

Morning Oregonian

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THE FIRST RATE VICTORY.

A most important victory has been won by the Columbia river basin through the findings of the examining commission in the rate cases. The commission has found that it is not final and decisive, for the ultimate decision must be rendered by the commission itself, but that body so rarely departs from the findings of the examining commission that it may safely be taken as indicating the general tenor and purport of the final decision. Arguments are yet to be heard by the commission on the question whether the findings shall be confirmed, modified or rejected. The commission will then decide, but the possibilities are just as great that any modifications which it may make will be more favorable to the Columbia river basin than are the findings.

After hearing and weighing all the evidence, Examiner Thurwell finds that both class and commodity rates between territory south of Snake river and Portland and Vancouver should be 10 per cent lower than the Puget Sound and Astoria, but that they are not in themselves unreasonable. He finds that rates from inland empire points north of Snake river, which are common to the Puget Sound and Astoria, are not unjustly prejudicial. He recommends that the committee of the Inland Empire Grain Shippers' association be dissolved, and that they be merged with those of Puget Sound and Astoria, are not unjustly prejudicial. He recommends that the committee of the Inland Empire Grain Shippers' association be dissolved, and that they be merged with those of Puget Sound and Astoria, are not unjustly prejudicial.

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ANOTHER PINCHOT NOSTRUM.

Scarcity of pulpwood and high price of newsprint paper has inspired Gifford Pinchot and his Society of American Foresters with a new nostrum. He attributes the trouble to devastation of the forests by lumbering and, as might be expected, his remedy is more regulation. The society mentioned agrees with him, for it is composed mainly of men whom he enlisted in the United States forest service and who are therefore loyal to Pinchotism.

Doubt is cast on the efficacy of Mr. Pinchot's remedy by the fact that he, more than any other man, is responsible for the evils which it is hoped to fitch away by his commerce. That decision was won by tricky legal strategy, which led Portland not to intervene, and it could not stand when the other parties fully stated. Astoria pretended that Portland was not affected, saying: "The complaint is a false statement in favor of Portland, and Portland is in favor of the state of Washington." Counsel for Astoria further disclaimed any intention to ask party with any other party than those of Puget Sound.

The obviously logical conclusion that, as rates to Astoria and the Sound should be equal, rates to Portland should be lower. Astoria and its Portland propertied friends recognized the weakness of its position. They have known that, when all the facts of an arrangement that was so flagrantly unjust were set forth, it must be rejected. Therefore they have conjured up the shadowy fiction of a port of the Columbia extending clear from the Pacific ocean to the base of the Rocky mountains, where a class of vessels could carry various depths of water can be navigated all the way from a mammoth ocean liner to a rowboat, simply to boost Astoria's business claims to parity of rates with Portland. That fiction is now swept away.

This first success is a vindication of those men who have insisted that the rate to Astoria be just as high as that to Portland. The commission has found that it is not final and decisive, for the ultimate decision must be rendered by the commission itself, but that body so rarely departs from the findings of the examining commission that it may safely be taken as indicating the general tenor and purport of the final decision.

PUBLIC TAXES.

Mr. Devereux, who has brought to Portland an admirable company of artists for the presentation of classic and old-fashioned comedies, has been examining the tax situation in connection with the "play's the thing." But he has failed to convince the public, which, fixed in its own conventions, has consistently and almost untidily questioned whether the tax should be confirmed, modified or rejected.

This does not mean that the Devereux players are not competent for their art; or that the auditorium is not an appropriate setting for their production, for it is. Nor does it mean that the comedies of a century ago are not as entertaining as those of the present. It means that Mr. Devereux and his company are practically unknown here, and that the auditorium is not a suitable place for a play of this kind. It means that the auditorium is not a suitable place for a play of this kind.

BRAKES ON THE H. C. L. MERRY-GO-ROUND.

Officials of the four big railway brotherhoods and the shop crafts affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, are in the city today, and are expected to meet with the state dispatches from Washington as having concluded that "satisfactory relief from the high cost of living" probably is unobtainable. "Either through the action of the state by the railroad administration, or from the anti-profiteering campaign of the department of justice," have opened the way many thoughtful persons will have to face a real settlement of the most vexing immediate problem of the time.

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prevent forest devastation on privately owned lands," which means more government regulation of the same kind as he has practiced. If the cut-over lands were to be replanted to forest, they would be ready to cut, and no relief would be given in the present emergency. Methods of logging are destructive to young trees, and therefore they have replanted, but that will naturally result as timber land grows in value and diminishes in area. Timber land and lumber are sold at prices that, as a matter of business, timbermen may soon turn their attention in that direction without the aid of any of Mr. Pinchot's commissions.

STATE FINANCES.

