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

The Governors' Message

There is but little in the message of Governor Meier to give alarm to the utility crowd or pleasure to the hydrophobes.

The public service commission is not to be abolished. It is simply to have its name changed and dressed up in a new suit of clothes.

The revamped commission is to be given power to supervise the issuance of all stock, bond and security issues. While there can be no harm in this, such capital issues have nothing whatever to do with the actual investment or rate base of the utility. It is upon its actual investment, or rate base, as determined by the commission, that a fair return is allowed. Stocks and bonds have nothing whatever to do with the determination of a rate base. A utility may have an actual investment of \$50,000,000 and outstanding securities to the amount of \$75,000,000. It is allowed a return only on the \$50,000,000 shown to be actually invested. Through its security issues the promoters of utility consolidations may high-jack a speculation made public but they can't add a dollar to the rate base of a utility.

The governor proposes to limit the rights of one public utility corporation to contract with another for service, property or supplies. In this he will find that legislative power is limited to preventing and correcting abuses. To go farther than this is to run up against the courts which have held that regulation under the police powers does not extend to the control and operation of a utility's business affairs.

The Oregon Journal will no doubt be deeply pained because of the governor's failure to recommend the withdrawal of our water resources from appropriation. He proposes the creation of a hydroelectric commission of three members with power to grant permits for both public and private undertakings. The safeguards with which he proposes to surround the issuance of these permits are practically all on our statute books today.

The Governor proposes to have private utilities set up amortization reserves for the retirement of the company's invested capital so that at the expiration of the license the utility properties may pass to the state without further cost. Such an arrangement would be applauded by the power people for it would be equivalent to a guarantee that they would not only enjoy a fair return during the life of the license but a return of their capital at its expiration.

After recommending the passage of the proposed Grange water power bill which opens up the way for increased taxes and bonded indebtedness the Governor proceeds to paint a picture of the mess we are in through the defaulted indebtedness of the different irrigation districts. He sheds tears over the excessive indebtedness of our state and municipalities and then invites further indebtedness through the creation of hydro-electric districts.

The only power development project endorsed is the Umatilla Rapids on the Columbia—and this for federal, not state construction. Commenting on Oregon's power resources, he says there are 6,000,000 potential horsepower available, with but 350,000 horse-power, a little more than five percent developed. The 95 percent is still available to the people. Yet during the campaign he told the people that Oregon had lost its power resources to private corporations that had stolen the public heritage.

Taking it all in all there is nothing in the message to excite the power trust but on the other hand much to give it comfort. And "free power without cost to taxpayers" is pitched until the next campaign.

Two Inaugurals

We were informed after election by the Portland press that Governor Meier's election was the result of a popular revolution similar to that of 1828 which seated Andrew Jackson in the presidency and established democracy in America. Under Mr. Meier's leadership, we were informed, the common people had again come into their own. But their respective inaugurals show that either the people have lost their punch in the past century or that the "revolution" of today is merely the customary political upheaval that accompanies hard times, and not a rising of the masses.

Regarding Jackson's inaugural, we quote from Bowers "Party Battles of the (Jackson) Period":

The ceremonies over the (Jackson) fought his way to his waiting horse—and down the avenue he rode, followed by the most picturesque cortege that ever trailed a conqueror—gentlemen of society and backwoodsmen, scholars and the illiterate, white and black, the old hobbling on crutches and cames and children clinging to their mother's gowns, walking and riding in carriages and wagons and carts—following to the Peoples House.

There the unwieldy mob, in carnival mood, hundreds only accounted to the rough life of the frontier, stormed the mansion, fighting, scrambling, elbowing, scratching. Waiters appearing with refreshments were rushed by the uncouth guests, resulting in a crash of glass and china. Men in heavy boots, covered with the mud of unpaved streets, sprang upon the chairs and sofas to get a better view of the hero of the hour. Women fainted, some were seen with bloody noses, and Jackson was saved from being crushed by the action of some gentlemen making a barrier of their bodies. After this the old soldier beat a hasty retreat. "I never saw such a mixture" wrote Justice Story. "The reign of King Mob seemed triumphant."

