THE ST. HELENS MIST

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THE TELEPHONE RATE INCREASE

Maybe the telephone company was justified in asking for a heavy increase in rates and maybe the public service commission was justified in granting the increase. There is one thing in connection with the increase, however, that is not in the "maybe" category. The public resents the increase and resents it in no lukewarm manner.

The people have been "fed up" on price increases. They want and expect decreases and they are being given a declining market by manufacturers and dealers of almost every commodity. In order to stimulate buying and help business get back to a normal state, many a merchant and many an institution of business and industry has pocketed a big loss. They have met the popular demand.

The telephone company claims that it must have more revenue to meet increased costs and to make needed improvements and extensions to its plants. It has selected a most inopportune time, however, to ask those increases. A long-suffering public in is a rebellious mood.

Nor does the general condition of the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. indicate there is any great sympathy due it. It certainly is not in the distressful situation in which are the railroads, if we are to judge from its annual report.

An Associated Press dispatch, under date of March 5 from New York, announces the net earnings of the company for the year at $70,686,904, quite a tidy little sum. After dividends, interest and appropriations for contingencies had been deducted, a balance of $8,444,423 was added to the surplus, more than twice the balance of 1919. The financial statement of the company, signed by C. A. Heiss, comptroller, discloses some other very interesting facts and figures which prove that bankruptcy is not a fate in store for the company.

To the ordinary layman it looks like the telephone company might have foregone any increase in revenue as a contribution to the return to normalcy. And it also looks like the public service commission might have exercised its benevolence in behalf of the public which pays for its services.—Astoria Budget.

The Mist commented on the proposed raise in rates at the time it was proposed and was of the opinion that the Public Service Commission would not grant any increase. However, the commission did not see fit to take our advice, a matter which we much regret.

Even with the increased rates, The Mist does not believe the phone company will have as much revenue as they now have. Hundreds of phones will be disconnected and thousands of heretofore phone calls will go via mail and at 2c with a little time and labor added. People will practice economy when it is forced upon them, but this does not apply to the telephone company.

The railroads were granted an increase in rates but too much of an increase for the public to stand. The consequence is that the passenger traffic has fallen off and thousands of empty box cars stand idle on side tracks. The railroads were not benefitted; their revenue has decreased and they are now appealing to the government, or if they are not, the people are.

In our opinion, the same thing will be repeated in the telephone case. It is certainly applicable.

The commission, in granting the request of the phone company, said that the phone company needed more revenue so they could make more improvements. In other words, the present phone users should supply the "wherewith" for betterments and extensions.

As an illustration, we might say that we need a new press and should furnish our subscribers with a seven column paper and print the paper twice or three times a week, therefore we should raise the subscription rates and the advertising rates in order that we might furnish the public with a paper such as is desired.

The phone company and the Public Service Commission "pulled a boner" if the opinion of many patrons who have spoken to us, can be taken as an indication of the sentiment of the public.

HOW WARS START

Had there been an ocean telegraph in 1812 there might not have been a war with England at that time. Five days after President Madison signed the declaration of war England recalled the orders in council which had provoked it. The purpose to recall the orders was unknown in America, while in England nothing was known of the war declaration when the orders were revoked. This war's most important battle, that of New Orleans, was fought fifteen days after the treaty of peace had been signed at Ghent. It was this battle which made Jackson a popular idol and gave him the presidency.

The first step in the Crimean war was Russia's invasion of Moldavia, months before diplomatic rupture with England and France.

The firing on Fort Sumter, which started the war between the states, is a familiar story.

The first shot of the Franco-Prussian war was by a French soldier on guard at Strasburg bridge a day or two before Napoleon III. formally took the field. The attempt on Bismarck's life as he was walking down the Unter den Linden on May 7, 1866, rallied public sentiment to him and his policy and from a dramatic standpoint may be said to have been the first shot in the Austro-Prussian war.

The blowing up of the Maine was the first blow in the Spanish American war, which ended Spanish possessions in the new world.—Charlton Bates Strayer in Leslie's.

Complete official statistics show that last year there were formed in Germany 450 new companies with shares of 1,461,000,000 marks, all fully paid; and 1,752 old companies issued shares of 6,741,000,000 marks, also all fully paid. Thus there was a total of new capital invested of 8,202,000,000 marks. The inference is, we suppose, that poor Germany is penniless and quite unable to pay any indemnity to the countries which she ravished and looted.

