

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe" From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

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The Los Angeles Gas Case

THE United States supreme court has upheld the California railroad commission in a rate case against the gas company serving Los Angeles, ordering it to reduce its rates to consumers. This is not of itself so important to the country at large as is the apparent adherence of the court to the theory of current value of land and other physical property, in other words, reproduction cost.

Under this theory, which the utilities themselves fought strenuously when prices were going up fast during war times, the way is opened for a drastic scaling down of utility charges on the ground that prevailing costs are at record low levels. What is sauce for the goose, may be rightly sauce also for the gander; and the old law of compensation seems at work in supplying bitter medicine to utilities now out of the same bottle they fed the consumers a decade and more ago.

In reality, as we view it, the decision, whose exact language has not yet reached this coast, may upset the whole program of regulation which has been coming to the prudent investment theory; or in other words, original cost less depreciation. This is the basis for valuation which Commissioner Thomas has been following, believing it to be fairest to the investors in the utility enterprise and to the consumers.

There are two reasons why the prudent investment method of computation is more reliable; and our own ideas are based on the articles and book of John Bauer, one of the leading students of regulation. The two reasons are these: first the only practical way that regulation can succeed is by using the prudent investment means of determining values; and second that method over the long term of years is more just.

Under the prudent investment computation, the utility commission can fix the base valuation for any operating utility and order rates upon such valuation. Thereafter rate-making is as simple as the multiplication table. All that it is necessary to do is to add the amount of new investment, deduct retirements and depreciation and the new base is found on which the company is entitled to earn from 6 to 8%. But under the reproduction theory, there must be prolonged hearings with resulting court cases every time there is a change in the price level. The very mechanics of determining valuations under changing price levels defeats regulation.

While it may appear now that rate reductions are in sight, under this court ruling, inflation is working fast, prices may be sky-rocketed again; and before we get through with the red tape the utilities can demand and receive higher rates on the ground that dollar costs of reproduction have been inflated.

For the second reason, a utility plant is continually renewing itself and as demands increase, enlarging its property investment. So over a long term of years fluctuations in the price level are ironed out. Railroad building in the low cost days of the '90's is thus offset by the high cost construction of war years. The same is true of telephone companies and electric power properties. Time equalizes highs and lows in investment costs so that prudent investment less normal depreciation is about as just a rule as can be followed.

In this state the prudent investment base was used by the old commission in the Peppo case and accepted by that company. Commissioner Thomas is committed to it; and feels quite helpless if valuations are always to be in a state of fluctuation. In fact unless regulatory bodies can soon arrive at definite valuation figures which will stand, the attempt at regulation might about as well be given up, with public ownership the only alternate to private ownership subject only to the free play of economic forces.

A Great Novelist Lost

FOR the most fertile liar in the country award the decoration, with palm, to Gaston Means. A bouncer of sorts is Mr. Means, and no dilemma appals him. He can spin a plausible yarn without the tremor of an eyelash, and color it with such acceptable detail that the most skeptical is convinced that he is the soul of veracity. He was a shadowy character in the days of the Ohio gang, and moved with confidence in and out of the little green house on K street. He claimed intimacies with Harry Daugherty and President Harding; and his tales of doings were as richly adorned narratives as those of the Arabian Nights entertainment.

Nothing daunted by his term at Atlanta he set his wits to working again when the opportunity arose with the kidnaping of the Lindbergh baby, and glibly talked Mrs. Evelyn Walsh McLean out of a hundred thousand dollars. Convicted of swindling he is on trial now for conspiracy and in his defense he offers testimony worthy of de Maupassant. Characters spring up at his bidding, and names, though they be unknown to the world. He even adds a dash of Harry Daugherty's old paprika: red baiting, when he says that one of the kidnapers was "head of the communist third international" in this country. We might have swallowed his yarn had he spared us that. It is indeed the conventional "red" herring drawn across the trail.

