

# Capital Journal

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"Without or with offense to friends or foes I sketch your world exactly as it goes."  
—Byron

## Misinformed

The New York Nation, a liberal weekly, which is usually quite accurate in its statements, crams the following interesting misinformation into its editorial comment on the nomination of George W. Joseph by the Republicans for governor:

"A rip-roaring cyclone" is the description which a writer in the Portland, Oregon, Telegram gives of the eruption of George W. Joseph into the Oregon gubernatorial campaign. Mr. Joseph, who until a few days ago was a lawyer, attracted state-wide attention some time since by his vigorous but unsuccessful defense of the will of one E. Henry Wemme, half of whose fortune was to benefit a charitable trust in Portland. More recently he has launched some bold attacks against the public service commission and the power companies, and has declared that the state courts, in certain cases which he named, have been influenced by political and financial interests. For this last he has just been permanently disbarred by order of the supreme court. Shortly before his disbarment, however, he carried off the Republican nomination for governor at the primaries by about 5,000 votes, after making the fight on the issue of personal vindication, touring the state by airplane, and addressing record-breaking audiences. If he is elected, as seems certain, there may be doing in Oregon, for Mr. Joseph is a hard hitter, his following believes in him enthusiastically, and the courts have played into his hands.

The Nation probably secures its misinformation from the Portland newspapers, all four of which have deserted party or principle to support Mr. Joseph, the attorney for their largest advertiser, who has not hesitated in the past to use this advertising as a club to dictate newspaper policy. The newspaper quoted by The Nation is the personal organ of Mr. Joseph, who is also its attorney in cases pending before the Supreme Court. It is owned by Herbert Fleischacker, multi-millionaire power financier of San Francisco. Nor does The Nation know that this new champion of the people is also attorney for the chain store trust, the bancorporation chain, as well as department stores.

The Nation does not realize that Mr. Joseph was disbarred not for criticizing decisions of the supreme court but for unethical conduct and that his definition of free speech consists of character assassination. It was six years after the decision in the Wemme case was rendered before Mr. Joseph attacked the court and in the interval he defended the decision in federal courts. His advocacy of power development without cost to the taxpayer is along the same line of demagoguery.

## Milking the Public

Some 70,000 people paid approximately three quarters of a million dollars to witness the biggest boxing extravaganza in history staged for the philanthropic purpose of benefitting the children's milk fund and saw Jack Sharkey foul Max Schmeling below the belt in the fourth round and thereby forfeit the championship. It is not by any means the first time Sharkey has practiced unfair tactics, but it is the first time he has failed to get away with it.

Neither of the pugilists rank as topnotch fighters. Neither are in the same class with former champions, but so fight hungry are the spectacle loving people that in hard times, with bread lines in every city, they fork out a fabulous sum to witness a couple of dubs pull off a fiasco. The people certainly like to be bunked and will pay any amount for the privilege. And we pride ourselves on our intelligence!

It is to be hoped, that after the fighters, and promoters receive the cream and the heavy expenses are met, there will be a few quarts of skimmed milk left for tenement babies. Anyway the bally-hoosers have found a new way to milk the public and sanctify the fight racket, and we confidently await a repetition of the fiasco in the name of sweet charity.

## Passing the Buck

By unanimous vote the general federation of women's clubs at Denver has passed a resolution requesting President Hoover to appoint a commission to study the problems of delinquent women and girls in Alaska and make some plan for dealing with the situation now existing in the territory.

So the craze for commissions extends, despite the fact that few ever accomplish anything. Why a commission is needed to study such problems when the causes and results are apparent to everyone passes comprehension—unless of course it is an easy way to sidestep an unpleasant subject.

And what could a commission accomplish? Delinquency in Alaska, as elsewhere is due to heredity and environment, to ignorance and to poverty. In Alaska it is complicated by the mixture of natives with the flotsam and jetsam of the mining camps and the derelicts of the gold rush. The problem is one for missionaries and welfare workers rather than for club women who vary their bridge playing by dilettante discussion of public affairs.

The federation ladies have a chance to study delinquency in their own sex in their home cities where there is plenty of it and aid in its correction without asking federal commissions for distant lands. But the subject is an unpleasant one and requires sympathy and sacrifice and it is much easier to shut their eyes and pass the buck.

## Extension of Power Lines to Rural Areas Simplified by Order

A plan whereby installation of electricity to farms of the Willamette valley is made much more simple and more economical to the customer is outlined in a recent order issued by the Oregon public service commission, according to a statement issued by W. R. Newmyer, rural service agent of the Pacific Northwest Public Service company.

