

PLUCKED COAL CONSUMERS

WITH the Frelinghuysen bill, compelling coal operators to submit production costs and selling prices to the government, before the senate, the operators seem destined to lose the strenuous fight they have made to withhold all information of the coal business from the public. The bill will undoubtedly pass, and with its enactment the federal government will be in position to apply greater regulatory measures for the protection of the coal buying public if more drastic regulations are justified by the facts.

Coal deposits were formed in the bowels of the earth for the benefit of all mankind. They were placed there by nature in its great scheme of things in preparation for the coming of man, just as soil, forests, changing seasons, water, and other minerals were provided for the sustenance of millions of people.

It was never intended that any group or groups of men should be in position to stay the natural processes of coal production and distribution. It was never intended that the world's coal or even a country's coal should be appropriated to the selfish purposes and sole gain of a small body of men. It was never intended that a few individuals should wield control over the supply of coal, and through that control gouge the public for tremendous prices for the product.

But that is exactly what has happened in the United States.

It has been established that this country is about 500,000,000 tons of coal underground. The supply is abundant, in fact almost inexhaustible. There are men to mine it.

But the people of this country, in spite of the supply, and in spite of the manpower to bring it to the earth's surface, have on occasions suffered from lack of fuel, and when they did get it were compelled to pay a staggering price. Even the government of the United States, when it was in dire need of fuel, was forced to pay a coal operator a commission of 50 cents a ton to get it.

Coal mined for three or four dollars a ton has cost the consumer from \$15 to \$20 a ton. Frequently four or five times the cost of production has been the selling price. Bituminous coal which before the war sold for \$1.50 now costs from \$3.50 to \$15 a ton, and anthracite that sold for \$2.50 a ton now sells for \$3 to \$10.

It has been publicly stated on the floor of congress that there has been profiteering in coal. Interstate Commerce Commissioner Aitchison told a congressional committee that he had no doubt that there was profiteering, and added that in all his business experience he had never seen so much "double-crossing and manipulation" as in the coal business in this country. But when the government asked the coal operators for figures relative to costs and to production, the operators refused to give them, and went to court to secure an injunction preventing the federal trade commission from obtaining their books.

It is apparent that the coal resources of the country cannot longer be entrusted to the coal operators for uncontrolled exploitation. It is apparent that the federal government must regulate the operators

to assure the public an adequate supply of its own coal at reasonable prices. The coal operators are merely entitled to a reasonable profit for mining the coal, and their action in the past is sufficient cause for a government control which congress now promises to impose.

A party of 50 young men and women under the auspices of Community Service picnicked last Sunday on the shores of Oswego lake. It was by local residents said to be the first party that has visited the lake and left the picnic grounds in better condition than it found them.

IN REVOLT

The harvest of excessive taxes, passed along by the various levels of additional state taxes, is to be repayed by the public school system of Portland. The reaction from the tremendous costs, built up indiscriminately, has set in, and in its fury it threatens even the institutions which are cornerstones of our state and our social order.

The \$1 mill levy for the public schools of this city should not have been defeated. Portland is in need of additional school buildings whose erection has for years been postponed. Present structures are overflowing. Certainly space and the advantages of education are not to be denied Portland's youth.

But with a suspended building program still uninitiated, \$950,000 of the income provided for the schools last year was lopped off by the vote of the people. It was lopped off as a protest against present taxes, just as the fire bonds were defeated a little more than a week before as a protest against recurring and unnecessary baby bond issues.

The people of Oregon are in revolt against taxes. There is imminent danger that they will not discriminate between the necessary taxes and the unnecessary, but will defeat every measure which is proposed and which contemplates the expenditure of funds, regardless of purpose and return.

The revolt is the heritage of a crushing tax rate. It is a public sentiment that will only be tempered and will only spare the necessary measures when governments are stripped to the bone and appropriations are made for none other than the most pressing needs.

One hundred and twenty years ago the British admiral planted 100,000 oaks in order to assure a supply of sturdy timbers for the construction of men of war. When the oaks had reached their maturity steel alone was considered fit material for fighting vessels. In another hundred years will our fighting be rendered all war vessels obsolete or will war itself be abandoned as an act of barbarism unworthy of civilized peoples?

A FAILURE

HAS anyone noticed a reduction in the number of murders and murderous assaults in the state of Oregon in the last year? Has anyone recorded the great saving in life that was to have followed the reenactment of the capital punishment law?

