

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Weighs Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## New Valuations on Utilities

PREVAILING low prices in construction costs give rise to questioning how long utilities of all kinds can maintain the "reproduction cost" theory as a basis for rate fixing. For decades the utilities have advocated the view that rates must be based not on what their plants originally cost but on the actual outlays which could be involved in replacing them.

As long as construction costs were steadily rising the advantage was all with the utilities who established as far back as the Smyth vs. Ames case in 1897 in the United States supreme court, that a company could fix its rates on reproduction values. Now that construction costs are from 20 to 30 per cent under prices of three years ago, every base is subject to attack on reproduction cost reasoning. Thus far the possibilities for such attack have escaped the thrusts of the group which has been most active in utility baiting. Free-power and public ownership continue to be their slogans and no doubt the utilities are pleased that the great weakness in their armour is thus overlooked.

If existing low costs continue, however, utilities cannot expect to continue protection thus keeping up rates and earnings on valuations made in boom days. There will be demands for a new base and if the courts are consistent, the reproduction cost theory will have to be followed. Then, what is sauce for the goose being sauce for the gander, the public will benefit by the new downward valuations which would be placed on plants. The ultimate sufferer would be the holders of equity securities, values on which often come through the inflated valuations placed on utilities when mergers were effected.

## Spring Opening

ASK a score of people their favorite season and the majority will designate spring. Newness, freshness, sunshine, growth, all are associated with this period of the year.

Spring comes in 1932 as an especially welcome guest. The winter of 1931-32, while climatically mild was economically stringent, but now it is well past with its worries and its rigors. As trees begin to leaf, when daffodils flower, when trilliums are plentiful and wood violets are in bloom, hope comes anew for nature's sure new birth reflects better times for man.

Each year, very wisely, Salem's merchants celebrate the advent of the new season with a springtime opening. The choicest, most alluring new creations are displayed. Home furnishings to repel the duller trappings of winter are exhibited. In the air as one goes about the downtown stores, is the cheery optimism which new styles, new fabrics, new creations always bring.

The Ad club tonight sponsors the most varied spring opening yet held in this city. In addition to the window displays in which the majority of merchants will cooperate are a general program, several gift enterprises, a fashion revue in which 50 models participate and several public dances. The occasion properly should attract the majority of citizens living in Salem and in its extended trade territory.

## San Francisco Sidelights

CALIFORNIA has a prevailing custom of minimizing hardships and emphasizing good-fortune but the state to the south has had its share of deflation and distress. San Francisco's empty store buildings greatly outnumber those of Portland, both because there are more businesses and also because the specialty store shop, appealing to a luxury trade in which San Francisco abounds, always is most affected in times of depression.

Prevailing sentiment in financial circles there is that the worst period of deflation is over, in fact that recovery has slowly set in with prices assuredly at rock bottom figures. A month ago when the Walker-Gianinni fight was hot, rumors against the Bank of America were constant but with Gianinni in control, the reconstruction finance corporation at work, these scares have died down and the public is pacified. Because of the wide-spread chain banking system there prevailing, California has had singularly few banking failures, the stronger areas bolstering up the needs of banks in weak districts.

Outwardly San Francisco is blithe and cheerful. A warm March sun should produce good-feeling in any situation and San Francisco is noted for her semi-balmly winter days. Flowers abound at prices one-third of those in Portland; beautiful roses at 50 cents a dozen; gardenias, three for a quarter.

Along Chinatown business is dull and war-time crowds hang around all-day long in front of the Chinese printed newspaper. Merchants are taking from their capital to send funds to the home-lands and the strained relationship extends towards the Japanese merchants who are almost as numerous in Chinatown as the Chinese themselves.

The legitimate theatres are on slow bell. Both Duffy houses are closed. A New York road show brought a half-filled house during the week and crowds on Saturday and Sunday but usually chorus girls and New York jokes pack in the theatregoers in the bay district. "Grand Hotel", advertised as the best production of a decade and certainly one of the best of the year, brought out only two-thirds of a house on its second night. The play itself is unusual and most entertaining. Eighteen separate sets make it suitable only for professionals in stage setting but by these, the changes were accomplished in minute-a-set order.

San Francisco as a city has a persistent charm which never evades a visitor. It is stretched along the most magnificent harbor in North America, perhaps in the world. Here is the nexus of the commerce and the finance of the west. The greatest banks, the insurance company headquarters, the largest wholesalers and jobbers center here. Around the city proper have grown suburbs of rare attractiveness. The city itself has an air, that hard-to-place-your-finger-on personality which expressed itself in city destiny. Fire and earthquake swept, in less than three decades, San Francisco has so far recovered that its disaster of the early century becomes only a tale to be told and no present trouble.

