

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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The Hydro-Electric Commission Bill

THE second of the canonical power bills in senate bill 62, introduced by Sam Brown of this county as drafted by Col. A. E. Clark at the request of Gov. Meier. In its vital provisions it conforms closely to existing state and federal power laws, thus verifying the position taken by The Statesman in the late campaign that the public interest was well conserved under existing legislation with no need for political hysteria over imagined dangers.

This bill, however, as friends and foes agree, challenges the authority of the federal power act, which seeks to make the bill a futile gesture. The law of congress is the supreme law of the land; and no Oregon enactment is going to take precedence. The net result will be to paralyze future development for a considerable term of years until either congress or the state recedes from its claim to authority. When Secretary Wilbur suggested handing control of water back to the states there arose a great cry that the utilities would gobble quick control. But this new bill, without waiting for congress to act, asserts powers which it is doubtful the state possesses.

Comparing the old law with the Clark bill, it is found that the length of tenure, 50 years, is the same; the requirements for investigating and starting construction practically the same—a maximum of seven years. Both the present law and the new bill carry right of recapture to the state or a municipality, the former at the end of the license period, and the latter at any time. Both permit condemnation at any time.

The terms of recapture are quite similar: fair value plus severance damages, but the new bill would add the words "not exceeding net investment" after "fair value."

The annual fees to licensees are greatly increased. This is an advantage to state revenues—but a loss to consumers of electricity who will have to pay the increase.

The essential difference of the new bill is that it calls for strict accounting as to investment, provides for amortization of the investment, and controls security issues against the project. These gains are more apparent than real. The federal power commission already has very strict rules regarding accounting, amortization and restriction of investment credits. The bill as drawn by Clark calls for amortization of the investment out of surplus earnings "in excess of a reasonable rate of return." But how under our system of strict regulation of earnings will there be any considerable surplus of earnings?

The federal power act makes requirements for determining the net earnings of a plant even if it is part of a large system; the Clark bill does not. How then can the state find out what the earnings would be of particular plants in a system like Peppo or California-Oregon Power company?

The apparent control of securities issuance impresses us as largely perfunctory in view of the confession of Col. Clark in the hearing on the Lawrence bill of the difficulty of exercising genuine control over companies not domiciled in Oregon, whose capital secured from security sales may be scattered over many states. The same objections would apply to control of financing of individual plants, and the result would be that the commission would have to give virtually perfunctory approval of whatever securities the corporation issued.

The Clark bill considered in and of itself represents some gain over the present law, though slight, because the people's interest was already well safeguarded. Considered with the federal power act it is a useless challenge of authority which threatens to make the Oregon act abortive.

In our judgment the good attempted by the Clark bill could be better secured by two moves:

First, amend the present law to give state or municipality recapture privilege "at any time" at fair value "not exceeding net investment" plus severance damages.

Second, recognize the accounting and amortization systems covering investment and earnings of the federal power commission, and legalize them for purposes of rate-making and recapture.

This latter provision would avoid the conflict, make for great economy both to the state and to the utility, and permit rather than paralyze development. Meantime Oregon in company with other states could ask the federal government to give the states with proper control laws jurisdiction over their own water power.

High Cost of Dying

NO, this is not a comment on the cost of a first-class burial in these times. It is a reference to the burden which the recent outburst of self-caused funerals has thrown upon insurance companies. In the annual report of one of the great insurance companies we note this comment covering its 1930 business:

"When we turn to the record of the mortality experience, however, we find a material reflection of 'bad times' in a very high rate of claim for both suicides and casualties. The claims from these two items alone amounted to no less than \$2,219,000, or 20% of the total claims paid—a most unusual amount even if a somewhat natural consequence of the financial conditions of the year."

Financial depression has its reaction on the minds of men and those who buckle under the strain bump themselves off. This was particularly true among the speculators on a large scale who usually carry heavy life insurance policies. When they saw their pyramid of profits transformed to a mountain of liabilities they did the fade-out themselves via the suicide route—leaving the insurance companies to pay heavy death losses.

It is of course a sad commentary on the morals of those who legally rob from the insurance companies. It carries its own moral as to the tragedy of failure under the tense commercialism of modern life.

Representatives Mott and Anderson are proposing a constitutional amendment, to guarantee everyone a job. Like Mott's bill to abolish state property taxes, it stops too quick. The amendment should provide that no one would have to work. If we are to legislate heaven to earth, let's do it all at once.

Ralph Hamilton complains because people and organizations send in two sets of resolutions to the legislature, one calling for tax reductions and the other for more government expense. But the poor legislature gets the crushing failure to solve this insoluble problem in arithmetic.

The Seattle jury concluded Ruth Garrison was now safe to be at large. A murderer and husband-robber, she probably is safe to be at large after 12 years in the penitentiary. Her chance of being a vampire is now pretty well cramped.

HEALTH

Today's Talk

By R. S. Copeland, M. D.

