

### TWO MEN HOLD UP FEDERAL AID FOR GOOD ROADS

Washington, March 1.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL)—The federal aid roadbuilding program, which has been painstakingly built up and needs action at the present session of congress to keep it in orderly, continuous and economic operation, has struck some deep ruts largely because of the attitude of two men, who, by unlucky circumstance, stand at the head of the road committees in the senate and house.

Another obstruction is the change in the house system of business, part of the budget plan, which deprives all committees except the appropriations committee of the power of reporting appropriation bills, so the process of securing money requires two committee actions instead of one.

**SITUATION IS AWKWARD**  
First, the roads committee must report the authorization, and after that has been enacted into law, the appropriations committee must provide the money.

The new system lends itself to delay and aids the opposition when time is an important element in the situation, as it is at the present time, and so often is toward the close of a session. It is causing considerable irritation and may be swept away before it grows much older, but not in time to work any change at the present session.

Representative Thomas B. Dunn of New York is chairman of the house roads committee, and he is the one member of that committee who has been prominently against road legislation at the present session.

Dunn has contended that the unexpended balances are so large that the subject can be postponed, and he maintained this position in the face of figures showing that 27 states already have all federal funds contracted or will have them under contract by July 1.

In the senate Senator Charles E. Townsend of Michigan is chairman of the committee on postoffices and post-roads, and is the author of the widely known Townsend bill for a system of national trunk highways. He wants that to become the basis of future policy, instead of the present federal aid plan.

He has shown no enthusiasm for continuing the present system and is quite positive that the time is too short to do anything of the present session.

**EAST IS APATHETIC**  
Townsend's committee is also responsible for the supply bill for the post-office department, which has been reported to the senate, but held up with all the others pending the fight over the tariff. He advances the argument that his first duty is the postoffice bill, and he is gloomy over the prospects for even that.

If all the states were as much concerned about the road bill as Oregon there would be little doubt about its passage, as the tide would be too strong for Dunn and Townsend to withstand. But among many of the delegations in the East there is apathy or hostility, and a disposition to decide in the negative when an appropriation is disputed, because the negative is on the side of the federal government.

The doctrine of turning down appropriations that can be postponed, which has been carried into several departments of government, with questionable effect, is one with which the road bill has to contend, and will have to meet again in the next congress.

**Lecture on Tree Diseases**  
The monthly meeting of the departmental representatives of the agricultural bureaus in Portland will be held at the Chamber of Commerce Wednesday noon. Dr. J. S. Joyce of the plant pathology department, will speak on "Tree Diseases."

### Portland to Get Berkeley's Police System at Once

Berkeley, Cal., March 1.—(I. N. B.)—L. V. Jenkins, chief of police of Portland, Or., announced Monday upon his arrival here that the Berkeley police system will be put into effect in Portland immediately.

Drastic reforms in the Portland police system are contemplated, he stated. Lee Ackerman, inspector of police, who has been here for the past several weeks studying the local system for his superior, will be named head of the bureau of records, a new position created to carry out the details of the local system.

Chief Jenkins will remain here until next Sunday to make a personal study of the local system, and upon his return to Portland will proceed to put the system into operation there.

Mayor Baker made a preliminary survey of the Berkeley police system in connection with a recent vacation trip to California and is such an enthusiastic admirer of its workings that he has since been advocating its establishment here.

The first result of the mayor's interest was that Inspector Lee Ackerman was sent to Berkeley some time ago for the explicit purpose of studying the bureau of records, that he might be named head of such a department here. Chief Jenkins' study is expected to lead to other drastic innovations in the local department.

### Wine Flows Freely; Food, Fists Fly at Dinner of Consuls

Seattle, Wash., March 1.—Christian Vacher-Corbier, consul of France, was househunting today after a narrow escape from a humiliating police court trial in company with the consuls of Peru and Mexico.

Incidentally, threatened strained relations with the three nations were averted when Mayor Caldwell dismissed the disorderly conduct charges against the members of the consular corps and reprimanded a policeman for referring to Consul Vacher-Corbier as "a frog."

