 The Griffith Testimony
THERE is a conspicuous llaw in the reasoning of Frank-
lin Th Grifitith who atributes the decline in pricesof se se
curities of the Central Public Service corporation to the gens

 yet this holds true more with respect to the investor than to
the manipulator.
Revelations indicate that the promoters of utility financ-
ing were buying utilities at fancy figures, and then inflating were buying utilities at fancy figures, and then inflat-
ing even those high prices. They were writing capital on the
basis not even of inflated costs, but of speculative hopes of earnings. Now men of sound experience in affairs and in
finance should have known that they were building a moun
tain out of paper which could tain out of paper which could not stand the blasts of adver-
sity . With access to this information and with personal know-
ledge of the process financiers who engineered the deals are hardly justified in Nor is the decline in C. P. S. prices due to falling off of
earnings of operating units; for utilities maintained their
earnings on operations ling after earnings on operations long after the prices of holding comAgain we are inclined to doubt the wisdom of the effor
to bulwark the tottering structure of CPS without receiver
ship. It it alleged that a receivership is costly. It is, but ofte
it is less costly than the management has bee sull was receiving in personal salaries from his companies
some $\$ 500,000$ a year, and other executives were liberally
paid. Receivers of Midwest are zow reporting they have dras-
tically reduced Receivership does mean usually cleaning house of the
executives who have caused the downfall; and in this part o
CPS domain there will be no satisfaction until A. E. Peirce also often results in extinguishing much of the junior cap-
ital, but nearly always that has been washed out already; and
reorganization is merely the necessary surgery to permit a
company to live in financial health. From an operating standpoint the CPS was unsound, in
cluding as it did widely separated areas and greatly diversi
fied utilities. The disclosures of the reorganization indicate that its financial set-up was also very insecure. The jockey-
ing of blocks of securities back and forth, the heavy current
debt of the terest of Peirce, et al., was not utility operation but banking house selling of
and Ohrstrom o

## Water Power A

H AVING voted ourselves free power for nothing last elec to vote the same thing again in
the last measure on the ballot.
clare that the state, shall hold its water power titles in per
petuity. That is the law now, so re-enacting it is Hike tal
your deed down your deed down and having, it filed overer again inst tust to con-
vince yourself you still own your home or your land the water power in the state, there is a provevision which is
full of danger to the state. That is the section whit the state's adventure in hydro-electrics. These bonds would
not be voted on further by the people. If this amendmen these bonds and throw the state into the hydro electric bus
iness in a big way power districts to be formed and permits issuing bonds up
to $10 \%$ valuation, but the people have the privileg the bonds. This new amendment woul the privilege of voting
debt without the subsequent vote of the people incurring the tempt to put the whole state in the electric business via
aide door. into practice effective reurnal points out, there is now going grave risk to the publice credit. The water power amendment
should be defeated. The power district legislation already adopted is fully adequate to satisfy any pre
public ownership of electric power plants.

Word for Homer Angell
PHE ablest and cleanest and-strongest candidate the Reyears is Homer T. Angell. The Statesman is not published in
this district but it does have quite a circulation in Portland and Multnomah county, so we are not going far out of our
way to give Angell a hearty boost, It well deserved, as
Angells able service in recent At is needed, because he facess formiatuables opposities to. And
person of General Martin, the incumbent. The Portland district has an opportunity in choosing
Angell to select a man who has many years of useful service
ahead of him. General Martin is a "god republican" respects, but he expected to serve only one term, is an old man, retired now from the army, and cannot give that disth office over a long term. I Instead it was poorisly represented
in Angell and keeping him in Washington on long tenure the practice, forceful in address, clean in his personil habits,
and effective in fighting for causes ha is interested in.
Republicans of that district, whe normally are in heavy man who whill be worth keeping there for many terms, and man who will be worth keeping there for many terms, and
that man is Homer Angell.


| The Safet Valve Letters from |
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