Diphtheria is a highly contagious disease, most prevalent among children. It is a preventable disease. It is a shame to have it included among the dangers of childhood.

There has been a great reduction in the number of deaths caused by diphtheria. It is the hope and aim of all public health officials to eradicate this dangerous ailment entirely. This can be accomplished only when there is complete cooperation of the public.

This disease is caused by the diphtheria germ which finds its way to the nose or throat. There it multiplies in number, its presence is shown by a grayish membrane which may interfere with breathing.

Kissing Transfers Germs
The germs produce a toxin, a powerful poison. This is quickly absorbed into the blood stream, causing general poisoning of the system.

The germs of diphtheria may be transferred from one person to another by kissing. They may be carried in the spray produced by coughing, sneezing and talking. Drinking cups or other utensils used by an infected person serve as a common means of transmission.

The possibility of contamination by the germs of this disease is particularly great in crowded and congested communities. Moreover there are persons who carry these germs without knowing they have them. Such persons are spoken of as "carriers."

How can we combat this disease? Fortunately, we have at our disposal the knowledge of diphtheria "anti-toxin." This is widely used in the treatment and cure.

Diphtheria may be prevented by the use of the "toxin-anti-toxin" injections. When this treatment is given, it enables children to go through life without contracting the disease, even though exposed to it.

By means of the "Schick test" we can determine whether a person, if exposed to diphtheria, will contract the disease. The procedure is simple and may be applied by any physician or by the local health bureau.

If all our people would cooperate by having their children inoculated against diphtheria, this disease would soon disappear. We rarely hear of cases of smallpox. It is, indeed, a rarity. Now, if our people would cooperate by having their children inoculated against diphtheria, this disease would soon disappear.

Diphtheria is another disease which will disappear when we all help.

Yesterdays

... Of Old Oregon

Town Talks from The Statesman Our Fathers Read

February 6, 1906
Chicago, Ill.—An attempt was made here today to arrest Fred Collins, said to have escaped from the Oregon penitentiary. Collins was on horseback when the demand for surrender was made, and lashed his horse to a gallop. Officers, following in a buggy, were unable to capture him. Collins and Edmund Louisignot escaped from the prison road gang on June 6, 1905. Louisignot was captured at the Lewis and Clark fair after a desperate struggle.

The Young Men's republican club is getting ready for the Lincoln banquet, which promises to be one of the biggest events here in years.

Silverton is preparing for the Farmers' and Shippers' congress, to be held there the middle of the month for two days.

John L. Rand of Baker City filed petition for congress from the second district.

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MISTAKEN IDENTITIES



"Murder at Eagle's Nest" By WINIFRED VAN DUZER

The murder of Baroness von Wiese at Eagle's Nest stirred the town of Kingcliffe. Walter Vance, assistant chief of police, in charge of the investigation sided by his fiancée, "Bim" Martin, young newspaper reporter, a note, written by the Baroness, is found near the body. Bim recalls seeing the Baroness slip the butler a piece of paper, which he drops. Suspicion is cast on Mary Frost, whose husband, Ted had flirted with the Baroness. Mary's shawl is found wrapped around the body. Mary claims she was unable to find a stone from a man's ring on the summer house path. Bim learns from the gardener that Bunny Baird was entertaining a lady in his bungalow.

CHAPTER XV
After Bob Trent had helped his wife out of their creaking old car, he climbed back under the wheel and drove the rattle-trap piece of mechanism, sputtering and complaining, around to the west and parked it behind a tulip tree as if wishing to conceal its decrepitude.

Yet he needn't have bothered. Bim considered as she hurried over to Millicent, since everybody knew that the car was a par with everything else about the Trent ménage—a household burdened by the calamity of illness, getting by on hope and makeshift.

Millicent looked unusually dowdy in a three-year-old sports dress, whose white had yellowed with much laundering, and a painfully mended sweater. Yet there was a certain gallantry about her. The fierce, unbending pride of one who takes the blows of fate standing, banners unfurled.

Bim felt a thrill of admiration for the woman, born butterfly and turned grub for the sake of the man she loved. She pressed a kiss upon a cheek still smooth and childlike, in spite of hardship, and saw that Millicent had been crying.

"Bim," wailed Millicent, clinging to the girl, "it—just can't be! I've been telling myself and telling myself that it's nothing but a bad dream, a terrible nightmare. There must be a mistake. Isn't there? Oh, I'm sure it's all a mistake—"

"You know, then, dear?"
"Mary Frost stopped by. Bob doesn't know yet." She shot a frightened look toward the gaunt man who was trying clumsily to back the old car into lane. "I'm afraid—I'm so desperately afraid—"

"But why, darling? There'll be just a few questions about last night and then you can go. I'll tell Walter to make it easy as he can."

"But don't you see, Bim? The way Bob is—any little excitement—oh—"

"She choked back a sob and managed a shaky smile for her husband."