What a pity Gaston Means did not go in for fiction. Then he might be enrolled with the great artists of prose instead of the rogue's gallery of clever crooks.

Sirens Again at Work

REAL E. Phillips Oppenheim material comes out of Europe these days. In England a highly placed officer of a famous Scottish regiment is condemned by court martial for disclosing military secrets; and it was Marie Louise, some beautiful German woman who is reported as the siren.

In Italy a warrant officer fell under the volley of a firing squad for treachery in disclosing naval plans. The siren? Yes, there is a siren, a beautiful Italo-French woman, who lured the faithless officer to the betrayal. Pawns of intelligence offices are these women of the world who frequent foreign capitals. Can't you see them, as Oppenheim and others have sketched them?—richly and strikingly gowned, eyes like magnets, not slumberous coils expressive of passion, but eyes that draw victims and hold them for other purposes than mere gratification of lust, voices low and musical.

Europe must be getting ready for fresh wars,—women are once more using their charms for purposes of espionage.

A Forest Grove boy is in the navy and the ever alert News-Times makes mention of the fact that he has just been transferred to a "tanker." So the navy has gone wet, too.

"Son, I'm bigger than you are."



HEALTH

By Royal S. Copeland, M.D.

ONLY RECENTLY I wrote on the subject of measles. But I cannot refrain from writing again about this common and often neglected ailment. Many months ago I considered measles a harmless disease and a normal occurrence of childhood. Yet measles is a serious disease and frequently results in pneumonia and other serious complications. Measles is highly contagious. It is quickly transmitted from one child to another. In most instances the disease is not recognized until long after the child has transmitted the disease to others.

Know the Symptoms

Some time ago I told you how measles could be recognized in its early stages. I warned you that a child with a cough and a sneeze should not be allowed to attend school even though he has no fever. In the very early stages of this disease the child appears to be suffering from a mild cold. Within twenty-four hours the child complains of sore eyes and a running nose. Measles should then be suspected. The characteristic rash of measles appears at about the fifth day of illness. It is first seen behind the ears. Measles is a serious disease which spreads over the face and body. The rash lasts about five days and is followed by "desquamation," or peeling of the skin. The child should be kept in bed, isolated from other children and given a nourishing but light diet. Protect the eyes from sunlight and glaring lights. Bathe the eyes with boracic acid solution. Bear in mind that the disease is contagious until after the rash has disappeared. Measles is a serious disease when it afflicts children under five years of age. It is particularly serious when it afflicts weak and undernourished children. Pneumonia is the most dreaded complication of measles. This can be traced to negligence and improper care of the victim of measles.

Don't Expose Child to Measles

Every effort should be made to prevent the spread of measles. When measles is suspected in a household, infants and other children should not be exposed to the danger of this disease. It is criminal deliberately to expose a child to measles. This was a common practice in former years when measles was believed to be a normal and necessary event of childhood. Early recognition of the disease and immediate medical attention assures the child of a rapid and successful recovery. The danger of complications, such as pneumonia, may sometimes be averted by the prompt injection of a small amount of the parent's blood into the child. Ask your doctor about this. It is a grave mistake to neglect measles. We can only remove the danger of this disease by recognizing measles as one of the serious menaces to the health of our children. (Copyright, 1933, K. F. S., Inc.)

MARY STALKER HIRED

ABIGAIL, May 12—Miss Mary Stalker, a graduate of the Silverton high school and later of Monmouth Normal, has been engaged to teach at the Dunnigan school for the coming year. Miss Lois Anne Bichens has taught here the past year but has signed a contract to teach at West Starton for the next year.

IMPROVEMENT SLOW

SILVERTON, May 12 — Mrs. Thomas Lee who has been ill for the past several weeks is reported as not improving so rapidly as desired. She is still confined to her bed and is being cared for by Mrs. O. Ormbrek.

Nineteen school districts in northern Marion and southern Clackamas counties voted yesterday 672 to 353 in favor of forming a union high school district centering at Woodburn.

