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Just Folks
by Edgar A. Guest

PURPOSE

Used to think I had to be
Building up a name for me,
Used to think that I must show
This old world how much I know,
And must spend my days and years
Working for the public's cheers—
Then your mother came along
And I found that I was wrong.

Found my job was not to make
Money for my selfish sake,
But it was to keep her glad
With the very best I had.
Little fame and money meant
If her heart was not content—
Then I lived for her until
You arrived with wants to fill.

When you came your mother smiled,
"Now we have a little child."
Tenderly she said to me:
"We have reason now to be
Brave and strong and kind and true,
And he really looks like you,
So that he shall come to joy
We must struggle for our boy."

From your mother and from you
I have caught the broader view,
I have learned the joys of life
Are not born of selfish strife;
More than money or my fame
Are the honors you may claim.
Now the sweetest goal for me
Is the man that you may be.

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THERE IS A MARKET NOW FOR UMATILLA RAPIDS POWER

THE Portland Oregonian thinks it is awake to the subject of developing Columbia river power but shows by its own comment it is still slumbering. At any rate it does not grasp the possibilities of the Umatilla rapids project. The Oregonian answering an East Oregonian editorial yesterday said:

Portland is reminded by the Pendleton East Oregonian that it would be not wise to fasten its attention on improvement of the channel to the neglect of development of Columbia river waterpower, and is accused of just such neglect. Certainly construction of power plants on the Columbia would attract manufactures, increase agricultural production and by incidentally improving navigation would cheapen transportation. This would enlarge the volume of traffic for export through the port and bring more ships here. In fact the two would go hand in hand, development of the interior by means of waterpower producing more goods for export and improvement of the channel, giving those goods a better outlet to the sea.

Not until June did it become possible even to begin preliminaries to waterpower development, for then the waterpower commission adopted rules under which permits for surveys and licenses for construction will be granted. Great companies are already in this field, and are prepared to extend their operations. When any of them are ready to undertake work at Celilo, The Dalles, Umatilla or Priest rapids they will find Portland ready to co-operate with them in finding a market for the power.

In an enterprise of such magnitude, involving investment of tens of millions of dollars, actually the first step is to make sure of a market for the product. A power company arranges for location near its plant of one or more industries which have contracted to buy a large proportion of the current before it attempts to finance itself. On the basis of the existing market already in sight it could not show enough prospective earnings to pay interest on the large initial investment that would be necessary. Most of this would be in the dam, which must be completed before any power at all can be produced, though the power plant can be constructed by units as demand grows. Then the most practicable way for Portland and other cities to hasten action would be to establish industries that would consume power and to co-operate in causing some capital to establish them. Portland will readily work hand in hand with us in this respect.

Particular attention is called to the last paragraph of the Oregonian editorial. The fear as to the availability of a power market may apply to the Celilo location. Such fears do not apply in the case of the Umatilla rapids project. The first purpose of the Umatilla rapids project is to irrigate arid land. Between 200,000 and 400,000 acres of land may be watered through pumping from the Columbia if low priced power can be had by building a dam at Umatilla rapids. The Columbia carries its maximum flow during the summer months when water is needed for irrigation purposes. The Umatilla rapids project is capable of developing 250,000 secondary horse power during high water for pumping purposes in addition to 120,000 continuous horse power. Engineers say that this secondary power may be sold at a figure that will provide irrigation at reasonable cost and permit of amortization payments. To irrigate such a vast body of land, in Oregon and Washington, would mean to create, in the Portland trade zone, a new territory equal in productivity to the Willamette valley. Does not such a thing interest Portland? As to market availability, is not a market for the secondary power already at hand, and how could power be used more beneficially than in fostering an irrigation move that would add millions to the tax rolls of Oregon and Washington?

On the score of continuous power the situation is almost as good. There are railroads along both banks of the Columbia river, operated at present by means of imported coal and oil. They should be operated by electricity because it is a cheaper and a better power. At a meeting held in Pendleton during February an official of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul told of the successful operation of that road by electricity and stated among other things that one electric locomotive does the work of three steam locomotives. Why should the people of this region pay freight and passenger rates based on an expensive method of railroad operation when a cheaper and better means of operation may be had?

But railroad electrification is not all of the story. There would be a considerable general demand for power for industrial and domestic purposes if cheap power could be had. Farm machinery may be operated electrically. Homes may be heated electrically. In Eastern Canada electric power is now being transmitted more than 200 miles. It is possible to transmit power 500 miles. Therefore every big city in the northwest and countless smaller cities and towns would be within the transmission radius of the Umatilla rapids power plant. Then why worry about a market?

