

Capital Journal

Salem, Oregon

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

A Grandstand Play

The order issued last spring by Charles M. Thomas, shortly after his appointment as public utilities commissioner for the state, reducing street car fares in Portland, is held to be "confiscatory, unlawful and in violation of the constitution of the United States, amendment 14," by Judge O. P. Coshaw, special master in chancery, in his report to the federal district court.

The decision will not surprise anyone, least of all Commissioner Thomas, for his order was simply a grandstand gesture in the "free power for nothing" hysteria to which the administration owes its election and the commissioner's appointment. It was not based on a scientific study of investment, costs and operation, but an off hand ukase for political effect.

Courts exist to enforce laws for the protection and safeguarding of life and property and provide a square deal for utilities as well as the public they serve. When bureaucrats illegally abuse their power for popular applause it is up to the courts to nullify their encroachments of the fundamental law.

The federal court has yet to pass upon the master's findings. If either accepted, or rejected, an appeal will be taken direct to the supreme court of the United States, but a long line of previous decisions leaves little doubt of the outcome.

City Ownership Troubles

Water rates in Portland will have to be raised in 1932 to meet a deficit of more than \$100,000, states the county tax supervising and conservation commission in a letter addressed to the Portland city council. The present financial condition is ascribed to the debt burden, which has increased \$1,000,000 annually for the past decade and estimated revenues are less by \$100,000 than estimated expenditures.

How these municipal enterprises absorb money is shown by the increase in investment in the Portland water plant from \$7,000,000 in 1921, with a sinking fund of \$1,000,000, to a gross of \$20,000,000, with a sinking fund of \$4,000,000, or a net bonded indebtedness of \$16,000,000 in 1931, an increase in ten years of \$10,000,000, with earnings \$100,000 less than expenditures.

Though the city charter requires rates to be fixed for a balanced budget, the city council refuses to raise rates, lest it be unpopular, and contemplates dipping into its reserve sinking fund. That is the usual course in municipal enterprises, and the reason so many of them are in the red. Politicians dare not apply business methods and instead of the consumer footing the bill for services rendered, the burden is put on the taxpayer.

These municipal enterprises have forced six Oregon cities into default of their indebtedness, while the state, a purchaser of municipal bonds, has ordered water rate increases in four cities to prevent defaults—the politicians in power needing some such outside pressure to force unpopular but necessary rate increases.

Portland's municipal water debt, at \$16,000,000, big as it looms is however, but a little over half the per capita indebtedness of Salem, with its \$2,500,000 bond issue, which will face a similar annual deficit without any sinking fund to dip into.

Showing Their Hands

Step by step the little coterie that put over the water bonds are showing their hands. They now are usurping the council's prerogative of selecting a water board by peddling petitions for a hand picked board of their own choosing, thus trying by intimidation to force the council to give them the expenditure of the \$2,500,000 bond proceeds.

The coterie's gratuitous propaganda hand bill is also out with a demand that the Baar & Cunningham's original plans be strictly adhered to and that the engineers who figured their own fees at over \$100,000 be given a monopoly of the job. A little raw—but just think of the jack-pot at stake!

A little later will come the question of substituting concrete pipe for steel, called for in original plans, which is said to account for the extraordinary interest of a new convert to the cause, who has shelved Mayor Gregory completely into the background to wear the mantle of the mountain water god.

The taxpayer who failed to vote can console himself by reflecting that it is his money the non-taxpayers are proposing to merrily squander.

A Good Year To Make Money

Though we hesitate to assume the role of a prophet, all predictions having gone haywire up to date, nevertheless we believe the year 1932 holds more opportunity for money making than any similar period in the past two decades, for those who have money to invest.

Stocks and bonds as well as realty are far below their actual value and gilt edged securities of all kinds can be had at bargain prices. History repeats itself and there always follows a period of recovery from rock bottom basis and a gradual climb back to and above normal. Unless the country with its tremendous resources is going completely to crash, which is absurd, inflation will soon replace deflation and those who take advantage of conditions, reap the profits.

A study of past depressions shows that the gloom hung just as heavily in the 30's, in the 70's and in the 90's, as it hangs today and pessimism was just as prevalent. The economic system, purged and purified, will remain, Europe will be forced by necessity to adjust herself and a chastened world resume its material progress.

WHO IS THIS MAN?



This is a photo of Joan Crawford and

Taken from the photoplay

Here is a popular movie actor who played opposite Joan Crawford in one of her former pictures. Do you recognize him? And in which picture did this prominent duo appear?