There were two murders and one near-murder in Portland last week. Portland has practically averaged a murder a month since January. There have been recurring assaults on life.

From other parts of the state comes frequent word of a murder on a lonely road, of a murder in a cabin, of a murder or attempted murder somewhere else. As a preventive of murder, the capital punishment law is a distinct failure.

There will be those to argue that the law has not been applied with sufficient frequency, that those convicted of first degree murder have not gone to the gallows. But why haven't they gone? For the simple reason that the juries repeatedly refuse to recommend capital punishment.

In some cases leniency has been recommended because there was apparently some doubt in the minds of jurors as to the transcendence of the accused. But will there be one to argue that a man's life should be taken when there is a possibility of mistake? And haven't there been repeated cases in which the mistake has been discovered after the innocent victim has spent years in jail?

The death penalty does not deter. But the assurance that every man who commits murder will receive a penalty would deter.

Oil production, like other things in life, seems to swing from one extreme to another. The news that petroleum wells are turning salt in heated Mexico is followed by the announcement of an immense oil field in the Arctic region along the Mackenzie river. So far the most certain way of reaching the new oil field is by airplane, \$1900 a ticket, but transportation facilities capable of handling the output are promised.

THE BUILDING OWNERS

TWO AND A HALF BILLION DOLLARS of capital invested in office buildings is represented in the convention of office building owners and managers which began sessions in Portland today.

structive factors in human affairs. They provide shelter and floor space for the vast and complicated activities that keep the world of finance, commerce and industry in motion.

As is well known, the income from office buildings in general is very modest in comparison with that from other forms of investment. As low as 2 per cent and not more than 4 is a very common revenue from such properties. They shared not at all in the colossal gains that came to many other activities during the war.

Portland is honored and gratified to be host to such a convention. Neither the city nor her guests will do other than profit from the week of association and acquaintance.

A center of great financial strength, a city with an enormous back country, a port of the first magnitude, a place noted for having less industrial trouble than any other in America, a community conspicuous for the high percentage of its home ownership, Portland should present much to interest men of the high type of those in the convention.

Superstition through coincidence wins its point just often enough to be maintained in credulous minds. The Thirteenth club of Marcellus left on Friday, March 13, for Monte Carlo in a motor number V-13. At 13 minutes past 1 (13:13 according to continental time) each staked 1300 francs on the number 13 and each won 46,800, or a total of 69,400 for the 13 members of the Thirteenth club.

BY SHIP

TO ENABLE deep sea freighters to pass between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic at the lowest transportation cost, is a project under investigation by leading engineers in America and Canada. The cost is estimated at \$100,000,000, and feasibility of the plan is a question that is expected to be determined within three months.

The movement of products from place to place is one basis of civilization. The constant effort of man is to cut the cost of the transit.

Waterways are particularly turned to now because rail rates are at a level that is almost confiscatory. Operation of roads as the annex of Wall street bankers instead of legitimate transportation enterprises has brought confusion and embarrassment to the lines and piled up rate requirements under which traffic is demoralized.

If during all these years the carriers had been operated as railroads by real railroad men without meddlesome interference and juggling of capitalization by the great financial institutions, there would be no watered stock on which to pay dividends, no mountains of debt created by frenzied financing on which to pay interest. The dilemma of the roads, the high rates and the products rotting in fields and warehouses because rail rates are so high that they cannot be moved, are the direct result of the manipulations of men who used the carriers to gather in unholy and enormous profits rather than for the great public service which transportation is designed to render.

The Panama canal has demonstrated to the world the incalculable value of water transportation. But for it, there would today be little hope of reducing transcontinental rates. It is because of the canal that the big lines are proposing a cut in rates between great water terminals.

Portland's best hope is that she will not let languish the great start she has made in water transportation. When the best engineering minds of two great nations contemplate cutting a deeper channel from the lakes to the Atlantic at gigantic cost, it should be notice to Portland that the Columbia and ships and steamboats are her surest and best interstate commerce commission, her most dependable means of progress and prosperity.

When the gas company, the electric light company, the heating company, the water bureau, the sewer bureau and the other agencies which have a right to cut into anybody's pavement without anybody's permission, refill their trenches, they are apt to leave the pavement bent downward all around the edges of the hole and finally replace so that a dish-in place considerably larger than the original incision is left to jolt motorists. Whose business is it to see that they replace to the original elevation and smoothness?

