

Morning Oregonian

ESTABLISHED BY HENRY L. FITCOCK. The Oregonian Publishing Co., 133 Sixth Street, Portland, Oregon. C. A. MOSELEY, Editor. H. B. PIPER, Business Manager.

Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance. Daily, Sunday included, one year, \$4.00. Daily, Sunday included, six months, \$2.25. Daily, Sunday included, three months, \$1.25. Daily, Sunday included, one month, .75. Daily, without Sunday, one year, \$3.00. Daily, without Sunday, six months, \$1.75. Daily, without Sunday, three months, \$1.00. Daily, without Sunday, one month, .60. Weekly, one year, \$1.00. Weekly, one month, .15. Single Copies, 5 Cents.

How to Remit—By Postal Note, Money Order, Express or Personal Check on your bank. Bank checks payable to order of the Oregonian Publishing Co. Give postoffice address in full, including county and state. Postage Rates—First class, 1 cent. 10 to 25 pages, 2 cents; 26 to 48 pages, 3 cents; 49 to 64 pages, 4 cents; 65 to 79 pages, 5 cents; 80 to 94 pages, 6 cents. Foreign postage extra.

Eastern Business Office—Verree & Conklin, 100 Broadway, New York, N. Y. Chicago Office—Verree & Conklin, 100 Broadway, New York, N. Y. Portland Office—H. B. PIPER, 133 Sixth Street, Portland, Oregon.

ANALYZING THE REFERENDUM.

The Oregonian had the other day an analysis of results on initiative and referendum amendments and measures since adoption of the new constitution-changing and law-making device in Oregon in 1905. It reached the conclusion from the record that the people are becoming more and more averse, as time passes and as experience grows, to consent of any law proposed by the initiative and it likewise discovered that any proposal of the state legislature submitted to the referendum is sure to receive considerable attention, and is likely to be approved.

The situation a decade or more ago was exactly reversed. The initiative and referendum attitude toward a protest against legislative action or inaction; but now the almost uniform record shows that law-making by the initiative has fallen under the ban of public disfavor. It also discloses that the legislature has grown in the general confidence; and it appears to be a correct interpretation of the present public attitude toward the initiative and referendum that its proper use is as a corrective upon and supplement to the legislature, and not, except in extreme cases, as an expedient for the enactment of any law proposed by the initiative and it likewise discovered that any proposal of the state legislature submitted to the referendum is sure to receive considerable attention, and is likely to be approved.

But a different tale is to be told as to the referendum, so far as bills submitted by the legislature to the people are concerned. The first bill of this kind was passed in 1905, and the referendum was in 1908, and including that year and up to but not including 1916, twenty-six bills were placed on the ballot by act of the legislature. Of them, seven were adopted and nineteen defeated. From 1916 down to the present thirty-two bills have come direct from the legislature to the voters. Of these, the referendum and of them twenty were adopted and twelve beaten. Does all this show anything worth showing? Or does it not?

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mission, or other high authority. They usually benefit through the end the measure to eliminate the clause that "all taxation shall be uniform and equal" was carried, doubtless, by the legislature. The systematic education, the trade school, the legislature concerned itself at various times with bills to increase the legislative committee, the legislature concerned itself at various times with bills to increase the legislative committee, the legislature concerned itself at various times with bills to increase the legislative committee.

But on the whole the referendum measure is insatisfactory in the legislature commended themselves to the public as proper and sound; not so much can be said for various parts of the bill produced by the initiative.

ONE WAY.

Now we hear from democratic sources that the president should again send the treaty to the senate, and let the senate ratify with reservations. What reservations? We have the Lodge brand, the Hitchcock brand, the Taft brand, the "mild" brand and the Cox brand, there are many "great and solemn referendum"; and it was against THE league. But it was not against the league with reservations, but merely clarifying and interpreting reservations, but effective reservations.

If it can be determined what reservations are to be adopted, let the president send the treaty back to the senate and let the senate ratify with reservations. What reservations? We have the Lodge brand, the Hitchcock brand, the Taft brand, the "mild" brand and the Cox brand, there are many "great and solemn referendum"; and it was against THE league. But it was not against the league with reservations, but merely clarifying and interpreting reservations, but effective reservations.

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which opens next Saturday, is an investment to attract capital. Rate regulation should work both ways, both to protect the public against excessive rates and to secure for the company rates adequate for that purpose. In both ways works in favor of the public, for the assurance of adequate rates acts as a check on the interest rates, consequently on the service rates.

Understand the workings of regulation by the public service commission is necessary to correct judgment of schemes for public ownership or to compel utility companies to render service at rates which no longer pay interest on the capital invested. These companies are in effect simply agents employed to render service to the public for a certain net percentage of their investment, fixed by the commission and corresponding closely to a commission paid to a man for any other kind of service.

Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, we shall not learn the complete wonders of the scheme Mr. Kellaher had in mind for giving Portland car riders a 5-cent fare. Mr. Kellaher's insignificant showing in the election does not indicate that the people like the 8-cent fare, but it does indicate a better understanding of the impossibility of getting 8 cents' worth of service for 5 cents has come about.

There are a few cities in which the 5-cent fare still prevails. San Francisco is one. There the taxpayers foot the losses of the municipal utility. Because of provision of the New York constitution the courts have held that the public service commission may not raise rates fixed by franchise in Brooklyn fixed by the local authorities. Five cents is still the price for a ride in Brooklyn, but the traction system in the hands of a receiver and operation has been wholly suspended on numerous occasions.

In Philadelphia there was a promise made by the head of the traction company that the 5-cent fare would be maintained. His was a plan of co-operation with the city and of improvements in service, establishment of the skip-stop system, and other supposed economies. But even in the city of brotherly love it could not be worked. The company faced disaster and now the public service commission has advanced rates to 7 cents, while those who transfer to another line, except in the downtown district, pay an additional 3 cents.

Every hopeful scheme has been tried somewhere for keeping street car fares at 5 cents. It has failed or somebody has paid large losses. As a vote-getter it ought to be tried again for good. It will be brought back by the body constituted by the public as its formal agent in the matter.

THE VITALITY OF ESPERANTO. Advocates of Esperanto, which is less than a year old, succeeded in driving that candidate for universal honors, Volapuk, from the field, present a strong array of facts in support of their contention that the victory is in their hands. If it is so, the point is illustrated again that in a language contest between the average man and the philologist the average man is almost always victorious. Esperanto is admitted to have drawn the fire of the scholars for many lands, but it is getting on its feet, and the bolshewiki are turning their backs on the burden of their tongue, and in these and other ways it is making substantial gains.

The chief difficulty of Esperanto is an example of the impossibility of governing a living language by hard and fast rules. When Zamenhof, he named it in the early '80s, he wrote in its support under the pseudonym of "Esperanto," who survived because it was obviously a good idea. But its popularity was hampered by rivalries that were almost immediately engendered. Volapuk and a modified Esperanto, "Kosmo," "Spelin," "Mondlingue," "Novolatin," "Myriana," "Ido" and "Universal" were being thrust upon the world by indorsement but making little headway in popular esteem. Esperanto, which presents the advantage of being relatively easy for those who know some other language to read, alone has attained the respectability that attends on numbers. It is probably true that it is being used by more people than have ever taken up an artificial tongue.

The importance of the recent action of the government of Brazil in putting Esperanto on an equal basis with Portuguese in fixing its tolls can hardly be overestimated. It gives the moral force of government endorsement which its predecessors have always lacked. The value of support by the soviet government of Russia is undervalued. The language is serving a good purpose, and the bridge spanning an undoubted chasm. It is too early to predict that Esperanto is here to stay, but it has at least reached the stage where its progress will be observed with unusual interest.

Public Relation to Utilities. Modified views of the relation between the public and the owners of public utilities are being advanced by them alone; they extend also to investment bankers who provide the capital for construction of street railway, light, power, gas, telephone and other public services. The governors of the Investment Bankers' Association of America have passed a resolution to declare that there is need of expansion in all these lines and that therefore:

"There should be co-operation between the public and the owners and operators of utilities, and the latter should be laying before the public the reasons for their proposed expansion of prompt and continuing expansion in encouraging such utility expansion, and the public should be given the opportunity to express its views on the subject."

Public regulation is thus admitted to be a factor in establishing sound credit for utility companies. The credit is reflected in low interest and in ability to secure capital for construction and expansion. Under public regulation, the lower the rate of interest paid by a company, the lower are the rates for service paid by the public, and the more readily capital is obtained the better will be the service and the more promptly plants will be enlarged as the demand grows. Proper regulation keeps water out of capital, prevents speculation, and thereby improves the security for the bond-buyer, thus facilitating the investment bankers' business.

This security is not complete unless public regulation permits rates which will pay enough profit on the investment to attract capital. Rate regulation should work both ways, both to protect the public against excessive rates and to secure for the company rates adequate for that purpose. In both ways works in favor of the public, for the assurance of adequate rates acts as a check on the interest rates, consequently on the service rates.

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Public regulation is thus admitted to be a factor in establishing sound credit for utility companies. The credit is reflected in low interest and in ability to secure capital for construction and expansion. Under public regulation, the lower the rate of interest paid by a company, the lower are the rates for service paid by the public, and the more readily capital is obtained the better will be the service and the more promptly plants will be enlarged as the demand grows. Proper regulation keeps water out of capital, prevents speculation, and thereby improves the security for the bond-buyer, thus facilitating the investment bankers' business.

This security is not complete unless public regulation permits rates which will pay enough profit on the investment to attract capital. Rate regulation should work both ways, both to protect the public against excessive rates and to secure for the company rates adequate for that purpose. In both ways works in favor of the public, for the assurance of adequate rates acts as a check on the interest rates, consequently on the service rates.