Contrast this with the decorum of the inaugural of the people's new hero yesterday, with the only excitement the siren heralded and speed-up escorted dash to 50 miles an hour of the new executive down the streets to the inaugural ball, where in the words of a contemporary:

The host of heraldry, pomp of state and military—beauty, wealth, and with all a splendid democracy made the third inaugural reception and ball to be tendered a new governor and first lady of Oregon, a thing of long memory in the minds of those who were present Monday night to pay honor to Governor Julius L. Meier and Mrs. Meier. A large and expectant crowd, highly colorful with the brilliant evening dresses of many fair ladies relieved by the sombre black and white of the formal dress of the men. . . . there was not the slightest hitch in the program of events. . . . all contributed to a smooth and happy conclusion.

But then of course there was no special invitation list, no \$2.50 ticket, no dress suit requirement for Old Hickory, who was as plain as the people who idolized him.

LOOK OUT FOR JAMS!



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BUXTON NAMED AS CLACKAMAS JERSEY LEADER

Mollala.—At the annual meeting of the Clackamas County Jersey Club, held in the chamber of commerce rooms Saturday at Oregon City, Maurice Buxton, of the Buxton Brothers farm of Mollala, was elected president for the year.

Mr. Buxton succeeds E. W. Gribble of Aurora who was named vice-president; Mrs. W. J. Thornley of Mollala was elected secretary-treasurer.

A vote was taken on a new constitution, and it was decided to affiliate with the state club. The twenty members present decided to give a \$15 scholarship to the outstanding 4-H club member in Jersey calf work.

All future meetings will be at the call of President Buxton, and the next meeting will probably be in Canby in February or March.

A luncheon was served at noon to the members and their families. Among the Jersey breeders represented at the annual meeting were the Gribble families from Aurora, Buxton Brothers of Mollala; R. O. Andrus of Canby; Louis Schacht of Mollala; A. B. Cole of Canby; Mr. Jayne of Oregon; John Gale of Maple Lake; O. Beckman of Oregon City, and Leroy Wright, county club leader.

Silverton.—Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Bougli and daughter Vera were dinner guests at the home of their daughter, Nellie, Mrs. Paul Thomas and husband, Sunday. The Thomases are living near the Silver Creek Falls schoolhouse where Mrs. Thomas is teaching and he is employed in a sawmill near there.

Albany (UP)—O. H. Russell had an obsolete, unexploded 40-82 cartridge taken from Willamette river. He put match to the powder, watched it burn.

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As Seen By A Railbird

"The king is dead! Long live the king!" It is back to the cactus for Al but Julius sits in the seat of the mighty. Rollie, the "specialist," is at work with hammer and saw and will soon have the "chair of state" in working order.

The outgoing governor has left with us a 66-page message which, although it contains many valuable suggestions, will be little read. In these times we have little respect for the dead. The public will be more interested in what the new governor has to say.

The three planks in the Joseph platform inherited by Governor Meier, called for:

1. Free speech.
2. Abolishment of the public service commission.
3. Public power development without cost to the tax payers.

While Candidates Metcalf and Bailey declared themselves in favor of public development of our water power they insisted that such undertakings as the Columbia river projects should be financed and constructed by the federal government; that the burden was too great for the tax payers of the state to carry. For this stand both candidates were condemned by the hydrophobic press of the state. Now comes the new governor, however, and, by taking the chairmanship of the Umatilla Rapids promotion committee, endorses the Bailey-Metcalf program. The private power interests also favor the Umatilla Rapids project. Undoubtedly this was one of the questions discussed at the famous Portland hotel conference attended by Metcalf, Metcalf, Talbot and Griffith.

It has been seen that Governor

Meier has named Kenneth Harlan and Marshall Dana, the two great power experts, as members of a committee which will go to Washington to appear before the senate committee on January 15 in the interest of the Umatilla project. It will be known to the power interests that these two gentlemen are in Washington and not in attendance at the legislature.

That Governor-elect Meier would not advocate the abolishment of the public service commission was well known to the utility interests two weeks before the election. Utility heads were known to have passed the word to their immediate friends before the governor's message was prepared. However, to save his face with the Oregon Journal the governor will suggest a reorganization of the commission but:

Legislate as much as he will. The smell of the past will stick to it still.

It looks, therefore, like the Portland hotel conference had borne fruit. The Joseph platform has been shot to pieces and the hydrophobic left high and dry. We are not to have hydro-electric development "without cost to the tax payers" and we are not to lose the public service commission. As to free speech — it always has, and always will, be guaranteed to us by the constitution.