HEALTH BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Old Ironsides and Oregon: The Statesman had an editorial (as usual, a good one), on Sunday last on the visit of the frigate Constitution to Astoria, and its promised return in August to Portland, on its great cruise in Pacific waters. "Too had the Constitution cannot call upon the river to Salem." These words are from the editorial, followed by an explanation that this is impossible, for several reasons, among them: her masts are too tall to go under the bridges, the vessel is too wide to get through the Oregon City locks, and she draws 10 feet of water, too much for the Willamette at its summer stage.

It is really too bad that the Constitution cannot come to Salem. She would in such a visit be paying proper respect to the place and section holding the highest points of historic importance west of the Rockies, as related to events that led to the extension of the arc of this republic to the shores of the Pacific ocean. The Portland edition on Monday contained an editorial article from which these words are excerpted: "When the gallant 'Old Ironsides' docked at Astoria Saturday she completed a voyage begun 123 years ago. She was then the United States frigate Constitution and had not yet won in battle the title of 'Old Ironsides.'" She was detailed by the navy department to convoy the ship Tonquin of the Astor party through north Atlantic waters to prevent imprisonment of men and officers by the British navy. The Tonquin left New York harbor September 8, 1810, under escort of the frigate. The Tonquin, leaving the frigate behind, arrived at the mouth of the Columbia river March 22, 1811, with the party that founded Astoria. The protection the Constitution gave the Tonquin... enabled the merchantman to reach Astoria makes a bond between the frigate and the city by the sea. . . The ill-fated Tonquin... quickly disappeared from the picture. . . She was blown up (in Nootka sound) to save her from falling into the hands of attacking Indians. 'Old Ironsides' has another close tie with the Oregon country. The pennants and nickels of Oregon school children helped reconstruct her. And her spars, hewn in accordance with the original plans, are Oregon fir, a contribution of Oregon's lumber industry."

Yesterdays

Of Old Salem

Town Talks from The Statesman of Earlier Days. May 12, 1908. The "dry" won yesterday when County Judge Scott ruled that local option petitions submitted from Jefferson, Marion, Macleay, Aumaville, Stayton, Sublimity and Turner precincts should have priority being placed on the ballot, over petitions filed by "wets" from Stayton and Sublimity precincts.

The Oregon supreme court yesterday upheld the right of the state to collect from the Portland General Electric company 10 per cent of the net profits of the locks at Oregon City and established the state's right to purchase the canal and locks from the power company in a manner prescribed by the legislature. Congressman W. C. Hawley is trying to obtain an appropriation for this purchase. Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Hoyer arrived here last night in an automobile in which the plan to circle the globe. They believe that they will be the first persons owning their own car to cross this continent in both directions. While in Douglas county, it took them a whole day to cover 13 miles, with the aid of a team.

May 12, 1928. Jess Willard knocked out Jack Johnson in the 11th round and Louis Firpo put Jack McAniffe II to sleep in the third round of bouts at New York city yesterday. Firpo and Willard will be matched next month.

Hollis Huntington has received an offer of \$3400 a year to go to Eugene high. Mr. Huntington, who has brought Salem high school to within striking distance of state championships in football, basketball and baseball, came here a year ago.

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"MARY FAITH" By BEATRICE BURTON

