

FISHER SEES NEED OF LARGE CAPITAL

Secretary Says Utilization of Waterpower Involves Monopoly Features.

PRICE IS BASED ON FUEL

Rates Cannot Go Lower Naturally, and to Reduce Them by Statute Would Give Unfair Advantage to Few Persons.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, April 12.—It is evident from the report submitted to the President by Herbert Knox Smith, Commissioner of Corporations, that Mr. Smith is firmly of the opinion that water power sites remaining in the public domain should be retained permanently by the Government, and be made to yield a material revenue. In fact, Mr. Smith clearly expressed the opinion that the only way to regulate water power development in the future is to retain control of the remaining power sites. This is another specific instance where the radical conservationists have undertaken to make the natural resources heavy contributors to the national treasury, through the imposition of leases or rentals.

A perusal of Mr. Smith's report demonstrates one thing clearly: he has not an intimate knowledge of water power conditions in the Far West, where most of the Government's power sites are to be found. This is evidenced by his assertion that "the demand for power considerably exceeds that which can be economically produced from water in every considerable section of the country."

Normal Surplus Noted.—It evidently has not occurred to Mr. Smith that the West, until conservation tied up all known power sites on the public domain, had far more power than it could utilize. The statement just quoted is certainly at variance with another statement in Mr. Smith's report, namely, that "approximately 42 per cent of the total estimated minimum power of the country is found in California, Oregon and Washington. Adding to this the power in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho gives 68 per cent of the total minimum power in these six states." Mr. Smith also quotes an authority as saying that in Oregon, Washington, California, New York and Maine there is a total of 24,000,000 horsepower, mostly undeveloped.

Another interesting feature of Mr. Smith's report is his assertion that "the price which can be charged for water power can not exceed the price at which fuel power can be sold." This opinion, based on the assumption that Mr. Smith would have the Federal Government retain control of all power sites, to prevent monopoly, is a great deal that will prove of interest, and from it the following extracts are taken:

"The need of water power development is obvious. The non-use of water power means the diminution of our other sources of power. The water power now in use saves at least 25,000,000 tons of coal annually.

Heavy Investments Required.—Prompt utilization is therefore essential. But it must be frankly recognized that the most efficient use of water power requires a considerable degree of unified control. Certain highly monopolistic tendencies are inherent in the water power industry, especially centering around the expensive investment in transmission and distributing lines.

"Our public policy must recognize both the need of water power and the dangers of monopolistic control and take effective action on both. It must also recognize the close relation of water power to the navigation and irrigation.

"One important fact must be emphasized. The point at which such effective public control must be applied is the power site itself. The public cannot be protected by any attempt to fix by law the selling price of water power. It is the power site that must be secured for the public its due share in the natural resource. Fuel power will substantially fix the price of water power. There is practically no considerable area in the United States where water power can supply the entire demand for power. Of course, the public cannot be sold above the price of fuel power. On the other hand, if the price of water power be fixed by law below that of fuel power, not all communities, in most instances, can be served with the cheaper power, and an unfair discrimination must result.

FLY-DAY IN ONE TOWN

One Hundred Thousand Killed in an Ohio Town.

Woman's Home Companion. Early in July, 1911, the newspaper in our village of the fly problem for this community. At the outset it was announced that on a certain day the citizens would be asked to co-operate with this paper in "swatting the fly." A local clothing concern co-operated to the extent of distributing, without any charge, wire fly "swatters," and on the day appointed 3000 of them had been distributed.

Boys and girls were encouraged to assist in ridding the community of flies by the offering of prizes on the part of this concern, and when the day had come and gone, more than 100,000 flies had been slain in Hamilton.

During the days which preceded the day designated, educational articles were carried by the town paper. The co-operation of the city authorities, and especially the health officer, was secured for "fly day" and efforts were put forth at that time looking to the permanent cleaning up of places where flies could breed.

"Fly day" was generally conceded to have been very successful. There was no effort made, of course, to absolutely exterminate the fly, because a real solution was realized to be out of the question, but this paper had as its aim, simply, to give the people an idea of how far they could go in solving the fly problem if they all got together and worked to that one end.

Both in the Same Boat.—National Monthly. The new Swedish cook, who had come into the household during the holidays, asked of her mistress: "Where have your son? I not seeing him 'round no more."

"My son," replied the mistress proudly, "Oh, he has gone back to Yale. I miss him dreadfully, though."

"Yes, I know youst how you feel. My broder, he have in yall sailx times sensee T'anksgiving."

The first trial for breach of promise was tried in England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

necessity of full and early development of water power with the proper protection of the public.

"It is self-evident that the price which can be charged for water power cannot exceed the price at which fuel power can be sold. On the other hand, experience indicates that the price of water power will not be materially less than this fuel-power price. It might be less if the supply of water power were greater than the market could assume. This, however, rarely happens. Indeed, the Bureau's investigation indicated that the demand for power considerably exceeds that which can be economically produced from the water in every section of the country. Therefore the owner of the water power has no need, except for the purpose of temporarily effecting an entrance into a market, to reduce the price to a point substantially below the price of fuel power."

