

INCREASE IN POWER RATES IS SOUGHT

Higher Cost of Production Is Pleaded by Portland Railway, Light & Power.

OPERATING EXPENSES SOAR

Public Service Commission Asked to Set Aside Present Tariff and Fix Reasonable and Adequate Charges.

Containing that the present charges for commercial power, including heating, lighting and power, are not remunerative, adequate or sufficient, the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company has petitioned the Public Service Commission for a general increase in rates.

Conditions of 1916 Changed. These rates were placed in two divisions. The first provided that all electric energy used by the consumers under 75 hours a month be charged at a primary rate of 5 cents for the first 150 kilowatt hours, 4 cents for the next 500, 3 cents for the next 4,000 kilowatt hours and 2 cents a kilowatt hour for all in excess of 5,000 kilowatt hours.

In its petition to the commission, the company states that these rates, now in effect, were based upon the operating conditions prevailing during the one and one-half years ending December 31, 1916, and that the commission assumed that the conditions then existing would be fairly indicative of the conditions to be encountered in the near future.

The experience of the company, according to the petition, from December 31, 1916, to the present time demonstrates that the conditions prevailing in the year 1916 have changed very substantially, both with relation to the revenues and to the operating expenses.

Costs Absorb Bigger Revenue. Figures compiled by the company show that while the aggregate revenue from the electric properties for 1917 was 4.3 per cent greater than for 1916, the revenue per kilowatt hour for 1917 was less than for 1916 by 12 per cent and that while the revenue for 1918 will be 16.1 per cent greater than for 1916, the revenue per kilowatt hour for 1918 will be 22 per cent less than for 1916.

The operating expenses of the electric properties, excluding taxes, depreciation and fixed charges, have increased so that while the revenues under present rates for 1918 will be 16.1 per cent greater than for 1916, the operating expenses will be 62.9 per cent higher, and that while the revenue for each kilowatt hour utilized will be less for 1918 than for 1916 by 22 per cent, the operating expenses for each kilowatt hour produced and utilized for 1918 will be greater by 10 per cent than in 1916.

Industrial Demands Great. Increases in operating expenses, the petition states, are due to increased cost of materials and supplies, and increases in labor costs. The operating expenses in 1918 will be greater because of the necessity of more continued operation of the steam power plants owned by the company, due to the heavy loads on the system caused by the increased activities in war industries and due to low water conditions.

The Public Service Commission is asked in the petition to set aside the present rate tariff and fix higher and increased rates as will be adequate and reasonable under the existing conditions. The date of the hearing before the commission has not yet been determined.

BUS FIRM WANTS CHANGE

Officials Ask Repeal of Ordinance Requiring Franchises for Vehicles.

Efforts of officials of the United Motor Bus Company are directed at securing the repeal by the City Council of an ordinance requiring franchises for all motor vehicles operated on definite routes. The members of the council recently defeated an attempt to repeal this legislation as proposed by City Commissioner Kellahan.

One of the main reasons given by some members of the council against the repeal of the franchise ordinance is that should the city enter the transportation business, the repeal of the ordinance would render the municipal line a failure.

Thirty-four licenses have been issued by Jitney Inspector Gill, but only about 10 of these have been operated as jitney buses. The remainder are used in strictly for hire service.

PIONEER OF OREGON DIES

Daniel B. Hall, North Bend, Is Victim of Stroke of Apoplexy.

NORTH BEND, Or., Aug. 9.—(Special.)—Daniel B. Hall, well-known resident of this city and father of John Hall, former chief of police here, died at the home of his son late last evening of apoplexy, after a lingering illness.

Mr. Hall was 86 years old and was born in Fountain County, Indiana. He was an old resident of Oregon, having crossed the plains with an ox team in 1852 and settled near Sherwood, Or., where he engaged in farming until about five years ago, when he moved to this city, where he had resided since. He is survived by a widow and three sons and two daughters.

SAVING TO STATE SEEN

Commission Would Make Workmen's Compensation Compulsory.

SALEM, Or., Aug. 9.—(Special.)—In event the Legislature listens to a recommendation of the Industrial Accident Commission to make workmen's compensation compulsory, it will cost the state but \$228,974.16 to conduct that commission during the next biennium. On the other hand, if the recommendation is not abided by, the state's share of the accident fund for the two years will be \$1,260,000.

