar bond issue.

Work has begun on the first section of the Pacific Highway from Medford to Central Point—concrete with a granitoid surface.

Marion county is awakening from the sleep of ages and will vote on an \$850,000 good roads bond issue.

WANTED WORK:—House work or cooking preferred; no objection to leaving town; leave word at Morgus's Store, St Helens, 11p

WANTED—Parties with money to loan to communicate with me, can place your money at once. Clients waiting; security, Improved City property. Address,

H. HENDERSON,
492 North Jersey Street,
St. Johns Oregon.

POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

To the voters of Columbia Co., State of Oregon:

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Sheriff on the Republican ticket, subject to your approval at the Primary Election to be held May 15, 1914.

Pd. Ad. E. C. STANWOOD

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the Republican nomination for Coroner of Columbia County, subject to the voters of the county at the Primary Election on May 15th 1914.

Respectfully
Pd. Ad. T. S. WHITE

2-24-1914

To the Voters of Columbia Co., State of Oregon:

I hereby announce my candidacy for the Republican nomination for Sheriff, at the Primary Election May 15, 1914.

Very respectfully,
Pd. Ad. A. B. LAKE

DREAM GREAT DREAMS.

And Then Strive Your Utmost to Make Your Dreams Come True.

To turn the face in the right direction and then to travel on is unquestionably the essential secret of all achievement. There are, however, certain facts as well as certain inner forces common to us all that can be used as helps along the way.

In a recent little poem by Edwin Markham we find these lines: Great it is to believe the dream When we stand in youth by the starry stream. But a greater thing is to fight life through And win at the end, "The dream is true."

Whether the dream, which may be used as another term for one's ideals, does come true depends primarily upon the self. The intrepid and the brave hearted, moreover, actualize more of their ambitions or ideals than do the faint hearted or the vacillating. It was Goethe who said:

Are you in earnest? Seize this very minute; What you can do or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Only begin and then the mind grows habit. Begin and then the work will be completed.

Life, or rather life in a continually expanding and achieving form, is, after all, a business, and they who are the most in earnest get from it the most and in turn give the most back to the world again.—Ralph Waldo Trine in Woman's Home Companion.

HOW SMALL MERCHANT WON.

Held His Own With Mail Order Houses Through Clever Move.

This instance of how a small town merchant successfully combated the efforts of the big mail order houses to get his trade was told by the manager of a New York department store:

Hearing a great deal of comment among his customers about the offerings of a prominent catalogue house, this merchant got a catalogue of the concern and advertised that he would place orders with that house for his trade without charge. One of his first customers for the rival house was a woman, who ordered a shirt waist priced at \$1.20. On delivery of the waist at his store the merchant called in the customer and then took from his stock a similar waist, better made, that he sold regularly for \$1.25.

While the cost difference was small, the woman recognized the difference in values at once and afterward bought at home. Other cases of this kind, according to the department store manager, resulted in a material increase in the merchant's trade and also helped other dealers of the town.

W. J. MUCKLE WASHINGTON MUCKLE
MUCKLE HARDWARE COMPANY
DEALERS IN
PAINTS HARDWARE OILS
HARNES SASH DOORS
COWLITZ and RIVER STREETS ST. HELENS, OREGON

Some Suggestions.....
KODAKS, CAMERAS, XMAS BOOKLETS
LETTERS, POST CARDS, BOOKS FOR OLD
and YOUNG, GUITARS VIOLINS, BANJOS,
LADIES HAND BAGS, MUSIC ROLLS,
GENTLEMENS CARD AND BILL BOOKS,
PERFUMERY AND TOILET WATERS,
CALENDERS AND N.W YEAR CARDS

A. J. DEMING, DRUGGIST, ST. HELENS

PLANS AND ESTIMATES FURNISHED ON ALL KINDS OF WORK
E. W. KETEL
CONTRACTOR IN
Cement Finishing Concrete Work
Bricklaying Plastering
MY WORK IS THE BEST RECOMMENDATION
ST. HELENS, OREGON

Livery, Feed and Sale Stable
DRAYING AND TRANSFER
All Business Promptly Attended To
PHONE 15 OR 12
WM. H. DAVIES PROP
ST. HELENS, OREGON

St. Helens Mill Co.
Electric Lighting
(Saves Your Eyes)
Steam Heating
(Prolongs Your Lives)
Lath Wood Lumber

MR. HENRY PECK AND HIS FAMILY AFFAIRS - - By Gross