Price Regulation Impractical.—These conditions clearly demonstrate that it is impractical to regulate the price of water power as an entirely separate and distinct thing, regardless of the price of fuel power. "There remains to be considered the problem of obtaining for the public as a whole, its proper share of the advantages inherent in the natural resource itself. This problem assumes great interest, because of the fact that there is still a large amount of undeveloped water power on the public domain, chiefly in the National Forests. The total amount of such power places the total at 14,000,000 horsepower; the actual total is probably somewhat less.

"If the power is developed by the public, sold at the price of fuel power, the public treasury will receive the profit arising therefrom. If, on the other hand, private parties develop separate water powers, the public can still, by charging proper rental, secure its due share of the benefits inherent in the resources.

"The important fact which the Bureau desires to emphasize here, is that the one point which this right of the public can be exercised is in the resource itself, the power site, and not by any attempt to regulate the price of power. Thus, in the case of private operation of water-power privileges, the Government can charge a rental for that right commensurate with the natural advantages of the power site. Such rental, moreover, can be adjusted from time to time to insure the public increased compensation to correspond to any increase in the value of the power site which may arise from increased settlement of the country or other causes. In some cases, of course, a lease without rental charge might be desirable for a limited period, in order to encourage development of inferior sites, which otherwise might not be utilized."

CLOTHES FROM SEAWEED
Fiber of Posidonia Australis, From Southern Seas.

Within the last few months there has been perfected in England a method for using the fiber of the Posidonia australis, found in the Southern seas. A sample of this fiber was sent to the University of Trade to a Manchester university demonstrator, who experimented there and reported that the raw fiber seemed to correspond to any wool among its same seedlike objects and very minute shells, which all came away in the process—and the limp, stringy fiber, after treatment, was soft, pliable, strong, much like wool in its disposition to curl and twist, and easy to spin in its raw state. It takes dyeing well, except with respect to green, when the result is usually cloudy. Also it requires a mild bleach, to avoid making the fiber tender.

The lecturer, who was in the hall of the lecture, said that the subject is a thrilling one, judging from the way the lecture hall is crowded, and hours before the lecture begins no more seats are to be had.

WILFUL BACHELORS RAKED
Speaker Criticizes Divorce Apologist More Than Advocates and Dwells on Many Happy Features of Married Life.

PARIS, April 12.—Fashionable Paris is following with intense interest the lectures of Mgr. Bolo, on the subject of marriage. The subject is a thrilling one, judging from the way the lecture hall is crowded, and hours before the lecture begins no more seats are to be had.

WOMAN OF THE FUTURE
She Will Be the World Housekeeper, Says a New Prophet.

William Hard in "The Women of Tomorrow."

The world housekeeper—that is the future woman. What I mean is that the unique province of the woman of the future will be the thousand and one unremunerative jobs of civilization. She will, of course, marry and fulfill her household duties toward her husband and her children. But modern housekeeping and modern schools give her in many cases large relief from home cares and a certain amount of leisure, especially as she grows older. This leisure makes it possible for her to be a much more active citizen than her husband. She has much more time than he to work for or serve on the school board, the board of health, the water commission, the milk commission, the factory or tenement-house inspection department, and in the various other and kindred fields of public housekeeping. There will be developed a system of "part-time" jobs in which hundreds of thousands of married women can find

NEW OIL MONOPOLY DUE
Germans Said to Contemplate Converting Industry to State.

BERLIN, April 12.—(Special.)—There are circumstantial reports that the German Government seriously contemplates the establishment of a state monopoly of petroleum, with a view to providing fresh revenue for Dreadnoughts and other "national" purposes. The only official intimation is that recently made in the Reichstag by Dr. Delbrück, Imperial Secretary of the Interior, who said that the government "might" find it desirable to convert several industries now in private hands into state monopolies. The newspapers amplify this cryptic Ministerial utterance by stating that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Herr Wernuth, actually has plans and specifications in hand for nationalizing the oil trade.

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orchestra, who, when all the other instruments are playing a soft, subdued air, goes mad and blows his instrument for all he is worth. Life for each individual is good only because we can live in society. If the whole object of it is made to separate us from those to whom we are bound by every natural and sacred tie, we destroy all the benefits of life. The Apaches, as well as all thieves, murderers, and scoundrels, want to live their own life. The principle of "everyone living for himself" is more nonsense.

The lecturer amused his audience by informing it that if America has its divorce states, France has her divorce magistrates. A Parisian authority, at a recent congress of lawyers, mentioned a magistrate who had in one day granted 153 decrees of divorce. The next time, the same magistrate signed at a single sitting, 242 decrees, and his record was reached on December 15, 1889, when, in the space of four hours, he signed 294 decrees of divorce. That magistrate, he thought, must have imagined that he was in the midst of carnival, and that divorce could be distributed as freely as confetti. Those who continued to say that divorce was not yet easy enough must be difficult to please.

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M. de Freycinet at Age of 84 Honored as Soldier.

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tribution controls the German market almost completely. It is estimated that the government might derive an annual revenue of \$15,000,000 from a petroleum monopoly.

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