A subscriber to the Mist and a prominent citizen of St. Helens, when speaking of the proposed union high school, said "many who have spoken to me are in favor of such a school and realize the necessity of such school, but taxes are so high now that they want to know where all this tax money goes before voting any more taxes." The name of the party making the enquiry will be furnished any one who wishes to make a reply.

The City of Mexico with a population of more than 1,000,000 reported a day in October when "not a crime was committed nor an arrest made." How does this compare with Columbia county which has a population of 14,000.

George Washington said "I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an Honest Man."

The snow and cold rain we have been having makes certain a big crop of good fruit, said a farmer to the Mist reporter.

When Mrs. Dad sues Mr. Dad for a divorce it is apparent that some Dad is in bad.

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PUBLIC FORUM

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THE RAILROAD PAYS

To The Editor of The Mist,

I know it is your practice as well as desire to keep your many readers fully informed relative to matters of great public interest.

At a recent meeting of citizens of this city called to discuss the question of enfranchising the various Inter-City Public utilities operating in St. Helens information was requested respecting the amount of taxes paid by the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway Company, Representatives of the Railway Company present at that meeting were unable just at that moment to give better than approximate figures.

I feel certain the citizens of this city as well as county will be more than interested in the following figures and that you will be glad to give space for this information.

The railroad taxes payable this year in Columbia county total $78,164.17. This is a monthly average of $6,513.93, and the total amount is divided as follows.

Schools (special)	$19,932.26
Roads (Special)	$27,824.99
Cities	$1,829.73
State and County	$28,567.19

It is to be noted that a generous portion of the state and county taxes goes into the School and Road funds.

The payroll in St. Helens averages $15,000.00 per year.

I am sure your readers will appreciate your kindness in giving publicity to this information.

Yours Truly,
Agent S. P. & S. Ry.

C. J. LARSON LIKES EGYPT AND COLUMBIA

Since leaving Warren some months ago, C. J. Larson has been seeing a considerable part of the world as the following letter which was received a few days ago, indicates.

Cairo, Egypt, Feb. 8, 1921.
Editor of St. Helens Mist,

When I last saw you in St. Helens, you asked that I write you once in a while. We want to let our friends in Columbia county know that we are still alive and enjoying good health. There is plenty of sunshine in this country which has a climate and vegetation very much like Southern California, it now being from 60 to 70 degrees during the days and 40 to 50 degrees at nights, with sunshine most of the days and a little rain once in a while.

The Egyptians go barefooted a great deal but we feel better with our shoes on, and an overcoat also feels good mornings and evenings.

After leaving New York on the 7th of October, we have visited France and the battlefields, Switzerland and the Alps, Italy with its many places of interest, and especially Venice, Rome, Naples, Pompei and Vesuvius. Then we crossed the blue Mediterranean sea, stopping in Greece and Alexandria and Port Said, Egypt, and landed at Jaffa, Palestine, December 6th, and celebrated Christmas in Bethlehem and stayed three weeks in Jerusalem and surrounding places seeing the many historic spots, and have now been in Egypt three weeks and have seen the wonderful Nile river and valley, the great pyramids, Sphinx, obelisks and the Red Sea; the great sand deserts and many other places of interest. But for a country to live in, the United States excels all, not leaving Oregon and Columbia county in the rear. I do not dare to take any more of your space in the Mist this time, but if you will come to see me when I get home again, I will tell more about it,

Yours truly,
C. J. Larson.

Address Jaifa, Palestine.

MANN EXTOLS CLARK

Washington, March—Charges of undue partisan spirit on the part of Republicans in Congress may be dismissed after the following tribute to the late Champ Clark by Representative James R. Mann, of Illinois:

"When the Georgia delegation informed our departed friend of their desire to have a gavel presented to him and the presentation speech made by a Republican member of the House, and asked him to name one, he did a great honor to me in his loving kindness to suggest that I should present the gavel to him on behalf of the House. It is not possible for me to do that. It will be presented to his family. I loved the man. We were on opposite sides of the House. We never had extra close personal relations, but in all the touch and contests of bitter fights we learned not merely to respect each other but to love as two brothers might. This House saw him in the days of great parliamentary contests and no one ever appeared on this floor in a parliamentary fight who was his superior, and some of us doubted when he was elected Speaker if it were possible for a man with the parliamentary fighting propensities such as he had to preside without partisan. He left the Speaker's chair with the respect, with the admiration, with the affectionate regard of every member of the House, regardless of party. He has gone to his heavenly reward, but his memory will linger long in the halls of this House, influencing those who are here and those who come afterwards to remember that contests over the principles do not need to degenerate into personal animosities."