The old-time delegations left their work to urge Cincinnati to leave his plow and resume his leadership. Nowadays the farmer drops his plow and goes on delegation tours; it's more fun than plowing any day.

It seems the fight for free power has become largely a fight for personal power with Carey & Harlan, as usual, in the limelight.

## Yesterdays

... Of Old Salem

From Salem Times from the Statesman of Harlan Days

March 11, 1907.  
Manual training in all its branches is soon to be introduced in the schools here. A meeting was held last night and it was decided to turn the matter over to the Salem Woman's club for investigation.

The telephone war is on in earnest between the Bell and Home companies. Yesterday the latter began stringing their wires on 50-foot poles through the center of Salem and the solicitors of the company are working throughout the city.

People who happened to be out between 10 and 11 o'clock last night were afforded the opportunity to see the "Aurora Borealis" or "Northern Lights." The sky toward the north was exceedingly brilliant at times.

March 11, 1922  
The federal civil service commission at Washington, D. C., announced yesterday the eligible list for Salem postoffice head rating as follows: John H. Farrah, 82 per cent; A. Lee, 93 per cent. Seven others were not in the rating.

Salem high school debaters last night clinched the district championship when they defeated Milwaukie high school. The debaters were Kenneth Perry and Ralph Emmons.

BOMBAY—India's non-cooperation leader, Mohandas K. Gandhi, has been arrested at Ahmedabad, 310 miles north of Bombay. He is charged with sedition.

## New Views

Statesman's question yesterday was: "Do you feel teachers' salaries should be cut to correspond to reductions being effected in business?"

William McElchris, business man: "I'm not conversant with it, but I know this—I've understood Salem teachers are paid less than any place else in the state."

Mrs. G. S. Higgins, housewife, reads three: "That depends on the teacher and the community. Personally, I don't believe in cutting teachers' salaries. It seems some of the farmers are not paying their taxes. I think they are planning on cutting our teachers' salaries here."

Rev. H. R. Scheurman, Evangelical pastor: "It is a question in my mind whether teachers in this state should have their salaries reduced. In some states I think they might under the present stress. It depends upon conditions. For that matter, some teachers might not be teaching, but merely drawing a salary. Other teachers will actually teach, regardless of the salary they get."

Ed Stadler, Ladd and Bush bank: "There has been too much said about that question as it is I would not care to add anything to it."

Mrs. James Smith, home-maker: "I think the teachers have always been receiving 'depression salaries' and therefore there certainly should be no cut now that the times have gone back to their wage scale."

## SCOUTS PLANT TREE

KEIZER, March 10—Members of Girl Scout Troop No. 3 here planted a fir tree Wednesday afternoon in honor of the George Washington bicentennial. After the ceremony they adjourned to the Roy Melson place where a bonfire and wienner roast was enjoyed by the 16 members. Mrs. Albert Minton is captain and Bernice Zieker, lieutenant of the troop.

## HERE'S HOW

By EDSON



Tomorrow: "The Eyes Have It"

## BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

William A. Slacum:

That is a name not honored as much as it deserves to be by the people of the Oregon country. No country has been named for him; no river or mountain; not even a city or town, or, as far as the writer knows, any street.

He was a purser of the United States navy, No. 12, 1835, he received from John Forsyth, secretary of state, under date of Washington, Nov. 11, 1835, a letter reading in part:

"Having understood that you are about to visit the Pacific ocean, the president (Andrew Jackson) has determined to avail himself of the opportunity thus afforded to obtain some specific and authentic information in regard to the inhabitants of the country in the neighborhood of the Oregon or Columbia river. In the belief that you will willingly lend your services in the prosecution of that object, I now give you, by the president's direction, such general instructions as may be necessary for your guidance in the execution of the proposed commission."

