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against actual and proven practicality? Why jump into something that is unknown and unpromising and abandon the demonstrated? Senator Chamberlain has a bill in congress continuing for four years the Shackleford plan with slight modifications. It would keep the splendid organization in each state in continuous operation with complete cooperation between the federal government and the states. It would avert the three or four years of stagnation in federal road building that would inevitably result from adoption of the Townsend bill. It would keep going road construction that, under the close supervision of both federal and state engineers, is without favoritism to the cement trust, is beyond the reach of the road machinery trust and that is building roads on the highly approved principle of getting a dollar's worth of road for every dollar of public funds expended.

and how to attain their desires look to a distant, and, perhaps, influenced legislative appointment more hopefully than to a more local appointment or election. If the port commission should swallow the dock commission it would mean less surrendering of properties in which the people of the city have invested millions and to which they look hopefully as utilities for the building of desired commerce. But on the other hand, the dock commission's powers are in large measure confined within the corporate limits of the city. It is a subordinate body, reporting to the council. Its members appointed by the mayor, and the appointments have not always been with close reference to the port and maritime knowledge of the appointees. While a state enactment and, possibly, a Portland vote would be necessary in the surrender of the dock commission's authority and property, it is difficult to say what would be the nature and complexity of the amendments, measures and ordinances required to vest the dock commission with powers affecting operations from Portland to the sea.

It may be possible, of course, that man "is taking second place" in the race of life in this country, but it is to be doubted if that is so much because the segment of society is losing its American pep. It may be that some of the conventional hobbies having been taken off our sisters they are outfooting us a little bit, pep and all. But, be that as it may, it is difficult for those of us who are not endowed with psychopathic temperaments to conclude that our fiber, either individually or nationally, is going to degenerate because we have ceased to soak it in alcohol, and have begun to trundle it into the path of "church movements" now and then, or to elevate it upon a "high moral standard" above the gutters and the deadfalls we used to have about us.

It may be, as Dr. Hickson complains, that "the nation has put its head in the noose of puritanism," but even so, it will have to hold its head up a little higher among its neighbors than of yore, or choke. Dr. Hickson talks like he was choking now. Choking seems to have been a common pastime with many of us since the tides of last January. The consolidation of the port and dock commissions is a thing to be desired. But the thing that has delayed the merger until the present time and renders it a tedious task for the future is that ever recurrent question, as to which is to swallow the other. The formulation of a satisfactory plan is a work, which if performed by the two commissions' civic committees or others, should win the gratitude of Portland. But no plan will be acceptable, no matter how fair on its face, if developed in secret behind closed doors. It is the people's business and should be done in full view of the public.

Advertisement for a new page in the journal, featuring a large illustration of a man in a suit and hat. The text promotes the quality and variety of the new page.

TRUTH is stranger than fiction. No writer has produced a scenario with a plot equal to that in which \$9500 was taken from the Aurora bank. No short story writer has woven a web of thrills more extraordinary and yet within the actual possibilities of human conduct. Here was a divorced wife who longed for return to her former husband. Here was a mother who evet saw before her eyes the pictures of her two children. Money, in her thought, was the means of restoration and reunion. In her temporary employment in the bank she saw \$50 to \$100 bank bills. On those bills, perhaps, she saw the pictures of the reunited home and of the faces of her children. With the longing and the impulse tugging at her heart strings, she yielded. But she was caught, and before her is the condemnation of the law. Over there is the court, and the lawyers and the jury, and the sheriff. And there is the commandment in the great book, "Thou shalt not steal."

It is a page out of the book of real life—a new page; a page extraordinary. It is a page about a woman's heart and children and a home. It is a happening of a kind in which many of us have never been involved and concerning which it is difficult for us to pass judgment. And until we know more about a mother's yearning for her babies, which of us is in position to condemn those who hold that justice should be tempered with mercy?

The prediction that gasoline is soon going on up, that the petroleum supply of America will not prove sufficient for our navy and that impending high prices reveal a real shortage and not a profiteer filibuster are all facts that support former Secretary of the Interior Lane's appeal for national economy in the carrying and use of petroleum products from the well to the fire box or the cylinder's explosion chamber. But our great difficulty was sufficient to build up the greatest of modern fortunes should diminish so rapidly that prices must skyrocket in order to maintain the feudal baronies of the petroleum princes.

THE consolidation of Portland's port bodies is highly to be desired. A merger of the port commission and the dock commission would result in economy. It should reduce administrative costs and shorten the salary lists. More important, the merger should permit the adoption and actual application of a uniform policy of port development. The arbitrary division which says that the duty of the port commission is confined to the maintenance of the channel and the task of the dock commission exclusively related to the construction and operation of the terminal structures is unnatural. Functions inevitably overlap.