The Oregonian intimates private capital may be relied upon to develop Columbia basin power. It is a vain hope. Private companies might well operate such plants once built, but they will not build them. First because river improvement is one of the big things involved in developing power at such sites as at Umatilla rapids, Celilo and Bonneville. The dams would drown out the rapids and make barge transportation feasible but private corporations do not improve rivers. That is the government's job. The federal government must have a hand in developing power on the Columbia or we will not get development. Furthermore, it is too much to expect private capital to take up a 300,000 acre irrigation project. That is distinctly a field for Uncle Sam. Our government projects succeed; our private projects have trouble. Eastern Oregon has learned that and it did not learn it out of a book.

Some may say the federal government should have no part in power development because it would be directly or indirectly competing with private enterprise. But the United States government has spent many millions in irrigating arid lands and in bringing the products of such lands into direct competition with products grown on farms operated entirely by private

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enterprise. If the government can finance competition against farmers, why should it not encourage power development even if there should be some measure of competition with private enterprise? Is it not as logical for the government to reclaim waste water power as to reclaim waste land?

Other regions of the west do not hesitate to ask federal aid in power development. The Columbia basin project in Washington involves power development as well as irrigation. Washington people hope to get \$300,000,000 of federal money for their project. They are in earnest and have had a total state fund of \$167,000 for survey and promotion purposes.

In the southwest the Colorado river project calls for power development as well as irrigation. Federal aid on a tremendous scale is wanted and one preliminary appropriation has already been secured from congress. It is told about on page 5462 of the congressional record of August 15 this year. On that day Senator Ashurst of Arizona made a speech explaining the Colorado project. He painted a splendid picture of the Colorado as a power stream. He told of the possibilities of railroad electrification with power from the Colorado. He likewise contended that to develop power on the Colorado would revive navigation on that river. In other words the Arizona senator used in behalf of the Colorado project's bid for federal help almost the identical arguments that may be made with all truthfulness in behalf of the Umatilla rapids project.

If the state of Washington and the states of the southwest can go to Washington asking colossal sums for the development of their regions why should not the people of Oregon get zealously back of the Umatilla rapids project which for low cost and for feasibility from engineering and commercial standpoints has no equal in the west. Why is not the Oregon delegation in congress doing something to help power development on the Columbia? Chiefly because the principal city of our state is asleep on the subject. Portland means well but it has not yet grasped the true opportunity that is open for that city and the whole Oregon country. Portland looks to the sea and not towards the interior. It is fascinated by the Lorelei of ocean trade and does not realize that a safer bet and better bet is to be had in its own back yard. It looks afar for something that lies close at hand.

For its own sake Portland should study the upper Columbia and its potentialities. If Portlanders will do that and will use their political prestige in a move that is sound and practical it will not be many years until we will have results that will astonish everybody.

Pendleton is securing a splendid new theatre. Also a very valuable addition to St. Anthony's hospital. C. J. Koch will soon be at work upon his new building with a 100 foot frontage on Main street and the telephone company has purchased a site for a building here. That is doing pretty well for times like these and the facts show people have faith in Pendleton's future.

While the merry rate war is on between Portland and the seashore the O. W. R. & N. refuses to grant any reduced rate to the Round-Up. One of these days the auto buses will be carrying the passenger travel of this section and the railroad will then howl.

Our auto camp ground has been much improved but it will have a hard time holding all whom will desire camping accommodations during the Round-Up.

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28 YEARS AGO

(From the Daily East Oregonian, August 26, 1893.)

Mrs. L. F. Inman leaves Monday on a visit to brothers and sisters at Elmira, N. Y. Returning, Mrs. Inman will visit the Chicago fair and attend the world's convention W. C. T. U.

Fred R. DeForest and Myra Messenger of Walla Walla were united in marriage Thursday at the hotel Pendleton. Rev. W. H. Selleck officiated.

It was the snake editor who committed the error in Friday evening's East Oregonian regarding the young people's dance in the old postoffice building on Thursday evening. The snake editor finds it difficult to state a bare fact without any embellishments to lend additional interest to the plain truth. It appears that it was not the regular club party, they having held their every Friday evening during the summer, but was gotten up by several young men as an independent affair. The regular club party was appointed for Friday evening at G. A. Hartman's residence.

At his place twelve miles northwest of town Virgil F. Moore is reported to have obtained a twenty-two bushel average from his summer fallow grain. The volunteer yielded sixteen bushels per acre.

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