"Upon your arrival on the northwest coast of America, you will embrace the earliest opportunity to proceed to and up the river Oregon, by such conveyances as may be thought to offer the greatest facilities for attaining the neighborhood of that river; you will from time to time, as they occur in your progress, stop at the different settlements of whites on the coast of the United States, and on the banks of the river, and also at the various Indian villages on the banks, or in the immediate neighborhood of that river; ascertain as nearly as possible, the population of each; the relative number of whites (distinguishing the nations to which they belong) and aborigines; the jurisdiction of the whites acknowledged; the sentiments entertained by the natives toward the United States; and the two European powers having possessions in that region (meaning perhaps Russia and Spain, for at that time Great Britain had only joint occupancy with the United States); and generally, whatever causes needs the case of information, political, physical, statistical, and geographical, as may

prove useful or interesting to this government. For this purpose it is recommended that you should whilst employed in this service, keep a journal, in which to note down whatever may strike you as worthy of observation, and by the aid of which you will be enabled, when the journey is completed, to make a full and accurate report to this department of all the information you may have collected in regard to the country and its inhabitants.

"Your necessary and reasonable traveling expenses will be paid from the beginning on your journey from the coast of the Pacific to the Columbia river, and till your return to this city. Youchers, in all cases where it may be practicable to get them, will be required in the settlement of your account at the treasury department."

Note that this order came through the state department from President Jackson, and not from the secretary of the navy, under whose directions Slacum performed his regular duties. It was a commission entirely outside of his regular work. Slacum evidently proceeded to the Pacific on his ordinary duties as purser of the navy.

He commanded on this special mission June 1, 1835. On that date he left Guaymas, state of Sonora, Mexico. He proceeded to Petic, three days' travel, and purchased mules, provisions, etc., with the idea of proceeding overland to the Columbia, but being advised that this would be inadvisable that season, he returned to Guaymas in the hope of being able to secure a vessel, that town is a seaport on the Mexican mainland, near the head of the gulf of Mexico. He chartered that small boat of the ship James Monroe, and July 7, 1835, set sail for the Columbia river. He was out 19 days in the frail craft, almost lost his life, and, after covering 400 miles, put into Mazatlan in distress, abandoning the boat. Hearing that a vessel was lying at La Paz, near the southern extremity of Lower California, on the gulf of California, preparing to sail for the Sandwich Islands, Slacum proceeded thither; sailed from La Paz, Oct. 10, and was in the Sandwich Islands Nov. 5, 1835.

There he chartered the American brig Lariot, sailed for the Columbia Nov. 24, and was in the Columbia river December 22, 1835. He proceeded at once with the officials of the Hudson's Bay company took note of the Lariot, which had arrived without a cargo, therefore must be on some secret mission. James Douglas, second in command, under Dr. McLoughlin, took him in a canoe with nine French Canadian rowers, from Astoria to Fort Vancouver, making the journey in 24 hours, arriving Jan. 2, 1837. There Dr. McLoughlin and the post officials gave him every kind of polite attention. If Slacum were a spy for the American government, he would make the most of it; would attempt to render his report a favorable one to the great British monopoly.

There is disagreement on the exact reason that led President Jackson to give his commission to Slacum. Bancroft thought the published report of Hall J. Kelley after his visit to the Oregon country in 1824 was a moving cause. Marshall suggested that Captain Bonneville's report brought it about. Dr. J. R. Wilson believes President Jackson was moved by the joint idea of acquisition of territory in the southwest, stretching from Texas to the bay of San Francisco. Dr. Wilson said President Jackson's interest in this direction had been aroused by letters from Slacum, whose private interests or public duties had made him familiar with conditions on this coast. He remarked in his report that he had before met Duncan Finlayson of the Hudson's Bay company in the Sandwich Islands, who was upon his arrival at Fort Vancouver, and sent him an invitation (while he was at Astoria) to visit the establishment at Fort Vancouver.

Slacum remained at Fort Vancouver and in the Willamette valley less than three weeks. His

# "THE LOVE TRAP" By ROBERT SHANNON

### SYNOPSIS

Mary Kennedy, pretty secretary, engaged to Buck Landers, wealthy, middle-aged sports promoter, realizes love is greater than riches when she meets young and handsome Steve Moore, Landers' ward. Buck surprises Steve and Mary as they confess their love for one another. When Steve refuses to give up Mary, Landers threatens to frame him. Landers warns Mary Steve's fate depends upon her. He insists that she go with him to his apartment to talk things over.

### CHAPTER XIX

"BUT I can't. Steve is coming here himself in just a few minutes."

"What does that matter to me?" Landers said, contemptuous of detail. "I want to talk to you alone, an hour or two either way makes no difference to me. Get rid of Steve—let him take you home—and then come back here. I'm giving him one chance—one last chance, and you hold it in the hollow of your hand. If you think I'm kidding, wait and see. I'll be upstairs the rest of the evening and it's up to you, Mary. Take it or leave it."