A BAD BILL IT WILL be a mistake for the country, and particularly for the Western states, if the Townsend road bill, so-called, be passed by congress. A sufficient reason is that there is no call for it. Another reason is that passage of the measure would bring to a stop a general system of road building under a plan by which splendid progress is being made. The Townsend bill proposes a complete change of program in federal aid. It would create a national highway commission of five members to have complete charge of all federal construction of highways. It would require a period of preliminaries with stagnation of perhaps three years in which no federal roads would be built, due to the delays encountered in organizing the new plan and putting it into active operation.

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COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF SMALL CHANGE Champ Clark refuses to run for president. Next. The question "What Hoover?" has become "What Hoover?" Secretary Daniels, we note, is among the "hard times" men who are always to be quite the favorite indoor sport just now. If "Billy" Sunday could win political converts as effectively as he can religious converts, he might be elected president at this time. If no woman ever married except for love, a lot of men would be making less noise than they make about the cost of living.

Letters From The People (Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written only on one side of the paper, and should be 800 words in length and must be signed by the writer, whose name and address in full must accompany each contribution.) Wants Vote on Zoning Ordinance Portland, March 3.—To the Editor of The Journal—In regard to the zoning ordinance I beg to say I do not believe in zoning. I believe in the right of every man to do as he pleases with his property or what it means, and I am honest to confess that I do not know myself, having had no time to attend meetings and see the ordinance as it has been discussed. But I have heard enough about it to know that it is a question that should be settled by a vote of the people, and in no other way, regardless of what the city fathers and the politicians think to the contrary. Every property owner should have a voice in such vital questions and I sincerely hope that the people will vote on it in the near future. E. T. MANN.

Wants a Declaration From Hoover Portland, March 3.—To the Editor of The Journal—In regard to the declaration of Herbert Hoover for president, the inquiry arises, Has he inside knowledge of Hoover's political and administrative work? The views and bias of a private citizen cannot be called in question, so long as he holds them in secret, but if he presumes to aspire to leadership, the public has the right to demand explicit showing of his fitness, including policies and personal bias, as well as ability to lead. It is a question of Herbert Hoover for president. The inquiry arises, Has he inside knowledge of Hoover's political and administrative work? The views and bias of a private citizen cannot be called in question, so long as he holds them in secret, but if he presumes to aspire to leadership, the public has the right to demand explicit showing of his fitness, including policies and personal bias, as well as ability to lead.

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The Oregon Country Northwest Happenings in Brief Form for the Busy Reader OREGON NOTES A vigorous campaign has been started in the state against violation of the game laws. Wallace G. Thrill, district attorney for the county, has filed his candidacy for re-election. A new level for the price of timber lands is the sale of a tract of 143 acres for \$25,000. A deal has been closed at Salem for 40,000 loganberry tips which are to be planted at Sardis, British Columbia. It has been held upon the 17th Gulch district in Baker county for 10 years has been made. An intensive salting and range management plan has been adopted by the North Powder Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association. While influenza is on the wane in town it is said to be gaining in the upper reaches of the river valley section around Parkdale. John E. Churchill of Roseburg has been arrested at Los Angeles on the charge of wife desertion and non support. A large quantity of TNT allotted to the War Department has been ordered shipped from Camp Lewis. The Roseburg post of the American Legion transferred from the state innane building to a government hospital. The city of Eugene has adopted an ordinance providing for the paving of Twelfth avenue from Oak to Kincaid street. The University of Oregon Alumni of the University of Oregon at Bend are planning to give a reception at the home of the university trustee club which will be held at Bend March 20. Indications are that Douglas county stockmen will be a day's ride from the location of the former race on mixed railroad shipments of livestock to the state fair grounds. Penitentiary officials have escaped word that A. B. Foster, who had been seen at Seattle in the hospital, has been seen on his way to the Canadian border. Steps have been taken at Oregon City for the improvement of the road connecting the Clackamas county seat with the Capital highway through Willamette Falls. WASHINGTON Bids will be opened at Chehalis March 22 for the construction of a road between Winlock and Cowlitz paid for by the state. Nearly \$50,000 has been paid into the office of the Clarke county auditor so far this season for motor vehicle licenses. Erection of a community building in Centralia in remembrance of the victims of the Armatrust day shooting is being urged. More than 2500 citizens of Yakima have signed a petition asking that the office of the Clarke county auditor so far this season for motor vehicle licenses. According to C. L. Robinson, district clerk at Chehalis, the road between Winlock and Cowlitz paid for by the state. Nearly \$50,000 has been paid into the office of the Clarke county auditor so far this season for motor vehicle licenses. Erection of a community building in Centralia in remembrance of the victims of the Armatrust day shooting is being urged. More than 2500 citizens of Yakima have signed a petition asking that the office of the Clarke county auditor so far this season for motor vehicle licenses.

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