The Capital Journal is offering 15 pairs of tickets to Warner Bros. Elsinore theater to those who can best identify four of Miss Crawford's leading men and the titles of the pictures in which the couple starred. Today's photograph is the third. The fourth and last will be presented tomorrow.

The tickets will entitle their

owners to admission for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Possessed" which stars Joan Crawford and Clark Gable, and comes to Warner Bros. Elsinore Saturday at midnight for a three-day engagement. The tickets will be exchangeable, however, for any other attraction at the same playhouse any time during the week of January 3-9.

Retain answers until the set of four photos are in your possession and then deliver to the "Joan Crawford Contest Editor" at the Capital Journal before Monday noon.

Doris Blake Says:-

Showdown Is Advisable
When Engagements
Drag on Three Years

"I am a young lady of 32. I make a steady salary of \$30 a week. I'm going with a young man, 30, who makes \$45 a week. But, somehow or other, there is always an excuse for putting off our intended marriage. He's either helping some member of his family, who really could get along without the help or there's not enough money to marry on, or there is fear that he will lose his job. What do you think of a situation like this?—Yours Truly."

Situations of the sort need one long evening in which there is much and very serious conversation about the future. The aim of this particular evening's talk should be to arrive at a definite objective. The romance as it stands now is suffering the well known old malady of procrastination. There's nothing concrete, definite, decisive, about it to back it up. It's just drifting that's all.

If fear is this and fears for that enter, it is natural enough. It's too wobbly on its feet. It needs a definite wedding day. It needs a definite sum of money decided upon for that day. You may not arrive at the sum decided upon—but, at least, you're giving the romance something to live on. It needs form, shape, something concrete for plans to be built upon.

There is need of a head for managing. If the man is the weaker one, then the woman should take the wheel. Better, though, if the responsibility of seeing it through to marriage is left to the man. There's nothing like a good, responsible wedding day to take the shilly shallying out of a procrastinator.

Three years of expressed intentions to marry earn a girl the right to ask when the big day is to be

Spectacles vs. Surgery and Medicines

The most successful and modern treatment of eye troubles excludes surgery and strong medicines. Modern Optical Science can accomplish results with lenses in cases which oculists of the "old school" treat unsuccessfully and painfully by cutting and dapping.

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and would not make such an assertion if we did not know whereof we speak. Special attention is given to eye troubles in children.

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WEEK END FILM OFFERINGS ARE VARIED NATURE

Marilyn Miller, who has endeared herself to theater-goers everywhere as the star of "Sally" and "Sunny" outclasses both her former screen achievements as the barmaid who evolves into a baroness in "Her Majesty, Love," the First National production, which had an opening Thursday night at the Warner Bros. Elsinore theater.

Incidental music adds to the gaiety of "Her Majesty, Love" and Marilyn sings several songs that linger in the mind and send the audience out of the theater humming or whistling them. Al Dubin, who did "Among My Souvenirs" and other hits, wrote the lyrics. The piece, by the way, is from the German of R. Bernauer and R. Oesterreicher and the music, William Dietrich—at one time right hand man of Max Reinhardt, in Germany, directed.

It's an old adage but true that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure", especially if applied to high salaried movie players. With this in mind production heads of the Hal Roach Studios took every precaution during the filming of the desert scenes in "Beau Hunka" Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's latest survival comedy.

Heading the program at the Warner Bros. Capitol Theater is "The Sin of Madelon Claudet," Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's adaptation of the Edward Knoblock stage success, "The Lady," with a cast that includes Helen Hayes, Lewis Stone, Neil Hamilton, Robert Young, Cliff Edwards, Jean Hersholt, Marie Prevost, Karen Morely and others.

Miss Hayes, who makes her first appearance on the screen in this picture, is the young actress who recently scored on Broadway in "Petticoat Influence," and previous to that play created an enviable reputation for her work in "Coquette," "What Every Woman Knows," "Dear Brutus" and "Mr. Gilmore."

She portrays the young French girl, Madelon Claudet, who makes a fatal mistake when she elopes to Paris with a young artist and is soon after involved in the scandalous arrest of a jewel thief who has befriended her.

Surf Board Rider Conquers Channel

Folkstone, England, (AP)—The English Channel has been crossed in an even dozen ways, now that a young Frenchman, Roger Tronquet, has surfboarded across.

Up to the time Tronquet did his water toboggan act, the channel had been crossed by balloon, hydro-cycle, motor-cycle, airplane, submarine, punt, canoe, glider, 11 ft. dinghy, water skis and ordinary channel steamer.