Landers turned, walked away. Mary's word that she would join him later in his apartment was satisfactory; it was unlike him to squander his speech or emotion upon anything less than the main issue.

Hope gradually replaced fear as Mary sat in the lobby and waited for Steve to return. She would make every effort to get him away, immediately from the danger he would inevitably be in were he to remain around the Metropolitan Hotel.

And then, if all went well—she might mollify Landers. She had misjudged Landers—he was cruel, more vindictive, than she would have supposed. Yet there had, in the past, seemed a streak of kindness in him, too.

"I'll soften his heart," she repeated silently. "No man is all bad... there must be a good side to him. He's frightfully angry and jealous now, but I'll show him that he's only making himself unhappy. I'll reason with him like a friend. When he understands me, he'll be kind, more vindictive, than she would have supposed. Yet there had, in the past, seemed a streak of kindness in him, too."

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"Well, I'm all packed and cleared out upstairs," he said. "From now on I'll paddle my own canoe—thank heaven!"

"Am I worth it, Steve?" she asked him, eager to hear his avowal again. His face was harassed and worried, but he smiled at her with his old whimsicality.

"You're worth all there is, up to and including murder," he told her fervently. "All my life before I met you was a total loss. I'm the happiest guy on this spherical merry-go-round. And I'm apt to burst into a shower of sparks from sheer joy. That's the effect you have on me."

official reports indicate that he must have worked early and late, he accomplished so much in that short period. After his reports were published and sent broadcast as congressional documents, the Oregon question was a live and often hot one in the United States.

Jason Lee went from his mission to Champeo to meet Slacum on Jan. 13. They visited all the settlers in that neighborhood, and the next day were at the mission and visiting the upper settlement. January 17, four days after Lee met Slacum, 11 men of the cattle company left in a canoe for the Lariot, near Wapato (Sawvies) Island. They were on board the Lariot Jan. 21, and the following morning Lee blessed the enterprise with prayer; and the Lariot was over the Columbia bar and out to sea Feb. 10, and nine days later landed at Bodega, the Russian fort and trading post—the members of the cattle company ready to begin collecting the cattle to be driven to the Willamette valley; the first long step towards ending the great British monopoly in the beginning days of Oregon settlement.

(Continued tomorrow)

## Playlet is Feature For Farmers' Union

RIVERVIEW, March 10—The Farmers union held its usual meeting Saturday night. The following numbers were presented: readings by Smith Holt and Melvin Holt. A short play "All is Not Gold that Glitters," followed by a musical number by K. A. & A. H. Coulter and Alfred Yunker.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilkey spent the week end at the home of Mrs. Gilkey's sister, Mrs. A. B. McCullough and family of near Shedd. Mrs. McCullough has been in very poor health lately.

Mrs. Belle Lawrence with her

darling! And it's getting worse all the time."

She thought she detected, beneath his banter, a note of uncertainty. A sweeping fondness that was a mingling of pity and love drew her closer to him.

"I want you to listen to me, Steve, and do exactly what I tell you," she urged. "Get your bags and we'll ride up to my rooming house in a cab. I know there is a vacant room there that can be had very cheaply. You have some money, haven't you?"

He flushed. "Oh, of course, room; the landlady was glad to receive a new roomer, and Steve was stowed away on the floor above Mary. He opened one of the bags and Mary helped him arrange his toilet articles on the dresser; it was a narrow cramped room, but they had a delightful feeling of security.

"I don't believe there's a parlor in the house where we can visit each other," Mary said, "but if we're discreet, I don't think the landlady would object to me coming up here—if I don't stay too long. That's one beautiful thing about New York, Steve—you can do just about what you please, without people nosing into your business."

He looked at her over his shoulder, a bit of a frown on his forehead. "I'm not so keen on the bedroom rendezvous business. If I didn't care so darned much about you, Mary, it wouldn't matter, but you deserve a better break than anything I'm able to give you right now. Maybe you don't know it, but I'm darned conventional. Suppose people in the house find out we visit each other in our rooms—what would they think of you? You're the girl I'm going to marry one of these days, and I don't want any dumbbell in a joint like this to think you're one of the wrong kind. You see what I'm driving at? I don't want to do anything that puts one little spatter of mud on your pretty white frock."