WHEN HOSPITALITY GOVERNS

WITH credit men, building owners, social workers, graduate nurses and Guernsey breeders in convention within the gates of Portland, and with many other distinguished gatherings a matter of recent memory, it must be apparent that Portland grows in prestige and popularity as a convention city.

The Municipal Auditorium with its elastic facilities for meetings, large and small, accounts in part for the distinction. Portland's possession of an unusual number of first rate hotels is another important qualification.

The beauty of the city and the multiplied routes which by highway, rail and boat lead to pleasure places are undeniable assets.

Letters From the People

"The lower level. In support of this theory is adduced the remarkable evidence... bearing unmistakable signs of erosion through countless years."

"SAFE AND UNAPRAID" "Critic an Harding's Words Furnish a Hint... 'To the Editor of The Journal—Le and behold, at last the Republicans have a pro-german for their national committee chairman..."

"The Hood River gardener whose inundated vegetables were devoured by marauding carp has one come back, and that is to use the now stranded fish as fertilizer for renewed production..."

"Disgrace to the Nation Menace to the Future Vicious Opposition A Public School Party..."

"HARVEY IS STILL THERE Holds Job Although Rebuked by President..."

"E. O. McCormick, vice president in charge of development for the Southern Pacific..."

"Tom Nolan, a merchant of Corvallis, came down Monday to attend the North West Golf association tournament..."

"H. A. Bell of Nehalem spent Monday in Portland on business..."

"Pendleton was represented in Portland Monday by Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Thompson..."

"OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS OF THE JOURNAL MAN..."

"The Railroaders' Demands" "Cherryville, June 18.—To the Editor of The Journal—As shown by your article in a recent issue of The Journal on the present railroad situation..."

"WEST POINTERS IN THE ARMY" "From the Army and Navy Journal..."

"Curious Bits of Information" "Niagara Falls is merely the successor to a grander cataraact that, once ago, shook the forests about the present site of Toronto, Ont..."

"Uncle Jeff Snow Says" "Down in Uvalde, Texas, right after the Civil war, there was two fellows held that claimed to be the only survivor of..."

"Up-to-the-minute" "Some of the stuff dreams are made of is black coffee at midnight..."

"Medical Beer" "Medicinal beer may soon be authorized to have been unnecessarily delayed on route..."

"Secretary Mellon" "Secretary Mellon is becoming famous for his own brand of cigars..."

"We're often wondered how some of those people who carry so much of their conversation with their hands can talk and drive an automobile at the same time..."

"Without the moon and the meadows, the shimmering clouds and the hedgerows, the novelists would have a sorry time for a setting for the romances of their characters..."

"We're thankful the newspapers for the announcement of the first day of summer. It buoy up hope just when we had been given the Bona Claus to appear on the scene..."

"Californians ask for more Oregon power" "California asks for more Oregon power" says a headline. California is asking for more Oregon power. What do you imagine he would think if he were here? This case connects with the Albers case and the Knox resolution...

"Popular resort advertisements. 'Go to Beach Springs for Rheumatism and Polio'" "Go to Beach Springs for Rheumatism and Polio," says a headline. California is asking for more Oregon power...

"At a luncheon given Monday by Phil Metcalfe in honor of G. T. Halverson, mayor of Salem..."

"H. A. Bell of Nehalem spent Monday in Portland on business..."

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COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

"A survey of the field of men reveals that too many half-mile horses have been entered in the mile run—Roseburg..."

"An Illinois man recently regained his sanity after having his teeth pulled. Might be a good idea to turn Sims and his crew over to doctors—Astoria Budget..."

"You may speed and get by with it for quite a while, but sooner or later you're bound to get into trouble. Why not use a little common sense and be on the safe side—Amity Standard..."

"A Japanese representative has introduced a prohibition bill with no success in 43 consecutive sessions of the diet. The natural inference is that prohibition does not agree with the Japanese diet—Eugene Guard..."

"Idleness is quoted as the devil's workshop. While the persistent toil, accompanied by happy altitude toward it, aids the highest development—physical, mental and moral—of the individual—Oregon Journal..."

"The time to economize and reduce taxation is now. If we do not put a stop to the ever-increasing taxation, a little more time will elapse before we are driven ourselves into bankruptcy and confiscation of property—Salem Capital Journal..."

