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The World This Week...

Columbia Compact

America's West is a dry and dusty place cut by gigantic rivers which bring life to the land. Find water in the West and you find political controversy. And from the days of shooting and dynamiting over water this rarely has been a subject discussed with poise.

All the more reason, then, to be interested in the seven-state Columbia Compact. This has just been drawn up and will soon be acted on by the legislatures of the four states most concerned—Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. After two years of rocky discussion, 43 representatives have agreed on a proposed compact "to facilitate and promote" development of the natural resources of the Columbia River Basin.

Burning brightest now is a controversy over how to handle allocation of hydroelectric power between the states. Criticism and praise of the proposed compact pile high here.

What the pact provides is a commission chosen from the states that would not regulate but plan, ordinate, and recommend action as to placement of dams and distribution of power generated, as well as the use of other resources. This, it is assumed, would bring the Northwest nearer resource integration and give guidance to Congress in any choice of federal power sites.

Yet what many opponents of the compact want is a regional authority with teeth, run by the states. It would allocate hydro sites and plan generally with a view to the needs of the region as a whole.

The question is whether or not the Columbia Compact goes far enough when it stops short of delegating operational authority to a regionally controlled commission. As it stands, final authority still rests with the individual states. This, the argument goes, hops up water resources behind state lines.

One answer is that the compact today is a cooperative effort, a meeting of minds, and no doubt the result of a prodigious amount of compromise. To ask seven states, jealous of their sovereignty, to go further in one great leap would probably be asking the impossible. Any cooperation over water in the West is encouraging. —The Christian Science Monitor.

Teachers Pay

We welcome Mayor Wagner's announcement that a salary rise is in the making for New York City's public school teachers. But before the Mayor and the Board of Estimate make up their minds too firmly on the size of this increase we hope they will take the trouble to sound out the opinion of responsible citizens, including businessmen and others interested in education.

It happened that, in the same issue of this newspaper that carried the news of the Mayor's decision, a news story appeared about a threatened strike in Manhattan and Bronx garages. Wages of employees in these garages are now \$65.99 a week for floor men and \$72.35 for washers. The union is asking a 10-cent-an-hour increase and other benefits. A starting teacher

with a college degree gets \$66 a week in New York's public schools, or less than a car washer.

A starting teacher, with a college education and other professional training, but not yet a master's degree, gets \$18 less per week than a starting Sanitation Department worker who sweeps streets, drives a truck or loads garbage. The Sanitation man's pay starts at \$84 a week.

Take-home pay for the beginning unmarried teacher can be as little as \$2,417 a year, or \$46 a week, after federal tax and pension deductions. The United States Labor Department has just reported that in December the average factory worker with no dependents had take-home pay of \$61.36 a week after deductions. We contend that there is something wrong with society's scale of values when this situation exists, and that it calls for correction.—New York Times

Frames Should Reflect the individual personality

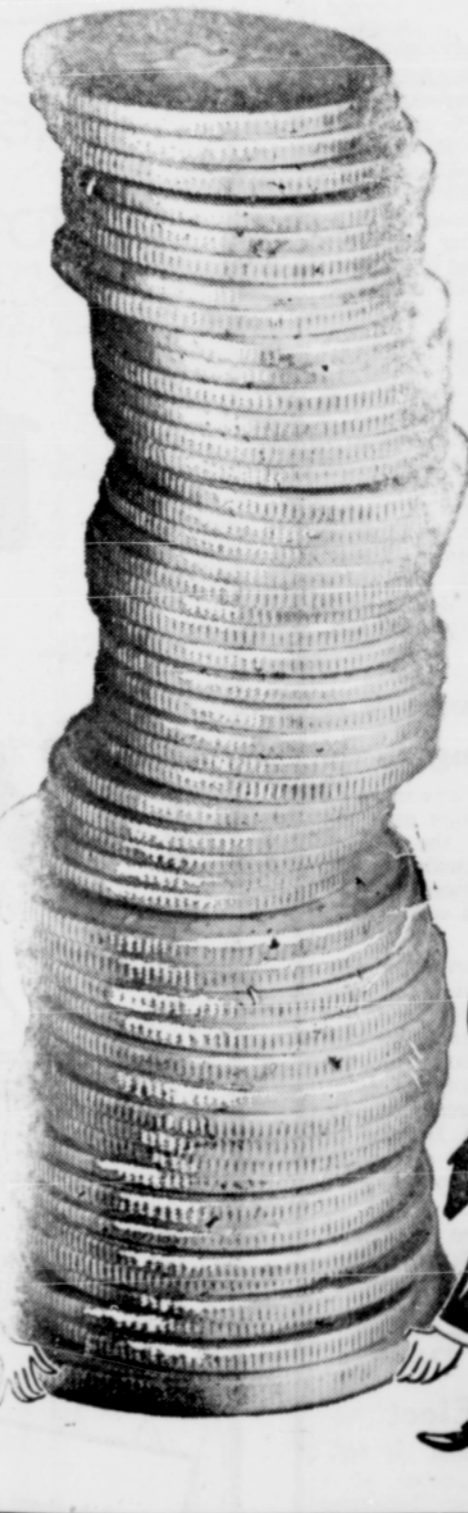
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