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THE FAR-OFF CALL.

If out beyond the city's farthest edge
 There were no roads that led through sleepy towns,
 No whips to blow through any thorny hedge,
 No pathways over hazel-tufted downs,
 I might not, when the day begins, be sad
 Because I toll among the money-mad.

If out beyond the distant hills there lay
 No valley graced by any winding stream,
 And if no slim, white steeples far away
 Might mark the spots where drowsy hamlets dream,
 I could perhaps, at midday be content
 Where striving millions at their tasks are bent.

If far away from noise and strife and care
 There were no buds to swell on waiting trees,
 No mating birds to spill upon the air
 The liquid sweetness of their melodies,
 I might at sunset be serene and proud
 Because a few had seen me in the crowd.

—S. E. Kiser.

NO CAUSE FOR WORRY.

In his remarks at the Commercial club managers' meeting yesterday Dr. C. J. Smith called attention to some very pertinent points in connection with the local move to obtain better treatment from the Pacific Power & Light company.

According to the doctor electricity is supplied to the state university and to the Oregon Agricultural college at two cents per kilowatt. In California recently he noticed blazing electric signs in San Francisco advertising electricity for sale at two and one-half cents per kilowatt.

Now in the past a charge of 17 cents per kilowatt has been made by the electric company in Pendleton and under the promised reduction the basic charge will be 12 cents per kilowatt.

Why is it that the electric trust must charge 12 cents per kilowatt here when the same sort of electricity may be had in the Willamette valley and in California at one-sixth that price?

The electricity used in Pendleton is generated by means of water power just as in the valley and in California. Why should it not be sold to consumers at the same price. Is it more difficult for water to run down hill in eastern Oregon than in the Willamette valley and in California? Is it harder for the juice to flow through the wires in Pendleton than at Corvallis and Eugene?

It would be interesting to hear an explanation upon this point from the master electrician of the trust or from some other official who may know why Pendleton pays so much more for electricity than does other places.

It would be interesting to know— if there were any way of finding out—just how much profit the electric company is making off its Pendleton business and how much the proposed reduction will affect the profits.

In the view of this paper such information would afford great relief to certain city officials who seem to be worried lest the electric company is not doing well and lest it would work a terrible hardship on the trust to require it to place its wires underground in the business section of Pendleton.

If he would do right J. Pierpont Morgan, or whoever owns the electric trust, should notify his councilmanic friends in Pendleton that he will survive even should the worst come to the worst. It is not right they should be made to worry and fret as they are doing.

A FALSE CHARGE.

Yesterday the charge was made by

the electric company's organ that the resolution endorsing the move to remove the overhead wires was railroaded through the Commercial club managers. The charge is absolutely false.

The resolution was presented by Dr. Smith in regular meeting of the board and it was freely discussed by all who cared to discuss it. There were seven members present—more than a majority of the board. Those in attendance were President Smythe and the Messrs. Montgomery, Smith, Rice, McAllister, Keefe, and Aldrich.

The motion for the adoption of the Smith resolution was made by Mr. Rice and the move had the support of all present save Mr. Montgomery. At least he was the only member to raise a word of protest and even he did not vote against the adoption of the resolution.

Had the entire membership of the board been present it is safe to predict the resolution would have been adopted by an even stronger vote. The board of managers is "progressive" in tone and stands for the general advancement of the city. It would be a sorry kind of a Commercial club if its managing board were not composed of men with such tendencies.

PROSECUTE THEM.

In taking criminal action against the circulators of the university of Oregon petitions, alleged to be filled with fraudulent names, the authorities are doing what they should do. If fraudulent names were affixed to those petitions then the men doing the work should go to jail. It is a criminal misuse of the referendum. If criminal action is not pressed there will be many people who will get the idea that the names are not fraudulent and that the charges of fraud have been trumped up. If there is proof of wrong doing go straight through with the matter regardless of how many men may face penitentiary sentences.

AFTER DR. WILEY.

More than likely Dr. Wiley, government chemist, is right when he says the whiskey trust and certain food manufacturers are the instigators of the move to oust him. Dr. Wiley has done some very effective work towards bringing about the manufacture of pure food. He has enforced the law against the use of poisonous preservatives and has been fearless in exposing the methods of certain manufacturers who care nothing for the health of people and seek only to make the greatest possible profits.

But if the food manufacturers and the adulterated whiskey makers succeed in getting Dr. Wiley's scalp there will be thousands of people who will demand to know the reason why.

If a new theatre cannot be had for Pendleton perhaps a remodeling of the old one is the next best thing. But one of these days Pendleton is going to get a new playhouse.

There is so much preliminary work to be done in connection with paying that the electric company and the telephone company will have ample time to get their wires underground if the council moves quickly.

Oh yes, the hot weather is good for the wheat.

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