These facts are brought out in the special report of the Accident Commission just filed with the State Tax Commission.

SOCIETY NEWS

THE Multnomah Hotel will be the scene tonight of a dance for the benefit of the Post Hospital. The money will pay for athletic supplies for the use of the soldiers. The original plans were made by a committee of which Sergeant David Blank was chairman. When Blank was called under way the chairman was transferred to Camp Kearney. But another committee took the matter up, and all signs point to an enjoyable affair. At the First Provisional Regimental Band will give a dance at the Auditorium tonight. A band of 40 pieces will give a concert tonight from 8 to 9 o'clock preceding the dance.

Miss Louise Corbin's tea this afternoon will be an event of social interest for the younger maids and a few of the matrons. Another event of social note will be the marriage of Miss Margaret Welch and Dr. Charles Loeding at the occasion.

A wedding causing much surprise to the many friends of the participants took place at Newport Tuesday evening when Miss Anna Dawson, of Alsea, became the bride of Lieutenant Gordon Van Gundia, who is stationed at Camp 7 C, at Newport, being a Second Lieutenant, S. R. C. A. S., 78th Squadron.

The ceremony was performed at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, the impressive Episcopal service being spoken by Rev. John Rice, the local rector. Garlands of Marguerites and ferns, festooned at each pew, formed the aisle down which the wedding party, unattended, marched. Baskets of similar flowers were arranged artistically about the quaint little church and several American flags were conspicuously placed so as to give the military note to the occasion.

Miss Wilma Wagner played the wedding march by Mendelssohn and Miss Isabelle Young, an intimate friend of the bride, sang "At Dawning" and "To You," with unusual sweetness. Lieutenant Philip Southwick acted as usher.

Clad in a simple but lovely tailored suit of navy blue, the bride made a very chic picture. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Van Gundia attended consecutively McMinnville College, Miss Harlow's school at Palo Alto, the University of Oregon, where she was a prominent member of the Kappa Alpha Theta fraternity, and during the past year Northwestern College, in which she took advanced work in journalism.

Lieutenant Van Gundia, who is a native of Ohio, received his A. E. degree and Master's degree at the State University of that state and during the past two years has been an instructor in landscape gardening at the Oregon Agricultural College, being very popular with the members of the faculty and student body. Lieutenant Van Gundia is a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

After a short wedding trip to Portland and Vancouver, Lieutenant and Mrs. Van Gundia will return to Camp 7 C, where they will occupy the charming home of Judge Bean during their stay here.

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Healy, of San Francisco, are visitors in the city, at the Multnomah Hotel. Mr. Healy is a prominent attorney of California. He was one of the lawyers in the Hindu case tried in Judge Van Vleet's court and has figured in many of the important cases of the year. Mrs. Healy formerly was a well-known newspaper woman. Marie Hicks Davidson, of the Examiner, Mr. and Mrs. Healy have been on a tour of the United States for their wedding trip. They are en route to their home in San Francisco.

Mrs. Healy was entertained yesterday at an informal tea and later went for an auto trip about the city as the guest of Mrs. Alice Benson Beach. Among other points of interest she visited the Kanning Kitchen conducted by the National League for Women's Service. Mrs. Healy is active in the organization in all cities she has visited.

The soldiers who packed the Knights of Columbus building at Vancouver Barracks, Wednesday night were treated to an attractive musical programme under the direction of Miss Mamie Helen Flynn. Continuous applause greeted each number. Those on the programme were Mrs. Leslie Scott, Mrs. Marie C. Fischer, Miss Eugenia Craig, and Albert Crisler, violinist. Miss Flynn played the accompaniments. Last night another programme was presented. Those who took part were Mary and Genevieve Clancy, Miss Nina Dransell, Fred Crowther and Miss Bernice Nathansen.

A wedding of this evening will be that of Chester C. Roberts and Mrs. Eva Byers. The ceremony will be solemnized at the First Presbyterian Church, Rev. J. Boyd officiating. Mr. and Mrs. B. Spalding will attend the couple. The bridegroom is known in business circles. The bride is a member of the church.

SPANISH IRE VOICED

New Protest Against U-Boats Made to Germany.

SCHOONER SEAMAN SUNK

Submarine That Sunk Diamond Shoals Lightship Reported Pursuing Lumber Schooner and Tramp Steamer.

