

# Capital Journal

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GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Publisher

## Pierce's Power Proposal

Governor Pierce in his biennial message recommends that the state go into the business of developing and marketing hydro-electric power and specifically recommends a \$10,000,000 investment in the Clear Lake project at the head of the McKenzie river. He declares this necessary because "the Public Service Commission makes rates for electric current—based on cost of construction and distribution—sufficiently high to pay interest on over-valued investment, thus making the cost for power excessively high."

Service rates are made upon valuations made by experts employed by the commission so as to yield fair return upon them—not upon actual investment. There is probably not a power company in the state that has not gone through several reorganizations to escape bankruptcy by deflation at the expense of original investors.

The state, however, would fix its service rates according to popular clamor and the administration that did not put rates down for those who had no investments at stake, would be recalled, like the Public Service Commission was, and the deficiency made up by direct taxation. That is the way public ownership works.

Governor Pierce cites in his message some net results of government operation. He declares that the state has lost or stands to lose \$500,000 by loans made from the irreducible school fund. This involves only the simplest banking proposition and is nowhere near as complex as construction, operation, maintenance and marketing of light and power, involving much larger investment. How much greater would the loss would be on the latter under political manipulation it is impossible to forecast.

The Governor also mentions the bonus commission with its forced loans on three-quarters of the valuation of property as a source of loss to the state. As a result, 98 foreclosures have already been authorized and the state now owns 46 farms and 11 pieces of city property worth \$141,400 and stands to acquire many more. This is no reflection upon the bonus commission, but shows how few safeguards legislators and people put upon state service.

A third instance of government operation cited by the Governor is the state guaranty of interest on irrigation and drainage bonds, in which he asserts the state stands to lose heavily. All of these projects were approved by state engineers, and the state board—yet taxes must be increased to pay the interest on over \$2,000,000 bonds out, to protect the state's credit.

State ownership and operation are never as efficient or as economical as private ownership and operation, and always more costly in the long run to taxpayers—and by their nature always will be, for they are dominated by politics and red-tape bureaucracy. They are justifiable only in emergency or for development purposes and with a surplus of power developed in Oregon and with capital available for new development as fast as justified, no emergency exists.

## Saving Wild Life

Governor Pierce recommends that the entire control of wild game matters be vested in the Oregon Agricultural college to keep it from "becoming the spoils of politics and the football of political controversy."

The object sought is laudable enough but this is hardly the way to accomplish it for if there is a vast political machine in Oregon, with ramifications everywhere, and already securing the lion's share of spoils, it is that mushroom school of technology miscalled the Oregon Agricultural College. As far as politics is concerned, it would be jumping from the pan into the fire and the move would only increase the political power and prestige of the institution, without benefiting wild life.

The O. A. C.'s political power is great enough as it is, with its millions of state money, its army of traveling professors, its experiment stations, its county agents and its alumni societies, without turning over another half a million a year and a battalion of wardens, culturists and hangers-on to serve college ends.

The only way to efficiently conserve Oregon wild life, now rapidly being exterminated, is to shorten open seasons and to reduce bags. With the advent of the auto, and the pump and automatic gun, and other modern appliances, the game hog and the fish hog are doing their work with a thoroughness that spells complete extermination within a few years.

Our game laws are absurd and place a premium upon slaughter. The trout season opens in the midst of the spawning season and continues all year around in coast streams. It should not open anywhere until June 1 and continue only a few months—otherwise all the hatcheries in the world cannot keep trout in our streams.

We permit the slaughter by everyone of 25 ducks a day, five times as many as should be allowed, and most of our other bags are as absurd. With 85,000 hunters in the field, the slaughter can be imagined.

The saving of our wild life is of prime importance and it lies with the legislature rather than the commission or the college.

## FRIENDS WILL HONOR CALVIN COOLIDGE, JR.

Mercedburg, Pa.—Three memorials to Calvin Coolidge, Jr., son of the president, who died last July, are planned as integral parts of the campus and buildings of Mercedburg Academy, where he was a well-loved student.

The memorials will take the form of a cross in the new academy chapel; a sunshine corner devoted to birds, flowers and trees in some central part of the campus, and a portrait of young Coolidge to be executed by one of America's best painters.

where the boys may gather when at leisure. It will be surrounded by shrubs, flowers and trees.

The humble and contented son pleases himself easily and innocently, while the ambitious man attempts to please others difficultly and sinfully.

SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

I	N	F	L	E	S	H	P
T	I	C	T	W	O	S	I
D	D	E	P	O	P		
S	D	E	C	R	I	E	L
L	O	P	O	D	O	P	A
I	D	E	O	G	R	A	P
M	E	S	A	L	N	E	
E	B	E	A	R	E	D	
P	O	D	E	S	O	L	
N	A	V	F	T	I	G	
O	R	B	U	Y	E	R	T

# TODAY'S CROSS WORD PUZZLE

## HORIZONTAL

- And so forth (abbr.)
- To itch
- Clamor
- A bird
- Freight-carrying capacity
- To ascend
- Home of Abraham (bib.)
- Anger
- A climbing herb
- Everybody
- Medley
- To wither
- Conjunction
- To drop bait
- Truce
- Exist
- Before noon (abbr.)
- Science of life
- Trustworthy
- Capital of Idaho
- Notable period of time
- Neither