There will be much secret joy in the camp of the water power interests serving Portland and surrounding territory when our water power resources are withdrawn from appropriation. Their needs are well supplied by rights already visited and the withdrawal of such unap-

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NEW ALMANAC FOR 1931 GIVES CENSUS REPORT

The Old Year of Depression has gone unmentioned and the New Year of Hope has brought us a good omen in the World Almanac for 1931. Its coming makes one's heart glad and takes a load off one's memory. For here are well ordered facts—a million of them, it is said—within arm's reach on one's desk. This forty-sixth annual reference book of America, edited by Robert Hunt Lyman, is larger than ever, and better than ever.

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In it are the new figures from the census of 1930, particularly the population of every city and town in the country that exceeds 3000. The compact Diary of the Year—history in the making—is invaluable, supplemented as it is by ten pages of scientific progress in 1930, and special articles on aviation, Byrd's expedition, the drought and all departments of sport. Even more important, official reports and figures show the progress made in the enforcement of the prohibition law, now beginning its twelfth year.

This handy book of nearly 1000 pages will answer a million questions, even more than an eager family of children can pester Dad with. Dad will be well advised if he will teach the children how to find the answers for themselves.

Chicago (UP)—Charles Benjamin Jones made two serious mistakes when he started out to be a bandit.

1. He tried to hold up a policeman.
2. When he got away he tried to hide in a chimney with two bends in it and a fire at the other end.

The first people Jones and Mitchell Hamilton, negroes, and both very black, met after they decided to be bandits were Detectives Edward Hazard and Kenneth Ebey, in plain clothes. They tried to hold them up.

The detectives drew their guns. The amateur bandits ran. Hazard caught Hamilton easily. Ebey chased Jones and shot at him, but he couldn't catch him or stop him.

Jones ran up a fire escape. Ebey followed, still shooting. They went through hallways, up stairways and down stairways, with Ebey always close behind and shooting frequently. After slipping out a window and onto a roof Jones, in desperation, jumped into a chimney, thinking he could hold out until the edges and remain hidden until they gave up looking for him.

But the bricks were hot and Jones had to let go. Down the chimney he went and backfiring a lot of smoke into the kitchen of Mrs. Jessie Burkes, who was trying pork chops.

Jones went past the first bend in a hurry, but he stuck in the second. It was just a few feet above Mrs. Burkes' cook stove.

Mrs. Burkes shouted in the kitchen. Jones shouted in his chimney. Up on the roof, Ebey shouted too. Jones shouted the loudest. What he wanted most was for somebody to "please put out that fire," Mrs. Burkes did.

A lot of Ebey's fellow policemen went to help him. They called the fire department and a big hole was chopped in the chimney, freeing Jones, who was slightly baked and blacker than ever.

Mrs. Burkes looked at the hole in her chimney. Then she looked

appropriated water as might be used for private power development will protect them against competition. So things are not looking so bad for the power folks.



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OIL PROMOTERS ASK DIVISION AND ACCOUNTING

Fight over division of 50,000 shares of oil stock in the Sixty-Seven Petroleum company which is said to have under lease for oil, 960 acres of land in the Mt. Angel section has been launched by H. B. Craig against E. C. Moffitt and the petroleum company, in a suit in circuit court. The suit asks for an accounting of an alleged partnership between Craig and Moffitt, that Craig be decreed owner of 25,000 shares of stock, and that the company be restrained from turning over to Moffitt 50,000 shares of stock until the accounting is made.

The complaint alleges that E. C. Moffitt on June 15, last year, formed a partnership with Craig. It states that Moffitt represented he knew oil lands and knew of certain properties in Marion county on which leases could be obtained and on which was supposed to be oil. The agreement was, it is alleged, that the plaintiff was to introduce Moffitt about the county and to owners of land and that the two were to obtain leases for the purpose of drilling for oil. The complaint states that they did obtain leases on approximately 960 acres of land in the vicinity of Mt. Angel known as the Sixty-Seven Petroleum and a corporation was formed, eum company with Fred Schwab as president and Dr. E. V. Barnum as secretary-treasurer. The company, the complaint says, was incorporated for \$200,000 with shares at \$10 each, and that there has been subscribed and sold \$100,000 of the stock. Out of the \$100,000 subscribed and sold, says the complaint, 50,000 shares are being held by the corporation to be turned over to Moffitt for organization and promotion.

The plaintiff alleges he is entitled to one-half of the 50,000 shares or 25,000 shares for services and asks an accounting, dissolution of partnership and the restraining order.

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