"We wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Nickerson, who have entertained us so many times and so willingly. About 100 relatives were present at the wedding games played and we departed for home feeling very gay and very much as usual. Mr. and Mrs. Nickerson had another party some time—Banks Herald..."

"An unusual combination of circumstances brought much of the state highway department into Portland Monday. There were C. C. Kelly, assistant chief engineer, J. C. Alvord, division engineer, J. M. Devers, assistant state engineer, and Nick Drew, chief of the paving experts..."

"Governor Olcott's father, who is visiting his son at Salem, thinks Oregon is a wonderful state. He is understood to be especially impressed with the strawberry fields around Salem. To his surprise there are ripe berries, green berries and blossoms on the vines, all at the same time..."

"For a few hours Monday Salem had no mayor. He was in Portland, flanked by a lot of other Salem residents, all on business and pleasure bent..."

"Hector Macpherson of Corvallis was in Portland Monday. He is interested in Oregon Growers Cooperative association..."

"Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Hochrod of Roseburg motored down Monday. They were accompanied by Miss Maude Heim and Mrs. W. Bordeen..."

"Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Hague of Marshfield are visiting in Portland..."

"C. W. Vail of Carlton is among the out of town arrivals..."

"A couple of train robbers got on our train. One came through telling us to hide our valuables, as two train robbers were working back through the hills..."

"My wife and I are a homestead in the Union schoolhouse district, about 10 miles south and west of Pendleton. For the past 30 years I have lived at Payette where we have worked at carpentering and building. I own 60 acres of wheat land near Pendleton..."

"After my wife had been in Oregon for a few years she got to honing for Texas, so we went back. She got so tired of getting back that she decided to get back to Oregon..."

"Incidentally it is interesting to remember that what is now Umatilla county was at one time part of Blackfoot county. During the days of Oregon's provisional government the Oregon country was divided into three districts or counties—Umatilla, Wasco and Clackamas. Clackamas county included all of Eastern Oregon, that part of Montana lying west of the Rocky Mountains and the present states of Idaho and Washington. Clackamas county was later divided, Wasco being created from it. Wasco county comprised all of Oregon west of the Snake river. Clackamas county became the mother of counties, the following being created from it: Sherman, Jefferson and Deschutes. Umatilla county took its name from the Umatilla river. The Kiuse (or Cayuse) Indians lived between the Umatilla and Snake rivers in the narrative of Lewis and Clark they refer to the river and on the map prepared by Clark it is spelled You-ma-lou-ye. Later it was spelled Umatilla and also Umatilla. One of its principal tributaries was named Bitter creek, as it flows through an alkali marsh and it is called an alkali river in 1873. The general land office issued a map in which a clerk made an error and misspelled Bitter creek, making it Butter creek. Right now we've got fellows in this country who've got fellows in ever town that could tell us the truth about their doin's in the World war, but they're so afraid of bein' called liars they'd rather pass up whatever they get. The Corners Commercial club officers night tried to git Abraham Niché to tell us about how he lost the fingers on his left hand at Verdun, or we've got fellows and he told us a German soldier bit 'em off, and wouldn't say."

The Oregon Country

The Tillamook fair board has decided on September 15, 16, 17 and 18 as dates for the fair. Mrs. W. A. Cox, pioneer of Oregon and a resident of Albany for 46 years, died here on Tuesday. The Canada thistle is spreading rapidly in Lane county and the weed inspector has been instructed to enforce the law to the letter. Apparently crushed by grief over the death of his wife, Sigmund Messner, formerly of Portland, is in the county jail at Roseburg. A. D. Sachter, a farmer near Condon, was run over by a truck, resulting in a serious injury. Three men were in the truck, who did not stop to render aid. A \$25,000 order for canned pears of last year's crop and coming from Engstrom was filed by the Eugene Fruit-growers association with the state highway commission, which is being investigated by the state highway commission, which is being investigated by the state highway commission, which is being investigated by the state highway commission.