The new ruling is different from the old order of things in that it permits the power company to advance in full the cash outlay for the construction of rural lines instead of advancing a certain proportion of the cost, thus obviating the necessity of those securing elec-

trical energy advancing the remainder of the expense.

The order provides for an investment by the company of three times the annual revenue, but not less than \$75 per customer, instead of two and one half times this annual revenue and \$60 per customer, providing the cost does not exceed these amounts per customer, as under the old rules.

In compliance with this order the Pacific Northwest Public Service

## WEARY BUT INDIGNANT



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company, formerly the Portland Electric Power company, has filed a new set of rules. These rules which go into effect June 15, are similar to those now in effect, but differ radically in one respect besides those mentioned above.

Under the new rules the prospective customers may contract to pay a minimum monthly revenue of the amount the power companies' representative thinks justifiable according to the amount of equipment installed. The power company will then spend 35 times this contracted monthly minimum toward the construction of the line, as ordered by the commission. If this sum is not sufficient to build the line, the Pacific Northwest Public Service company will invest the necessary additional money, or excess cost as it is called, provided the customer will increase the contracted monthly payment to an amount to justify this additional investment. Under the old rules the customers were required to put up this extra cost in cash and to pay an extra monthly charge in addition to the Salem rates, this charge being necessary because of the additional cost of serving rural customers. Believed from putting his money into line construction, the farmer is free to buy additional equipment, thus allowing him to make use of the electricity in such a way that it will pay him a profit and will encourage a greater consumption of power. This greater consumption will benefit the farmer not only by giving him a lower average cost per kilowatt hour, but will tend to increase the annual revenue from the line and thereby automatically decrease his contracted monthly payments at the end of each adjustment period.

An illustration of the way the new rules will work may be obtained by comparing them with the old rules under which a definite extension was made. An extension to serve five farmers southeast of Silverton was completed. The total cost of the extension was \$810.00. The company was justified in investing \$400 on this extension on account of the estimated revenue to be derived from the line. That left the sum of \$410 to be advanced by each customer. The contracts called for a monthly minimum charge of \$1.82. As \$82 is worth 41 cents per month at 6 per cent, these five customers were actually paying \$2.23 per month instead of \$1.82.

If these five customers would be willing, under the new rules, to contract monthly revenue equal to the amount of their monthly bills since they have been connected to the line, the company would be justified in investing \$523, leaving an excess cost of \$286.94, or an average of \$57.40 per customer. Instead of asking the customers to put up this amount in cash, the company would invest the money and increase the contracted monthly minimum 86 cents to each customer which would mean a saving of 37 cents per month in actual money and allow them more electricity. At the end of the first three year adjustment period, this contracted monthly charge would be decreased providing the revenue received from the line exceeded the contracted revenue if new customers were connected to the extension in the interval.

### GATES CLUB GUEST AT COLLINS' HOME

Gates—Mrs. Ed Collins was a hostess to members of the Birthday club Tuesday afternoon at her home near Gates. Cards were in play at three tables with Mrs. Gerald Heath winning the prize for high score. Mrs. Roy Taylor second, and Mrs. Blanch Dean low. Miss Gwen Johnson took visitors' honors.

The hostess was assisted in serving by her daughter-in-law, Mrs. E. V. Collins. Those served were Mrs. Clarence Johnson, Mrs. Roy Taylor, Mrs. F. W. Jones, Miss Gwen Johnson, Mrs. A. B. Horner, Mrs. Blanch Dean, Mrs. Marietta Smith, Mrs. Gerald Heath, Mrs. Wes Houghton, and Mrs. Robert Rows.

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## WORK ON FALLS LOOP ROAD WILL COMMENCE SOON

With transfer of a shovel and a crew from the Fern Ridge road to the Matheny road from Union Hill to Silver Creek falls on this side of the falls another link in the Silver Falls loop from Salem to the falls and back via Silverton will be under way to completion this summer. The two mile stretch of the Matheny road into the falls is expected to be completed this year and this will leave only about five miles of road on this side of the falls left to be converted into a market road. Either all or a portion of it will be done next year while work goes on on the other side toward Silverton.

Transfer of the shovel from the Fern Ridge road does not mean that work will let up on the Fern Ridge road, according to Roadmaster Johnson. The shovel is a heavy duty piece of equipment used for tearing out big cuts and this sort of work has been completed on the Fern ridge road. Crews will continue on with the Fern Ridge work to completion this summer.

County Engineer Swart reported Saturday that the steel has been put in on the Hazel Green bridge, the girders of concrete will be poured Saturday and then only the decking remains. However, the bridge when completed will have to stand for a month before work can start on a big fill which must be made prior to opening the bridge to traffic. It is figured it will probably be about September 1 before work is started on the fill.



Warm weather brings these pests

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