Tronquet's feet were bleeding from the constant wash of water across the board when he arrived here. It took about seven hours to make the crossing.

His only reason was that no one else had tried it.

New 'Shine' Story

Columbia, Cal. (AP)—Max South, barber, showed up at breakfast with a black eye—but he couldn't explain to his wife how it happened. South vows he hadn't been celebrating. He thinks that, during his sleep, he rubbed his eye with his knuckles, causing a small blood vessel above the eye to burst and cause the "shiner."

"Anyway," he insisted, "that's my story."

Stayton—W. R. Dean left for Eugene Thursday to spend the weekend with Mrs. Dean and children who are visiting relatives there. W. Mayo of the Bank of Stayton spent Thursday in Eugene on business.

Antoinette's Beauty Talks

Graceful Posture Is Vital to Silhouette of Real Distinction

By ANTOINETTE DONNELLY
Authors used to do more right by their little Nells than they have been doing of late. Member way back when they used to endow their heroines with the body of a willow, or with the undulating movements of a born vamp, or with a carriage of great and regal majesty? Anyway, they used to set the gal up, if not with the strides of a goddess, then with something just as good. So what think you, too, of a fiction writer who does this to his heroine? Remember he expects the lady to do a large bit by way of getting him into the best seller class. And this is how the hero beholds her. He turned in his chair and beheld the lady standing in the doorway "resting on one raised hip like a . . . tired cow!"

So, now if you have an ungainly gesture that you'd just as soon keep out of literature, you'd better be turning the fifty-watt on your head, or is it a hundred-watt that tells everything? Anyway, if you're of a mind to go after the old girl (any age implied) and map out a reform course for her, beginning the first of the year, begin with the features and the posture habits that may be standing between you and beauty fame.

Dame Etiquette and her side kick, Maw Grundy, have let us down on many of the rigid old rules of conduct. But neither of the named guides urge us to look like a tired cow, for instance. They permit us to go ahead and have a good time, but urge us not to spoil the looks which

took much informality of posture. That is, they'd like us to hold to the line, since line of body is coming to take the big place in silhouette distinction.

I wonder if most of us haven't one gesture or posture habit that could be reformed? Some of us have more than one. The point is that there isn't so much you can do to a figure, once you've got it whittled down—but make it graceful. The truth is that the trouble with many of the reduced figures is that they are not graceful. They fall into rigid, grace-

less gestures. And there's no question in my mind that our next great big beauty movement will be along these very lines, making gesture and posture habit as concentrated a study and as flattering to the woman as her constant interest in silhouette remodeling and make-up aids.

Doctor Takes Huge Quantity of Medicine

Leeds, England (AP)—Dr. A. Hawk- yard, lord mayor of Leeds, believes in his own medicine. He's taken 23,000 pills in seven years.

"I am not one of those doctors," he told druggists here, "who deprecate the use of drugs in treating ailments."

The 23,000 pills contained, he said, a half a hundredweight of hydrochloric acid and milk and four-fifths of a hundredweight of liver extract.



SHIPLEY'S

Announcing

The appointment of Mr. Newell Williams as District Agent of The Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company at Salem, Oregon, effective January 1, 1932.

Mr. Williams is well known to the people of Salem and has had a wide experience which qualifies him for the position.

The Salem agency under his direction is, we feel, well equipped to render our present policy holders and others life insurance service of high order.

Mr. Williams will have his office at 200 Masonic Building, Telephone 8719.

THE LOCKWOOD AGENCY
GENERAL AGENTS
OF

The Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co.

Salem Office 200 Masonic Building

1932

A YEAR for ACCOMPLISHMENT

Each new year brings a new opportunity for greater accomplishments in all things, great and small. It is our hope that you may attain your most coveted desires during the year just beginning.

The First National Bank is pleased to extend to its many customers and friends its best wishes for health, happiness and prosperity in 1932.

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CENTENARIAN'S AGE IN COURT

For declaring on the register of deaths that his father was 73 at death, while the age on the coffin read 105, Bernard Blee of Allissane, Ireland, was fined in court recently. The deceased's eldest daughter said she was born in 1864, and if the father was 75 at death he was eight years old when she first viewed the world. Blee was said to be juggling the age in order to collect insurance.

OLDEST WINE DISPLAYED

The oldest wine in the world has been placed on display at Speyer, Germany. It is Roman wine, recently unearthed, and is estimated to be 1,600 years old. It is partly solidified, for Romans put honey in some of their most popular drinks.

American road and commercial maps are finding favor in South and Latin America.