MAGAZINE TRIES OWN MEDICINE—LIKES RESULT

How the Literary Digest took a few doses of its own medicine and grew strong is explained by Frederick C. Little of Chicago, one of the western representatives of that publication, who was a Portland visitor.

"Five years ago the Literary Digest, with a circulation of 350,000, held a staff conference in the New York office to find out whether there was any way by which the Digest's prestige and circulation could be increased. One of the directors asked,

"What do we sell?"

"The answer was 'advertising.'

"'Do we believe in it?'

"'We do.'

"'All right, then, let us buy some.'

"That was the start of our $1,000,000 a year campaign in newspapers. For four years we have spent $1,000,000 a year in 400 selected leading newspapers of the United States, with the result that today we have more than 1,300,000 circulation, and before the year is out we will have 1,500,000. During this time our revenue has increased more than 360 per cent.

"Advertising is to business what oxygen is to the blood. Eighty four per cent of all the failures in 1920 were made by firms that did not advertise."—Oregon Journal.

Success

Fortunes are built on wise investments. Investments require money.

A Savings Account systematically kept with the First National Bank may be the "open sesame" to your success. Certainly a savings balance will be welcome in time of need.

Open an account with our Savings Department.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
OF ST. HELENS
Member Federal Reserve System

CHAS. GRAHAM, President. H. A. CHILDS, Cashier

Rainy Weather Goods

The ground hog says we wil' have more rainy weather. We have Oilskins, Rubber Coats, Overshoes, Boots, Umbrellas and Other Articles for this season of the year and at prices which have been greatly reduced.

M. RICEN OPEN EVENINGS

Successors to M. Rosenthal

Flowers

You will want some pretty Flowers at EASTER TIME. Or possibly you want to bring cheer to the good friend who is sick or wife, daughter or sister would appreciate a nice bouquet.

Carnations

We have them in all colors, only $1.50 per dozen, postage prepaid or delivered by bus.

Many potted plants, greens, shrubbery etc., and at prices far less than you are asked by city florists. Send in your order now and you will be sure of delivery at the time you specify.

We will be glad to have you call and inspect our greenhouse which is only a short distance south of Scappoose. Look for sign "FLORIST" and drive in.

MRS. MARY TURNER
Scappoose, Oregon, Box 6, Route F

Make It a Sanitary Year

THERE are so many new, sanitary fixtures for the bath room that would bring joy to the home. Let us show you our stock of plumbing and heating goods.

Just as a suggestion—think it over.

R. CONSTANTIN
THE PLUMBER

Hewitt Bldg., St. Helens

What Shall I Get Him for Dinner?

How many times have you asked yourself this question? Day after day, week after week, it is a problem that is constantly confronting you.

If you have a stock of good assorted canned goods on your shelves, you would always have something on hand that your folks would like.

Canned meats—canned vegetables—canned fruits—we have them all in the best brands and at prices that will please you. And fresh meats handled by sanitary methods.

THE PEOPLES MARKET

ST. HELENS BAKERY

RAMSEY'S BREAD

Try Our

PIES——CAKES——PASTRY

Sugar Doughnuts, 25c per dozen

Saturday SPECIAL, 2 dozen, 45c

We also serve Hot Lunches at all hours.

Hot Chocolate and Butter Scotch Sundaes

J. E. RAMSEY

Williams Has a Sale On All the Time....

¶ We can start your New Year right with right goods at right prices. Allow us to prove it.

¶ We sell goods at the same low price all the year around. We have a long list of satisfied customers and a trial will add you to our list.

J. L. WILLIAMS & SONS
Phone 34-W West St. Helens

Support of Home Industry Begins at Home

WHEN considering home products and payrolls, begin here in St. Helens. If our local merchants and tradesmen can supply your needs, there's no reason to go elsewhere.

The money spent at home, stays 'put', so to speak. And sooner or later it finds its way into YOURS or the 'other fellow's' account at the Columbia County Bank.

Liberal Interest on Savings.

SHERMAN M. MILES, President — J. H. HUTCHINSON, Cashier

Columbia County Bank
ST HELENS OREGON
IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

Uncle John's Josh