The Oregon Statesman


Salem Should Adopt a Water Program
FOR many years Salem has permitted its water $\mathbf{F}_{\text {to many }}^{\text {OR drift yarars Salem has permitted its water situatio }}$
policy dithot determining on any well define policy. Studies have been mate by bom cometent eld dininer
only to have the reports gather dust on the shelves. only to have the reports gather dust on the shelves. One
such report was made in 1923 which was oflowed up by
letter in 1925 by cupper and Simpon, enineers, urging
lity - upon the city the urgent necessity of formulating a definite
program or meeting its water problem. Some effort has
been made sporadically to have the city take over the pres

## ent Thas when

its quality was concerned. to the fore now because the state
The question comes
public service commission has called for a hearing on the
 The Statesman wishes to discuss in this issue the ques
tion provored by the public service commission hearing The tion provoked by the public service commission hearing. That
question is simply this : Does Salem want the water company

If the company puts in the new intake and installs
new filter it means that the city is tied up to the Willamett
 by the city. It means that when the city does decide to go go
to the mountains for water, the filter investment must be We are firm in the conviction that Salem's water prob-
lem will not be solved until the utility is taken over by the
municipality Every city should own its own water

 universal, although there remain a goody number or aturd
still leved by private companies. In order to ent an abund
ance of pure water cities go to much farther lenth than the private company would be justified in going. They assum
larger indbtedness, and under those circumstances the peo
 private water system, issued bonds and went into the moun
tains for a water supply. The city of Hoquiam, served by
the same company as Salem, is now preparing to take ove the water system.
An incomplete study shows that Salem is now paying
water rates much higher than those of other cities in the
Willamette valley. The Salem rates ore Wi Albany where Willamette river water is supplied thos the
Mountain States Power company. The rates are higher than at Corvallis where the municipality has gone $131 / 2$ miles up
the side of Mary's Peak to obtain pure water. They a the side of Mary's Peak to obtain pure water. They ar
higher than at McMinnille, a municipally owned plant with
a source up in the hills. a source up in the hills. Against the amount of taxes which
the utility pays, should be offset the payments of the mu
nicipal plants on bond debt which will mean ultimately tha We set this down simply as a fact, not as a sin charge-
We against the utility company which is a private corpora-
ablon in the business for a legitimate profit. Experience has shown that the water business is one enterpris

## a matter of choices. The pressing thing is for Salem to make a positive choice in the matter and not just drift along, play dog-in-the-manger on mountain power and water sites, and then do nothing then do nothing. The mayor and the city council are th ones on whom the responsibility rests. It seems to us th part of wisdom mission could la <br> vital than the on his garage. <br> In a later issue we shall discuss the issue involved in

Two Reactions From the War
$\mathbf{I}_{\text {ently }}^{\mathrm{T}}$ is strange hew the war arf is the commander different men diffet
 talked to the Christian Endeavor convention and attacke
the underpinnings of the war problem. His war experience the underpininngs of the war problem. His war experiences in reactions among others. Some emerged from the war
confirmed pacifists; others militarists, skeptical of any per A similar contrast we have observed in reactions to th
R. O. T. C. program in universities. Here is the editor o the university Emerald deriding the "army" on the univer
sity campus, while the editor of the state college Baromete is of the opposite opinion. The Emerald man thinks it sow
the seeds of war; the Barometer editor that it builds $u$ It is idle to try to reconcile .the diverse views. They ar rad set itself uppasition. Wole custodians of patriotism and brand
to should be decided by appeals to intelligen
dice and arousing of the mob emotions.

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## Bits for Breakfast



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