In the annual report of the state treasurer, just issued, the citizen will find an old traditional policy of Oregon to keep out of bonded indebtedness. That policy has now been abandoned, but for one that is not reckless but conservative. The state is building a new road system to the value of \$10,000,000 of this indebtedness has been incurred for the purpose of providing for the \$450,000,000 of bonded indebtedness. The sum thus borrowed is lent to the building of new roads, and will be repaid. Another bond item of \$75,750,000 provides means for guaranteeing interest on improved irrigation district bonds and its distribution also in the form of a loan. Both of these issues will in the long run cost the general taxpayer nothing, as interest and principal will be paid by the water users from the profits, while the state at large will profit from better and larger development.

The much larger sum devoted to building new roads, it is said, that it will not become a tax burden upon property in general. Interest, and sinking fund are met from accumulated automobile licenses and other taxes. The state's revenue in 1919 produced more than \$1,000,000 in revenue, and in 1920 will produce vastly more by reason of a large increase in motor vehicle licenses.

That portion of the report which deals with administration of funds shows that Treasurer Hoff has conducted the state's financial affairs in a judicious manner. Funds available for deposit in banks have been reduced by reducing active accounts, and this larger sum has been more widely distributed in the form of interest-bearing deposits. The net result is that more money is put at the disposal of banks for the purpose of making loans, while the state's revenue from the interest paid by banks on such deposits is increased. Industrial accident funds have been advantageously placed in larger and more secure investments, and all the larger state funds show substantially increased interest earnings. It is a gratifying report.

CHARLES A. SELDEN, A TRAVELING CORRESPONDENT.

Charles A. Selden, a traveling correspondent, was much impressed by an incident which he relates in his letter to the New York Times. At the theater one evening in Detroit recently a young man in evening clothes sat down in the orchestra chair next to mine. He was a young man, who was a traveling correspondent, and he was much impressed by an incident which he relates in his letter to the New York Times.

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he has justified himself by a species of service which buyers usually were willing to pay for. To dispense with him implies sacrifices which buyers must be willing to make as individuals, but consumers insist on niceties of service, they must be prepared to pay for them. This will be true whether the distributor is a merchant depending on a margin of profit, or a co-operative enterprise. A movement is on foot in London to buy the Scottish estates of Bemsyde together with the historic mansion and present them to Earl Haig with a pile of the designation of Earl Haig of Bemsyde on his elevation to the peerage, as a record of the British people's admiration for his triumph during the war. This property is now owned by Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. Haig.

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BY-PRODUCTS OF THE TIMES.

British General May Fulfill Prophecy of Early Scottish Bard. The prophecy of Thomas the Rhymer, who wrote "Tide wai may be the day that the Halls of Bannockburn," bids fair to be fulfilled. A movement is on foot in London to buy the Scottish estates of Bemsyde together with the historic mansion and present them to Earl Haig with a pile of the designation of Earl Haig of Bemsyde on his elevation to the peerage, as a record of the British people's admiration for his triumph during the war. This property is now owned by Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. Haig.

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Those Who Come and Go.

"Wasco county court isn't giving Mosier a square deal, and is using its pile of court screenings to get something out of the state highway commission for the southern part of the county," is the joint statement of J. M. Carroll and Charles T. Bennett, taxpayers of Mosier, who were in town yesterday. "The county court offered to let the Mosier people have a pile of screenings to place on the roads leading out of the town if the Mosier people would spread the screenings on the roads. The county court will tax and have \$2000 available for this purpose. The court, however, has since given the screenings to the state highway commission to use on the Columbia highway, leaving us without the screenings we are in need of. There are great available screenings will serve the purpose of the highway commission just as well as the screenings, but the gravel would not do us as much good as the screenings, in explanation of the braking of the ledge to use the court sand in opening meeting the other day that the highway commission was given the screenings that the court can get out of the south side of the county. Our complaint is not against the highway commission but against the county court."

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With a Kick in It.

"THIS IS MY FALCON." This is my falcon. May he strike the swain. The hawk, the heron and the eagle, whistle-wing. Free and un-hooded in the maiden dawn. Swift as a true shaft in the singing Spring. This is my falcon. Wild and fierce as a bold eagle. Yet to my hand he doth return again. For peace and pleasure, when upon the world. Low lies the proud cock-pheasant of the glen. This is my falcon. Merciful is he who stoops as swiftly, terrible and true. A flashing death above the flowering sea. A feathered shaft of succor from the blue. This is my falcon. Lo, when Fate shall frown. And close the book of bitter, bonny days. I pray the falcon Death may strike me down. After the fashion of my falcon's ways.

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More Truth Than Poetry.

BACK TO THE CASH DAYS. The cash days are commonly called. His neighbor's wealth in mind. A man was judged, in days of old, By hides and pelts, and in and bones. The prehistoric peoples which were the shock of Adam. Were classed among the idle rich. By these possessions—if they had 'em. But soon, in more enlightened zones. Where people were a little smarter. They got to using graven stones. As mediums of trade and barter. The cash days had no intrinsic worth. But skins and foids they represented. And that is how, upon the earth. The thing called money was invented.

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