CHAPTER XI. Claire Maldon... The name leaped at her out of all the other things that he had just said. She heard nothing else. She needed rest, but that name. It told her instantly why Kim was sitting before her now, calmly demanding a divorce—why he had been irritable and indifferent ever since the beginning of winter. "Why didn't I know it?" she murmured. "Know what?" "That Claire Maldon's at the bottom of all this. . . Wouldn't you think I'd have guessed that some time or other during all these weeks when you wouldn't talk to me or come home to meals or pay any attention to the baby?" She began to laugh suddenly. A bitter little laugh with a break in it. "When I think of all the nights I've lain there on that couch wondering what was wrong—Trying to tell myself that you were worried about your business, or that you stayed away from home so much because you were playing cards downtown with the men. Wouldn't you have thought I'd have guessed that it was because of some woman, as usual? Some girl in an office or a drug store—or some married woman like Claire Maldon?" Kim stared at her in bewilderment. "I hope you're not going to be dramatic about this," he said, with all a man's fear of a scene in his voice. "We can settle it quietly, can't we? And sensibly?" "If you mean that we can arrange a divorce, my answer is 'No.'" There was no hesitation in Mary Faith's voice. "If I knew that you were honestly in love with her and that she was honestly in love with you, I think perhaps I'd let you go, Kim. But I don't know either of those things. The only thing I'm certain of is that Claire never will care very much for anybody but herself. And if you—"

here, and taken an Indian girl for his wife, by whom he had several children. "To the latter he said he was desirous of giving a good education, and for this purpose he had engaged old Mr. Moore, from Illinois, to pass several months with him.

"Johnson had all the easy and independent character of a trapper; yet I could still perceive that he had hanging about him somewhat of the feeling of discipline that he had acquired in the service (navy). "His Indian wife is extremely useful in making everything, besides taking care of the household concerns, and is rather pretty. Johnson's estimate of her was that she was 'worth half a dozen civilized wives.' There is little cleanliness, however, about his house, and many of the duties are left to two young male slaves, of Indian blood, but of what tribe I did not learn.

Resuming the text: "There are four houses, and three lodges, in sight of Johnson's farm. We see all the neighbors called to see us. . . One was an old man by the name of Cannon, who had been one of the party with Lewis and Clark, and was from his own account the only remaining one in the country. He likes the country, and says he thinks there is no necessity for Dr. McLoughlin's authority or laws to govern it." In the above, Capt. Wilkes was describing William Johnson. Some historians have said he came in 1823; one putting the probable date as early as 1825. From the above, the careful reader must agree that he must have come much earlier, or that Capt. Wilkes was mistaken in saying "he had settled himself down HERE, and taken an Indian girl for his wife." Either he had come much earlier, or he had brought the Indian girl from some distant tribe and child from some distant tribe and then arriving at Chamopoo.

Evart Snyder Head Cook at New Home. MONMOUTH, May 12—Evart Snyder, a Monmouth boy, son of Mrs. Eugenia Snyder, has just received notice of his appointment as head cook at the soldiers' home at Rosabury. He has been working in San Francisco, but will take over his new duties at once. Mrs. Ingeborg Skogset, about 75, of 1732 N. E. Saratoga street, Portland, died suddenly Tuesday night at the home of her daughter Mrs. Esther Rickards in Monmouth. Mrs. Skogset came to Monmouth two weeks ago to visit her daughter who is a student at the Oregon Normal school. The remains were taken to Portland where funeral services and interment will occur. Considerable sickness is prevalent among Monmouth residents, particularly school children, with measles, chicken-pox, and a mild flu in evidence. Men members of the Evangelical church complimented the women members with a Mother and Daughter banquet Friday night at the church. The men provided the banquet, attended to decorations, and acted as waiters.

Mrs. March Signs For Eighth Term, Valsetz Teacher. VALSETZ, May 12 — Mrs. George March, teacher of the Valsetz school, has signed her contract for another year. She has taught here seven years. Pat March and Raymond Dodt, son, third graders, are the only third graders ever to make all the fourth standard drill cards in arithmetic. Frank Hurd Passes At Lebanon; Club Group Has Session. SUVER, May 12—The Ivy club met Wednesday afternoon at the Woodman hall. Veta May Lamb and Mrs. Jack Countryman, entertained. Mrs. Ralph Kester will entertain next month. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lamb and

She rambled on and on all evening. She was far too excited to settle down to anything, and Mary Faith did most of her packing. Only once did she come down to earth, and that was when she came into Mary Faith's room to say good night. "Doctor's house looks awfully bare to me," she said. "So I've decided to move most of this furniture into it when we come back from the South. . . I can do it, but it's solid walnut and I can't have it done over. You and Kim never did like it much anyway."