## VERTICAL

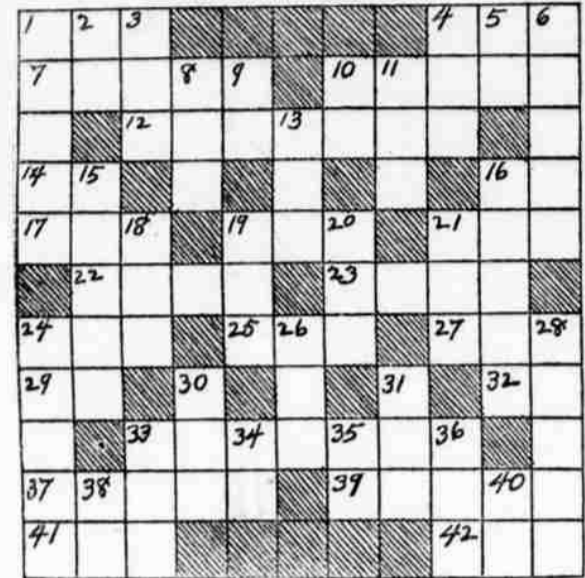
- Weariness
- Preposition
- Citizen (abbr.)
- Evening (poetical)
- Pronoun
- A hard substance
- To moisten
- Prefix signifying into
- Rear-Admiral (abbr.)
- Period of time
- Born: noting maiden name of married woman
- Prostrate
- Motion law doctors who interpret the Koran
- Old (poetical)
- A seed vessel
- A land measure
- Degrade
- To be somewhat ill
- A live coal
- Guitar
- Past
- Large servant
- An ejaculation
- Obscure (abbr.)
- Either
- Thus

## HOW TO SOLVE THE CROSS WORD PUZZLE

The way to solve the Cross Word Puzzle is to fill in the white squares of the diagram with the words which agree with the accompanying definitions. The definitions are numbered to correspond with the numbers on the diagram.

Any word defined in the text under "HORIZONTAL" will begin at its number, shown on the diagram, and will extend all the way across to the first black space to the right of that number. That is, the word must begin in the square that contains its identifying number, and extend as far as the white squares continue uninterruptedly.

Any word defined in the text under "VERTICAL" will also begin in the white space that contains its number, but will extend downward as far as the white squares remain uninterruptedly.



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# A Modern Marriage

An Absorbing Novel  
By IDAH McGLONE GIBSON

## THE STRANGE VOICE

"I'm very glad, Dick," Rodney Evans remarked, "that Mrs. Leonard would be sure to say that we were to blame for all this disgrace. She would say that we should have acknowledged our marriage in the first place."

A low moan sent him back to the bed when Kathlyn was lying. "I must get up. I must get up," she was saying weakly. "I must get up. I must get up and help Rod." Her voice died away in a choking breath.

"The sick wagon's at the door, Mistah Rod," exclaimed the colored maid.

"Who was the girl that just spoke?" "What girl?" "The girl who said that Miss Leonard was out in the rain. Do you know her? Does she live in this block?"

"Neither, my lad, but I thought I recognized the voice. It sounded right over my shoulder," Dick Starmount had made the explanation perfunctorily, but the moment the words were out of his mouth he knew that they were true. Somewhere he had heard that voice before. It had belonged to a person he had known intimately. Of that he was quite sure. The thought lingered in his mind.

The ambulance started. The doctor and nurse followed. The crowd dispersed. Rod came up to hurry Dick into his car.

"Rod," said Dick as he got into the car, "I have just had a peculiar experience. As they were placing the stretcher in the ambulance I heard a woman's voice that was very familiar say, 'I suppose Miss Leonard caught cold last night in the rain. She was all right then.' Turning, I could not find the speaker and no one seemed to be able to tell me anything about her."

"No one but myself. Just as I had got near enough to see, Foss and Kathlyn came through the open door. I saw them sharply silhouetted against the light. I slipped into the darkness by the side of the wall. I was jealous and angry. I wanted to see and hear what they would do and say."

"Forget that, Rod. We are on our way to the inquest and you must remember that you did not come on the scene until, walking up the steps to ring the bell, you saw a huddled form which you took to be a drunken man. Your ring brought Kathlyn to the door, and in the light you both recognized Edson Foss. It will not be necessary for you to perjure yourself. All you must do is to forget

you came on the scene until you rang the bell." "But you must remember, Dick, I did not ring the bell," interrupted Rod. "Kathlyn, bless her, came out to find that gun and found me there."

"Oh, I know all about that," answered Starmount impatiently. "You must forget all about those guns. You don't want to get Kathlyn into this mess, do you?" "Of course I don't. I'll confess to the murder myself."

"Then you must go slowly, very slowly, my boy. We shall have to rehearse this thing over and over again; you must do exactly as I tell you."

"The more I look into this case, the more I am certain that unless we can produce some clues that will throw the detectives off the track and counter the circumstantial evidence, either you or Kathlyn or both of you will be indicted for the murder. As you are determined to take it all upon yourself, I must tell you, Rod, that I am afraid you are in for a serious tilt with the law."

Rod gave a little shudder. At this moment they arrived at the hospital, Dick said no more.

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By Bud Fisher