Much wine was spilled during the convivial party in the French consul's apartment Sunday night. Unfortunately some of it was spilled onto the sixth story window and streamed down on a passing lady's dress, ruining it.

Second later a tablecloth and a knife and fork came hurtling out the window and laid low a gentleman on his way to evening services.

Police were called and found the three consuls hurling the remnants of their dinner at each other between draughts of rich red wine. The three consuls were arrested and, after securing their canes, were given a ride in the police patrol.

Each consul declared himself outraged and threatened to report to his chief at Washington. Conferences with the mayor today smoothed over the brewing clash, but when Consul Vacher-Corbier returned to his apartment he was informed that he would have to move at once.

### City Powerless in Milk Situation, Is Attorney's Findings

W. L. Brewster, chairman of the city milk commission, had a conference Monday with Assistant City Attorney Tomlinson to discuss the extent to which power may be conferred on the commission through city ordinance to give it authority to compel milk producers and distributors to comply with its price-fixing recommendations.

The result of the conference was the conclusion that such an ordinance as indicated probably would not stand a test in court and that means must be devised through some other channel to induce compliance with the rulings of the commission.

### HILLSBORO LOSES IN HYDRANT CASE

Washington, March 1.—(U. P.)—The supreme court has upheld the Oregon public service commission in authorizing the North Coast Power company to charge the city of Hillsboro \$3.50 a month for fire hydrants. The city claimed this was illegal because of a contract with the company for free hydrant service after 1917.

While none of the members of the Oregon public service commission was in Portland Monday, it is understood the action of the supreme court in upholding the decision in the Hillsboro case will have a widespread effect on small towns of the state which have been making a practice of contracting for free service from public utilities in return for franchises.

A parallel case was recently tried in the state supreme court when Woodburn carried its telephone case to that court. The state court upheld the authorization by the service commission of an increased rate over a contract which Woodburn held with the telephone company.

Roseburg has a similar case pending, but has not pressed legal action and several other small towns, along with the public utilities companies, have been awaiting the results of the Hillsboro case.

It has been a popular practice of small towns to "squeeze" free service out of corporations seeking franchises and the public service commission has taken the stand that there is no such thing as free service. Someone must pay for the service eventually and members of the commission have taken the stand that the expense of this "free service" ultimately reverts to the small user.

The policy of the system in this matter is an equitable distribution of all cost of service, whether it be given to a community or to an individual.

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### One Admits Traffic in Booze; Another Must Stand Trial

Dayton, Wash., March 1.—John Aldridge, arrested at Starbuck on charges of bootlegging, pleaded guilty and faces a sentence of from six months to 15 years in the penitentiary. Frank Carney will be given a hearing, having denied knowledge of the traffic in liquor.

Willis Darnell and Miss Bertha V. Pruitt, both of this county, were married Saturday.

### Conditions Improve in East, Declares Auto Manufacturer

A message of "optimism" was brought to Portland Monday by F. E. Moskovics, vice president of Nurdyke & Marnon, motor car manufacturers of Indianapolis. Moskovics declared that foreign exchange rates and their abnormal values have much to do with the abnormality of the situation.

A firm peace with thrift is the path to a sane balance in business, said he. Moskovics comes fresh from the East, where conditions are improving, buying increasing and unemployment decreasing. He says Portland compares favorably with mid-west cities of the same size, but is behind eastern cities of equal importance.

Moskovics emphasized the importance of the analyst in business today, cried down the man who optimistically refuses to look at the situation squarely and suggested that Portland business men seek to aid in the restoration of what he termed "the balance of money."

"For some time," said Moskovics, "we have spoken of the dollar as being considerably inflated. As a matter of fact, we have been spending a variety of dollars in this country for quite a while. The manufacturer's dollar was one thing, the farmer's another, the consumer's a third. The restoration of our commercial balance depends on how soon various dollar values approach each other and come to mean the same thing. This feature of value has been brought about, by the varied increase in price taken by various commodities. Some kinds of goods have gone up 250 per cent in price, while others have increased only 70 or 80 per cent. Therefore, it is right to expect some kinds of goods to come down in price far more than others."

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### Liquor Sleep Expensive

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