Mary Faith did not tell her that Kim had left the flat and was not coming back. She realized that Mrs. Farrell was gloriously happy for the first time in years, and she was not going to do a thing to shadow that happiness. "I'll clean everything while you're away," she said, "and it will be all ready for you when you get back."

Kim was as good as his word. A week went by, and Mary Faith heard nothing from him. Finally she telephoned him and asked him where he had gone to send his trunks. "Athletic Club," he told her shortly. "Have you heard about your mother and Dr. Thatcher?" "Yes, I know," he said curtly. "I have a wire from them. Is there anything else?" "I've got to have some money, Kim. Your mother wants her furniture, and I'll have to have some place to go when she takes it out of the flat."

There was a click as he rang off abruptly. The sharp little sound that was like a period at the end of a sentence. He was telling her once more that he was really through with her. That he was not going to send her any money. That he was going to force her to sue for divorce and alimony. She hung the receiver back upon its metal hook and turned away from the telephone quickly, as if it were some kind of infernal machine that had just wounded her terribly and had the power to wound her again. All the rest of the day she went around the flat doing the little familiar things and trying to decide just what to do. Of course she could get a position as a stenographer at twenty-five dollars a week or so. . . But could she pay for a nurse to care for the baby out of that and have enough left for their room at Mrs. Puckett's? She knew that she couldn't—and she knew that Kim knew it, too. That was what he was counting on, of course.

Late that night she was awakened by the ringing of the doorbell. When she answered it, Jean Bartlett was standing in the little hallway. "Can't come in—I can't stop more than a minute." Jean was breathless, and she laughed as she laughed. "I just came to say good-bye. Where do you think I'm going? Out to Phoenix, to be married! I'm leaving tomorrow night! My man was coming east to be married here, but he can't get away, and tonight he called me up and asked me to come out here. So I'm going—and, Mary Faith, I'm so happy!" They kissed each other and cried a little. And then as Jean was leaving, Mary Faith called her back. "Just a minute, Jean," she said. "Who's slated for your job at Nesbit's?" "Other people might marry and go to Florida or Arizona, your own heart might break, but still you had to face the problem of making a living. (To Be Continued.) Copyright, 1931, by Beatrice Burton Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HERALD OF HEALTH AWARDS ARE GIVEN

WEST STATTON, May 12 — Herald of Health pins were awarded this year to Theodore Lacy, Gladys Thomas, Virginia Darley, Fern Lewis, Elda Johnson, Josephine Snoddy, Carvel Gibson, Agnes Snoddy, Irma Darley, Jack Parker, Robert Irish, Richard Comstock, Melvin Asch, Robert Comstock, Keith Crane, and Mark Lewis. The annual school picnic will be held on the school grounds Tuesday, May 16. A baseball game is scheduled. The local teachers will spend their vacation as follows: Miss Eunice Lewis in Aumaville; Miss Ellen Butler at Hillsboro, and W. C. Jensen at Eugene.

GIRL BREAKS ARM

JEFFERSON, May 12 — Grace Wortley, 10-year-old daughter of Mrs. Grace Wortley, while at school, fell into the basement of the building, and an X-ray showed that her arm was broken at the elbow. Mr. and Mrs. George Gourley and daughter Frances of Los Angeles were guests last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Gourley. George and James are brothers.

MAUPIN GOING EAST

WOODBURN, May 12 — S. W. Maupin who was chosen by the Presbyterian church as a delegate to the general assembly at Columbus, Ohio, plans to leave for the east May 15. He will make the trip by train by way of San Francisco and Los Angeles. He will spend a day or two at Chicago visiting the world's fair, and will visit St. Joseph, Missouri, South Dakota, Montana, and in Spokane. He expects to return some time in July.