"You'll have to live economically for a while, till you get on your feet. I'll take you up to live at my place, and then I'll know you'll be where I can watch over you. We'll be under the same roof, at least. I've got to get you settled some place, and then we can work everything out from there."

"A little while ago," he reminded her, "you told me I'd have to get out of New York. You changed your mind."

"I've been thinking it over and maybe we can figure out a better plan," she said. "Anyway, you'll practically be in hiding at my place. Oh, I know I'm foolish about your safety, Steve, but you're the dearest thing on earth to me, and I don't want to take a single chance. Somehow, I feel wiser than you are. If you leave everything to me, all our troubles will melt away. We mustn't let our minds get pulling in opposite directions, must we?"

He looked at her with an amused, kindly expression. She was no higher than his shoulder, and the serious eagerness on her face went to his head, suddenly, like a strong draught of an intoxicant. A dozen people might have seen him, but he beat his head impulsively and kissed her full on her soft mouth.

"If I was sure I could do everything you want me to do, be everything you want me to be, I'd be darned proud of myself," he told her. "But all this stewing and fretting is silly. We haven't any troubles. We just have to take a few bumps together, and then we'll be set for life. But let's get started for home."

He called a bell boy, and with his bags deposited in a taxi, they started for Mary's uptown address. She had been correct about the vacant

daughter and family Mr. and Mrs. Jack De Groats and two children, Anna and Jack of California visited at the Leonard and Allen Gh-

key homes last week returning to California Sunday.



## Broad serviceability in banking circles

By seasoned business and financial counsel, by prompt, dependable and accurate banking service, and by proper constructive cooperation, the United States National is promoting the best interests of this community, its people and its industries.

Greater opportunities are still ahead for Salem and its trade area and, more than ever before, this bank is in a position to serve helpfully and encouragingly.

The United States National Bank Salem Oregon

## Daily Health Talks

By ROYAL S. COPELAND, M. D.

IN the mind of the layman, kidney disease is an ailment confined to the aged and to persons in middle life; yet children and even babies may suffer from Bright's disease.

Many times the kidney becomes involved during the course of one of the infectious diseases, notably scarlet fever and diphtheria; while measles, chicken pox and even a severe diarrhoea may be accompanied by kidney complications. The poison of the original disease is responsible for the involvement of the kidney.

Scarlet fever is particularly liable to be accompanied or followed by kidney trouble. This may happen even after very mild attacks of fever, usually at the time the peeling begins. The child's temperature rises and the urine becomes scanty and of high color. There may also be puffiness about the face or, in severe cases, swelling of the ankles, headache or even convulsions. These symptoms, although alarming, commonly disappear under suitable treatment; but the acute attack may be followed by chronic Bright's disease if suitable attention is not paid to building up the general health.

### Answers to Health Queries

W. M. Q.—I have had colitis for a year. What diet or treatment would you advise?

A.—For full particulars send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and repeat your question.

M. T. Q.—What causes dark circles under the eyes, it is not due to lack of sleep?

A.—May be due to constipation or anemia.

During any of the contagious diseases the bowels must be kept active by drinking sufficient water. The skin must be carefully protected from chilling, and light woolen or silk and wool underwear is advisable. The diet, particularly during and after scarlet fever, should be liquid and unspiced, consisting largely of milk.

Kidney disease becomes chronic, there may be no symptom discernible to the parents excepting the anemia and loss of strength; but on examination of the urine, the cause of the failure in health is quickly discovered. The treatment consists largely of a strict regimen of diet and avoidance of fatigue. Tonics may be ordered by the physician. When possible, a change to a warm, dry climate is advisable.

The entrance of germs into the kidney is not uncommon in children. This may be the case in youngsters under two years of age. The most frequent cause of the disease is infection through the colon bacillus which is an inhabitant of the intestines. Lack of cleanliness may permit the germ to enter the bladder and find their way upward to the kidney. It is very necessary to take great care as to cleanliness, especially in the case of diarrhoea.

A baby having a fever without apparent cause needs the care of a doctor. The mother should see him. He will make an analysis of the urine, and this may reveal the cause of failing health.

The treatment must be prescribed by a physician. The usual precautions of an uninteresting diet, avoidance of stimulants or public bathing, normal action of the bowels, are necessary in all cases.

MISS R. M. Q.—What is in the head which makes some persons more susceptible to insect bites than others? What will take the sting out of a bite?

A.—The exact reason is uncertain. Application of witch hazel or a solution of boracic acid, as well as salt which has been dampened should take out the sting and relieve the itching.

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