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An Independent Newspaper

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A FULL CONFESSION—For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.—Romans 1:16.

Spring always visits a few times before coming to stay.
Best way to improve the postal service is to stop mailing bills.
A perfect lady never chews tobacco in public or shoots any man unless he is her husband.

If Canadians aren't more successful in preventing the exit of liquor than we are in preventing its entrance, the new control law will not help the prohibition situation much.

The census enumeration will soon be under way. La Grande people might well prepare their alibis when the totals are available. With one grade school, hundreds of homes, block after block of thickly built-up residence property outside the old corporate limits, the population figure will be disappointing—and untruthful. Due to a lack of community pride and a failure to see beyond selfish considerations, this community must wait another ten years before it takes the place it has really earned among Oregon's largest, most rapidly growing cities. The Observer hopes during that ten years that the real advantages of limits extension will result in adding this population now just outside.

SOUNDS GOOD, BUT IT WON'T WORK

George Joseph files for governor and announces in his platform that he favors abolishing the public service commission and individual bargaining of communities with utilities. In other words, he would have electric, gas, and telephone rates determined by city officials and utility officials in conference.

Which, on the face of things, sounds like a chance to get lower rates and hold patronage over the heads of utilities as a club. Let the power companies and phone companies get away with a profitable rate, if they can, or suffer losses if they can't. That's the Joseph idea. Other private business operates that way, he contends, so why not the utilities? Why guarantee them rates that will be profitable?

The platform sounds like Mr. Joseph had discovered an original idea and proposed to lead us all out of the utility wilderness. Yet if the elimination of any state control is good business for the private citizen, why was the old system of bargaining between communities and utilities thrown to the discard years ago?

It didn't work. Community officials, as a general rule, are not rate experts and know little or nothing of utility investments, operation costs, etc. They would be given the job of bargaining with highly paid utility experts and the average run of officials would be at an immediate disadvantage unless they hired equally competent experts at big expense to present the other side of the argument. They would have only the rates paid in other communities as a guide, which, in nine cases out of ten, is no guide at all.

If communities were able to get lower rates—and it's "low rates" that the politician is constantly crying—and they happened to be unprofitable at the same time, just one thing would happen: Service would be demoralized, costs would be cut regardless of service demands, and the consuming public would again be the goat as it was before state control.

Lower rates that are also fair rates may be possible. The public service commission as it now operates may be passing up a lot of bets in the interests of the people. But to abolish state supervision entirely and to return to the old system of community bargaining would be chaotic. A modern public that has grown used to efficient service from light companies, gas utilities and telephone corporations—a public whose living and producing success depends on these services—will not stand for anything that doesn't measure up to or exceed the present standard. Improvement is possible in rates, in supervision—but not by the Joseph method.

FARM BECKONING TO HINDENBURG

Aged President of Germany Expects to Leave Berlin in 1932.

By Louis P. Lechner
(Associated Press Correspondent)
BERLIN (AP)—Two years from now, President Paul von Hindenburg, before he is 80, will be 85. Whether the nation will be better or another question.

1932. He will then be almost 85. The world knows what the figures mean. It is now to be seen in the case of Hindenburg at Neudeck in East Prussia and to lead the way to a country's future.

When the president, his countrymen in 1932 will all be 85 years from public life. It is to be seen. Many including the late Dr. Gustav Stresemann and Agrarian Minister Joseph Graf Schurzmann, believe the nation will be a better place.

"I should like to see Hindenburg as long as he lives," the late Dr. Stresemann once said. "It will be a great loss to the nation if he were to die before he is 85."

Tunic Blouse



A tunic blouse of pale blue satin, to which a row of buttons and two patch pockets have been added, is to accompany an afternoon ensemble.

Clark Wood Says

"California's suicide rate is 18 per cent above the national average." Is it because disappointed tourists take the quickest way out?

With his Chicago rackets pretty well smothered, about all that's left for "Scarface Al Capone" is a tennis racket at his Florida mansion.

The Klamath Falls Herald wheeler, who may know whereof he speaks, observes that "wild oats seem to sprout earlier if a little corn is put down first."

Only one of 25,000 scenarios written by amateurs is accepted by motion picture producers. Quicker that it should be the wrong one.

And now we read that the younger generation isn't wild, which shows remarkable self-restraint in view of the way it's been talked about.

San Salvador woman gave birth to quadruplets—one white, one black and two brown. We think this beats four of a kind.

COMMISSION CONSIDERING 13 PROJECTS

(Continued from Page One)

of the Roosevelt highway, 2.17 miles of grading was given Harmon which went to A. C. Greenwood of Portland for \$186,185. The second section of this project, that of the Scottsburg-Butchard creek section of the Umpqua highway, 4.43 miles of grading was given Harmon and Little company, Portland, for \$24,860.

Another Douglas county project was the bridge over Wells creek, 19 miles east of Reedsport, a culvert over Golden creek, 19 miles east of Reedsport and culvert over Butchard creek, 12 miles east of Reedsport, which were all let in one contract to C. A. Catching of Roseburg, for \$22,201.

Other projects upon which bids were received and the contractors to whom the jobs were awarded tentatively are: Clackamas county, Multnomah county line-Oswego section of the Pacific highway, 52 miles of grading, W. E. Houser, Canby, Oregon, \$55,155.

Clatsop county, Cannon Beach junction-Nehalem summit section of the Roosevelt highway, 19 miles grading, Arthur Gentmann, Mt. Angel, \$17,325.