Understand the workings of regulation by the public service commission is necessary to correct judgment of schemes for public ownership or to compel utility companies to render service at rates which no longer pay interest on the capital invested. These companies are in effect simply agents employed to render service to the public for a certain net percentage of their investment, fixed by the commission and corresponding closely to a commission paid to a man for any other kind of service.

Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, we shall not learn the complete wonders of the scheme Mr. Kellaher had in mind for giving Portland car riders a 5-cent fare. Mr. Kellaher's insignificant showing in the election does not indicate that the people like the 8-cent fare, but it does indicate a better understanding of the impossibility of getting 8 cents' worth of service for 5 cents has come about.

There are a few cities in which the 5-cent fare still prevails. San Francisco is one. There the taxpayers foot the losses of the municipal utility. Because of provision of the New York constitution the courts have held that the public service commission may not raise rates fixed by franchise in Brooklyn fixed by the local authorities. Five cents is still the price for a ride in Brooklyn, but the traction system in the hands of a receiver and operation has been wholly suspended on numerous occasions.

In Philadelphia there was a promise made by the head of the traction company that the 5-cent fare would be maintained. His was a plan of co-operation with the city and of improvements in service, establishment of the skip-stop system, and other supposed economies. But even in the city of brotherly love it could not be worked. The company faced disaster and now the public service commission has advanced rates to 7 cents, while those who transfer to another line, except in the downtown district, pay an additional 3 cents.

Every hopeful scheme has been tried somewhere for keeping street car fares at 5 cents. It has failed or somebody has paid large losses. As a vote-getter it ought to be tried again for good. It will be brought back by the body constituted by the public as its formal agent in the matter.

BY - PRODUCTS OF THE TIMES. Shakespeare's Villain Made Vehicle of Characterization of Perfect Woman. Some one has been collecting definitions of the perfect woman. writes Kat Miller Rabb in the Indianapolis Sun, only to discover that in the mouth of the villain, Iago, was put the most acceptable characterization in the world of his "name and impotent conclusion," which, an atrocious suspect Shakespeare of appending at the last moment just to keep Iago in character: "She that is ever fair, and never good, is highly commended as a never loved. Never lacks gold, and yet goes never gay. Flees from her wish, and yet says: 'Now she is being anointed, her revenge being a night.' After her wrong start, and her displeasure after this, somewhat, the "perfect woman" planned" of Wordsworth seems nobby pambly, and the "celestial" surrounding her not at all convincing.

And speaking of Shakespeare quotations, some one asked I recently why so many of the women who speak in public use that "sweet low voice," he said, "I have never heard a more excellent thing in woman. Lear, of course, never dreamed of their taking to the hustlers."

Speaking of the struggles some European nations are putting up for an instance, Philip H. Gadsden of Philadelphia tells this story: "One night a hapless citizen going home, was set upon by two thugs and badly beaten. When he fell, unconscious, after a terrific fight, to the sidewalk, the thugs went through his clothes and found to their utter dismay, a small, round, hard object, the color, disgusted, kicked the prostrate citizen a couple of times and made off down the street. But the second thug stayed behind to investigate the case more fully. A second search of the man's clothes, however, failed to reveal more than the 15 cents, so the thug sat down to await the awakening of his victim. When he returned to consciousness, the thief said: "This 15 cents all the money that you have."

"Yes, it is," weakly replied the victim. "Well, I believe you, the thug continued, 'but please tell me why in thunder you put up such a soft record. I have heard nothing but the 15 cents on you.' 'Thunder, man,' the victim responded, 'I was trying to protect my credit!'

Somebody gave a former Main-street bartender a Bible and when he opened it at the book of Ruth he remarked that Babe could break into anything, but he never knew that part of the Bible was named after the home-run hero, says the Los Angeles Times. The book of Ruth is indeed rather convincing. In the second chapter growing grain is mentioned as well as go to the field. There is no denying that Babe is a fine felder as well as a mighty swatsman. In the very next verse the book says Ruth gleaned in the field. Babe can glean 'em in the field. Besides Boaz tells Ruth: 'Let thine eyes be on the field.' The retired bartender thinks that Boaz must have been the manager of the team and he was telling Babe where to lay one another or else to keep his palms peeled for the next man up. Then there's another verse that tells how Ruth cleaned up the field and beat it out. That's Babe, all right. The reformed bartender says that Babe may not be a very good player, but he was apparently among those present.

"Blackmore Socar. Did you ever hear of that place?" Warner Bartholomew, county clerk of Washington, says. "I have heard of it, but Socar is a name I never heard of. The young girl is considered the equal of any rider seen in the west."

Most of the office staffs in the hotels in Portland are composed of former circus people. The circus men went in the parade yesterday because they had to work. However, they put on a show for the benefit of their respective outfits