MADRID, Aug. 8.—(By the Associated Press.)—Spain has addressed a new note to Germany concerning the torpedoing of Spanish ships. Foreign Minister Dato made this announcement today after the Cabinet had held an extraordinary session.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Aug. 9.—The American schooner Stanley L. Seaman, bound from Newport News to a foreign port, was sunk last Monday, 110 miles east of Cape Hatteras, by a German submarine. Captain W. C. McAloney and crew of eight men arrived today at this port, having been picked up by a British vessel.

The Seaman, Captain McAloney said, was fired on without warning while becalmed about noon Monday. The crew took to their small boats but were later permitted to return for provisions, and then put off in a gasoline launch.

The members of the submarine crew looted the ship before sinking it with a bomb. The submarine was described by Captain McAloney as the U-132, 350 feet long and mounting four guns, two 6-inch fore and aft, conning tower with small gun on either side. The Seaman was owned by Crowell & Bourlow, of Boston.

NEW YORK, Aug. 8.—The German submarine which on Tuesday afternoon sank the Diamond Shoals lightship and the American steamer Merak, was last

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WATER POWER SEEMS ASSURED

Opinion General in Congress Development of Vast Supply Should Be Encouraged.

BILL IS BEFORE MEMBERS

Estimated Water of United States With Proper Storage Can Supply Energy Aggregating 200,000,000 Horsepower.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Aug. 9.—The generally manifested opinion in Congress that water power development should be encouraged at once is a pretty good indication that this session will not take final adjournment without passing some sort of water power law.

The Senate has already passed a bill which has been favorably reported in the House with amendments. When the House reconvenes after the present recess this bill will be up for immediate and continuous consideration until final action shall be had. Unless the Senate and House become involved in a disagreement over the terms of the measure it will probably go to the President soon.

The pressure of war emergencies and the shortage of fuel have served to emphasize the importance of early action.

6,000,000 Horsepower Developed. It is estimated that water power already has been developed in the United States to the extent of 6,000,000 horsepower and that there are available opportunities for development of 41,000,000 horsepower without storage and 200,000,000 with storage. The Geological Survey has estimated the available water power in the several sections of the United States, if developed to the practical maximum, without storage, as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Region and Horsepower. Includes North Atlantic states (1,010,000), South Atlantic states (5,107,000), North Central states (2,342,000), South Central states (2,342,000), Western states (4,049,000).

When the pending bill was before the Senate last December Senator Jones, of Washington, read a list of projects for water power development which had been defeated by lack of what he termed rational water power laws. Among these projects the most important, with the estimated water power to be developed, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Project Name and Horsepower. Includes Columbia River, Washington (419,000), Pend Oreille, Washington (250,000), Tennessee River, Alabama (430,000), Little Tennessee River, North Carolina (208,000), Coosa River, Alabama (208,000), Chatahoochee River, Georgia (185,000), Susquehanna River, Maryland (110,000), Missouri River, Montana (100,000).

Smaller projects included in the list brought the total of water power development defeated up to 2,122,000 horsepower.

The bill provides for the granting of 50-year permits for the erection of dams on navigable streams and use of water for power development purposes, rates to be regulated by state authority in the case of intrastate business and by the Interstate Commerce Commission in the case of interstate business, and at or after the expiration of any 50 years the Government may, upon two years' notice, take over the plant upon payment of just compensation for the property and also payment for any locks, canals, etc., the lessees may have built in order to preserve the navigability of the stream. The bill passed the Senate December 14, by a vote of 48 to 18. Among the Western Senators Jones, Myers of Montana, Phelan of California, Pittman of Nevada and Smoot of Utah voted in the affirmative.

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COLUMBIA

FOUR THRILL-FILLED DAYS

THE CLIMAX OF SENSATIONALISM



VIVIDLY DEPICTING THE MOST DARING AND GIGANTIC FIRE SCENES EVER ENACTED BEFORE A CAMERA

FEATURING THOS. SANTCHI Star of "The Spoilers"

DISEASE DAMAGES SPRUCE Government Takes Steps to Preserve Vast Tracts of Timber.

HUNGER THE BEST SAUCE Sauce is used to create an appetite or relish for the food. The right way is to look to the digestion. When you have good digestion you are certain to relish your food. Chamberlain's Tablets improve the digestion and create a healthy appetite.

COLUMBIAN Optical Company 146 Sixth St. Floyd F. Brower, Mgr.

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