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## WHY?

THERE is authority for the statement that at the presen time there are not less than 20 small ranchers along the
Columbia who are pumping water for irrigation from the river using crude oil for power. On one of these places there is shipped to Chicago and New York in 1918. This orehard and numerous other places are now jeo
oil is to be takerf from the market.
Now why should it be necessary for and Cornia oil in order to pump water from the Columbis river? Walishould the Eastern Oregon State Hospitat or any other local in-
stitution or industry be dependent on outside sources of fuel when one-third the potential water power of the nation is to be Yound in the Columbia basin? Why should Umatilla county and
adjoining counties put up with a shortage of oil and coal when adjoining counties put up with a shortage of oil and coal when
at Umatilla rapids a minimum of 120,000 electric horse power may be developed? Why should this state permit many thoasands of acres of arid lands along the Columbia to go unwatered When the water and the natural energy for pumping that water
is at hand and ready for use? is at hand and ready for use?
bia river for development work is only a dream. - That may be so but it is a dream that may be realized and engineers have already surveyed the project and given an estimate of the cost.
The project is less expensive and more feasible than the Columbia basin project in the state of Washington. The Washington project, which is being earnestly boosted by Washingtonians and ly many in Oregon, will cost $\$ 300,000,000$, it it said. The esti-
niate on the cost of the Umatilla rapids power plant is $\$ 20,500$, nuate on the cost of the Umatilla rapids power plant is $\$ 20,500$,
000 . If the Columbia basin project is worth fighting for, as it doubtless is, why should Oregon hesitate about-working for the John Day project and the use of the Columbia for reclaiming the lands in that project.
nuity of our people. Shall we work the problem out or contingeto vegitate while Washington and California go forward bec. nse they have gumption and make use of it?

TTIME'S LEADEN WINGS HERE are some people who say they do not take much don't. If they dont like Christmas it is because the light does not shine just right upon the picture. It is a wonderful course to the eyes of those between the ripe ages of from say three years sto 10 or more. To citizens who come in this cateyory there is nothing stale or unimportant about this season. It Time, who is supposed to fly so swiftly, is a disappointment. He is a dwawdler and it has been a long, long time since last Sumday until tonight, Gee, Gosh. Those who feel that Christmas comes rather orter or descends upon us before we know it are in find a strong sentiment to the effect there is an excessive slowness about the approach of this magic eve. Something should be done to speed up the process, they believe, and there are even older children, ranging in years up even into the ninetiess who
have a touch of this same complaint, strange to say It is hard, of course, to reguiate these matters. nard to tell anyone just how to look at the Christmas picture to see it in its full glory but one known method, and there may be thiers, is to stand by your own fireside where your own children
have hung up their stockings, then be around in that vicinity on the following morning. Few who follow this method fail to get results.

## THE PRICE READJUSTMENT

FURTHER reductions in prices have been announced here index numbers show an accelerated fall abroad for the latest period, the "Statist" number having declined about 16 changes for the past week or more, while not so striking as for merly, shows that in some lines, particularly in retail establishments, revision is proceeding. In consequence many articles are now considerably below the level they occupied when we
entered the war, and in some instances have fallen to the level of 1913. This latter is true of such important materials as rubber, copper and a variety of others. During the week also the readjustment process has begun to make itself felt in wages, important textile mills announcing a cut of 22 1-2 per cent, while
other wage reductions are under consideration and will probably cake effect as soon as an understanding with labor can be obtained. There is an increasing amount of evidence that the abler inbor leaders, at least, recognize the impossibility of maintain-
ing war conditions in wages at a time when war prices are fall ing war conditions in wages at a time when war prices are fall-
ing away. The readjustment in retail prices which is now be ginning to make headway also gives good ground for the belie that the readjustment process is reaching a much more ad
vanced stage and that it will accordingly be possible to resume vanced stage and that it will accordingly be possible to resume
purchasing and manufacturirg on a much larger scale in the Hear future. Bankers and far-sighted observers generally are Hence advising the accumulation of materials at present prices it order to reduce costs of production when demand revives. From the Clews. Financial Review.

Charles Evans Hughes is rated a very able man and there state.

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