John Day Highway
Grant county, Mountain Rest-Little Beech creek section of the Hamilton-John Day highway, Long Creek-Hamilton section of market road number one and Mt. Vernon-Biggs ranch section of market road number two, 24.5 miles of surfacing, Hart Construction company, \$70,245.

Malheur county, Tunnel-Harper section of the Central Oregon highway, 12.21 miles of grading, J. A. Carley and son, \$145,792 and E. L. Gates, Camela, \$144,159. Spirited bidding in this project brought two bids between which the highway commission must decide.

Sherman, Wasco and Hood River counties, The Dalles oiling project, construction of 18 miles of bituminous macadam wearing surface; re-oiling of 22.3 miles of oiled macadam and application of non-slip treatment of 48.2 miles of pavement, Cascade Construction company, Portland, \$84,593.

Some of these figures have increased slightly in the last fortnight due to occasional registrations. Local observers say that, unless something occurs during the next few days, the county and district aspects of the May election will be quieter than for many years.

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OTHER HATS \$3.95 to \$22.50

QUIET LOCAL PRIMARY VOTE IS INDICATED
(Continued from Page One)

WILLIAMS AND WEST FILE
SALEM, Ore., Mar. 27 (AP)—Ralph E. Williams and Oswald West, both of Portland, today filed with the secretary of state their declarations as candidates for republican and national committee members respectively.

"I believe in the principles of the republican party as exemplified by its fine record for the past 79 years under the leadership of Abraham Lincoln, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft, Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge and Hoover," says Williams' statement.

West's platform says: "I believe in the democracy of Jefferson, Jackson and Wilson. I look upon the democratic party as the agency through which the plain people of this country can best find expression. The spirit of its founders and its best traditions shall be the guide to my every political thought and action."

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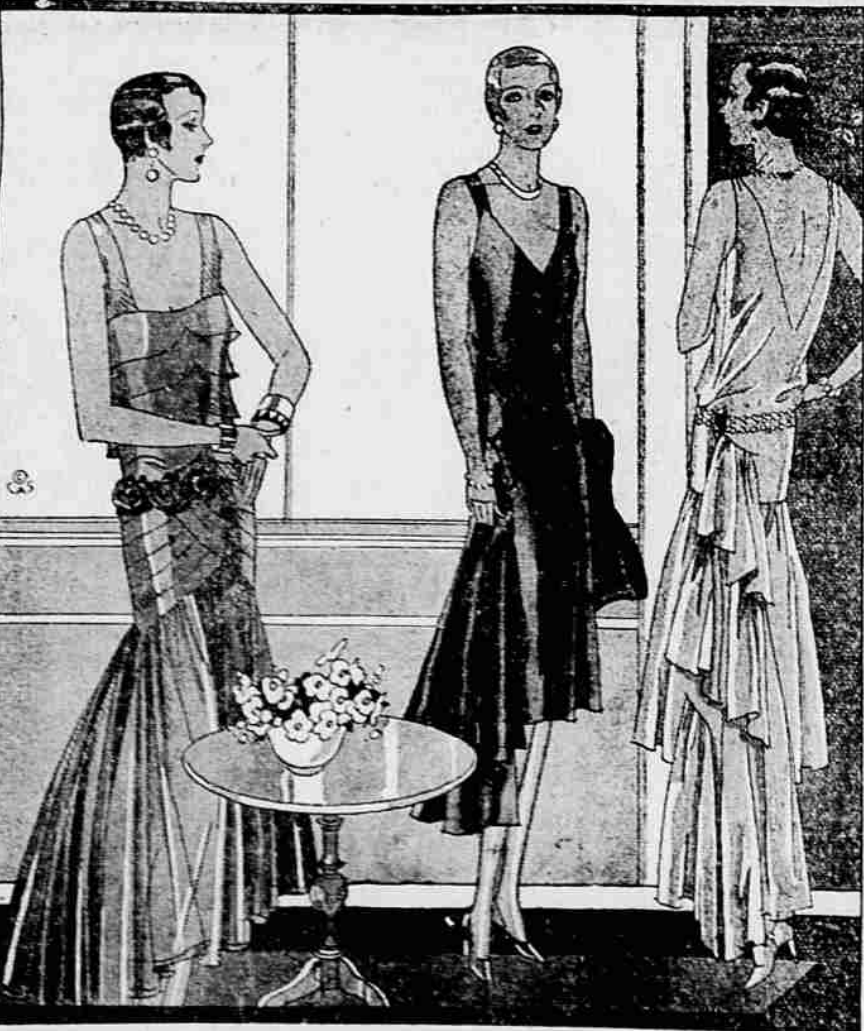
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- 1927 PONTIAC SEDAN — Very good rubber, Fisher body, finished in green. Drive. Very fine motor upholstery, shock absorbers, bumpers, spare tire, and 1934 motor with completely overhauled. With an OK that counts—price for quick removal \$395
- 1925 DODGE ROADSTER — Just the thing for driving, good tires, good top, motor in A-1 shape. This car is final because of its great appearance. A first. \$85
- 1927 CHEVROLET TOURING — New paint, top refinished, good tires, A-1 upholstery, bumpers and other equipment. Inspected for 28 days \$295
- 1928 CHEVROLET COACH — Here's a real bargain! Overhead heavy duty tires, shock absorbers, heater, bumpers and tire lock. The famous Fisher body finished in very dark. 1934 motor has been refitted state-of-the-art. Motor overhauled and a 1934 steering gear with an OK that counts \$545

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