Bim gave the sturdy little shoulder a pat and went with them into the house. There was nothing to be done. Millicent had told the truth when Bob soon would learn easily might read him in another of the periods of semi-delirium when the Trent finances, already strained to the breaking point, would be forced to stretch

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LIQUID or TABLETS
Cure Colds, Headaches, Fever
6-6-6 SALVE
CURES BABY'S COLD

BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Two great bishops:
(Continuing from yesterday):
"In a tender, gentle tone, and in a somewhat pathetic manner, the bishop said, 'Do you think your mother knows what kind of a life you are leading?' The young prodigal here quite broke down, burst into tears, and said, 'I would not have her know it for the world; it would break her heart.'"

"The bishop followed this up with other kind words. Reaching Dog River, on the Oregon side, at dusk, the young man crossed over the river to what is now Washington state, and the bishop saw him no more. We stayed in the Indian's cove for the night. We went to bed—our bed on the sand—superfluous. The dried salmon which the Indian offered us, after he had toasted it upon a stick, smelled too rank, and we could not eat it."

"This occurred in March 1854. (It was April 3, 1854.) In October, 1864, I was going down to The Dalles from Umatilla, on a large river steamer on the Columbia. There were many passengers returning from the Salmon river mines. One of them inquired my name, and, after I gave it to him, he recalled the canoe ride from the Cascades to Dog River, and he asked me if I remembered it. He said he was one of those two passengers; that the other one, whom he had then called 'Sandy,' had been for several years in the state prison; and then, in answer to my inquiry, he said that he had had a day of destiny for him; the questions of the bishop had led to his reformation."

"He had ceased his drink habit, and left off swearing, and had begun a life of prayer. God had converted him. He was a happy man. He had a wife and three children, a half section of land, and money in the bank, and he was on his way to heaven, and

"No—o; no, we didn't see any one we can remember."
"You retired at once?"
Again the pause and Bim thought a sharp anxiety struck through the look Millicent flicked in the direction of Bob. But she answered in a firm, rather loud tone that she had retired immediately. "Bob needs his sleep, you see. We don't keep late hours."

"It would have taken you about thirty minutes to drive through the village and back; that must have made it near midnight that you were on Lowland Drive passing Eagle's Nest. Did you hear anything or see anything about the grounds?"

"Oh, no. But of course we didn't look. Still, if there'd been anything unusual—"
Walter let them go then. He walked out to the car with Bob Trent, talking earnestly, and Bim assumed he was trying to soften whatever shock had been dealt the sick man. And Millicent, sitting little in Bim's arms and said she meant to be brave. "It's only that I love him so and I can't see him hurt. He depends on me like a child. Why, I'd die if anything happened to him!"

"Hush, dear; nothing will. Trust Walter for that. And, Millicent, if you need me—day or night—I'll come any time. Remember that, won't you?"
Millicent was a little comforted, but it was evident that a deadly fear had taken possession of her.

When the dilapidated old car had rattled away, Bim explained that Bunny Baird had no telephone; accordingly Reynolds and Walter and Bim set out for a visit to the artist's bungalow. (To be continued)

"Emerging later from the canoe into the open, we encountered a large cavalcade of Indians, some 200, all mounted and armed. There was a general unrest among all the Indian tribes of Oregon. Several murders by the Indians had occurred, and an Indian war broke out a few months after this. The procession halted. We were in deadly peril."
"The bishop said, 'Are we not in great danger?' I told him that if the Indians should find us, or believe us to be, Indian agents or traders, or United States military, our scalps would be taken within half an hour; but that if I could convince them that we were Methodist preachers, I believed we would not be harmed. We boldly rode up to the head of the column. I addressed one of the chiefs in the Chinook jargon, 'Clahnam sli,' which is 'How are you, chief?'"
"He answered me in English. 'I do not talk jargon.' 'Where did you learn to talk English?' 'In Ithaca, N. Y.' 'How did you get there?' 'With Commissioner Parker.' (Rev. Samuel Parker, who came in 1835 and picked out the American Board mission stations at Wallatapu and Lapwai, of Dr. Whitman and Rev. Spalding, respectively.) I introduced Bishop Simpson to him, and, through him, to the Indians present, as a great ministerial 'tyee' or chief; and Bishop Simpson introduced me as a great Oregon chief, or minister of the gospel. (Continued on page 5)



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The United States National Bank
Salem, Oregon

For COLDS

We all catch colds and they can make us miserable; but yours needn't last long if you will do this: Take two or three tablets of Bayer Aspirin just as soon as possible after a cold starts. Stay in the house if you can—keep warm. Repeat with another tablet or two of Bayer Aspirin every three or four hours, if those symptoms of cold persist. Take a good laxative when you retire, and keep bowels open. If throat is sore, dissolve three tablets in a quarter-glassful of water and gargle. This soothes inflammation and reduces infection. There is nothing like Bayer Aspirin for a cold, or sore throat. And it relieves aches and pains almost instantly. The genuine tablets, marked Bayer, are absolutely harmless to the heart.

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