The remarkably high quality of the Hood River produce has been a boon to growers this season, as there is no canning demand for fruit. G. O. McGilvray, postoffice inspector at Canyonville, was seriously injured when he was struck by a streetcar while on his way to work. The Eugene school board was saved \$150 in the election Monday by the defeat of an assemblyman furnishing its members as a section of the state school board. The election was held on Monday, June 13, 1921. A total of \$16,638.45 had been paid for the state service men on account of educational aid authorized at a special election in 1919. Contractors employed on the west side of the state highway will continue operations until the end of the month. They are understanding the suit filed by residents of Independence. A sheriff's posse at Echo secured Lester Nester, two stiffs and so much moonshine that their car was stalled in the sand, when a ranch was raided last week. Archie McRae of Jefferson, who was injured in an accident Wednesday in which his wife was killed, when their party was out on a Southern Pacific train, will recover. The Washington state savings and loan convention will meet at Aberdeen August 13 and 20. Aberdeen and Hoquiam will celebrate the completion of the state highway on or about July 1. John D. Woodson, who crossed the plains in 1879, died at Grandview, Spokane, Monday. F. A. Spokane, who have been on a strike since June 1, have returned to work at a reduction of 10 cents an hour to wages. C. F. Downing of Wapato has been appointed inspector for Eastern Washington, pending all the state staff of the Cascades. Shipments of peaches were made from Yakima county to the city of Portland, two days later than shipments were started last season. Grovers of Yakima county and dealers in the Yakima country are about \$3 part on the price and ranchers have determined to limit their output to the market. Yakima county dairymen are unanimous in favor of a complete organization and will build a plant of their own for the manufacture of butter. It is estimated that 75 per cent of the mills of Washington are now operating at full capacity. The first 100,000 during the first few months of the year. Governor Harf has appointed Frank Cooper, who has served as auditor of the hominal and A. K. Millay of Medical Lake, members of the state board of education. The Pracker cherry crop of the Frasier district, amounting to an estimated 1,000,000 bushels, has been contracted by the growers to 10 to 11 cents. Evidently a suicide, the body of Hans C. Forland was found on the mud flat near Hoquiam, Sat. Friday. He was 50 years of age and had cut the arteries of his wrist with a razor. Vancouver is said to have more gasoline service stations than any city of its size in the Northwest, and the Standard Oil company is building another one that will be in a quarter of a mile. During the period between January, 1911, and June, 1921, local improvements and condemnation rolls aggregating \$25,348,254.79 were turned over to the city treasurer by the city controller of Seattle. The town of Ellensburg has just sold \$24,000 6 per cent bonds, the money to be used to take up outstanding warrants. About \$400 will be spent for fireworks at the Independence day sports on the hill at the Buhl Fourth of July celebration. Members of the First Idaho National Guard are preparing to have a picnic and encampment at Camp Brady, near Boise. Work has been begun on the new open air natatorium at Lava Hot springs, for which the last legislature appropriated \$15,000. Two carloads of gas well machinery have arrived at Payette, and work will be started on the first gas well in that district. The state of Idaho has just received a patent from the United States government for 127,604 acres of land in the Hailly district. Despite the continued hot weather, which has kept the Boise river continues to fall, showing that the larger portion of snow-melt is now being absorbed by the soil. The United States Grain growers, a non-stock, non-profit organization, composed entirely of farmers, has filed a suit in the federal court at Boise, Idaho, for \$100,000, to force the federal government to buy grain. The safety box vault of the Bank of Aberdeen, Idaho, was blown open last week by a fire, resulting in a heavy robbery, but the amount of loot is unknown.

Know Your Portland?

A signboard of warning against municipal extravagance is being erected by the city of Seattle. A table published in the Seattle Post Intelligencer from official figures shows a per capita cost of \$95.10 for the city of Seattle in 1920. It is more than twice the amount paid per capita in any other Washington city. Seattle is in serious financial straits. Her export and import commerce last month was less than half that of May, 1920. Her loss in population, this month compared, was \$31,095,985. Portland is in no such debt and it is believed will utilize Seattle's experience as a warning point in its own financial management. There is being collected in taxes exclusively for the city of Seattle, in this year the sum of \$4,127,650, according to the county tax collector's report. The population of the city is 117,000, which makes a per capita tax of approximately \$16. Based upon city, state, school, etc., of \$14,212,000 which is being collected in Portland this year, the total per capita tax is \$45.10. The figures are furnished by City Auditor Funk.

Portland's revenues from licenses and other sources will aggregate this year about \$675,000, says the city auditor. This amount may be deducted from the total shown above, by his left hand, a full purpose, down to approximately \$54.