

Capital Journal

Salem, Oregon

Established March 1, 1888

An Independent Newspaper Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday at 138 S Commercial Street. Telephone 4681. News 4682

GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Publisher

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By carrier—10 cents a week; 45 cents a month; \$5.00 a year in advance.
By mail in Marion, Polk, Linn and Yamhill counties, one month \$0.50; 3 months \$1.25; 6 months \$2.25; 1 year \$4.00. Elsewhere 50 cents a month; 6 months \$2.75; \$5.00 a year in advance.

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

Rate Fixing by Politics

Commenting on the failure of the recent attempt to secure a reduction in utility rates, the Portland Oregonian says:

The conference on telephone rates between City Commissioner Bennett and Manager Wise of the telephone company has ended, as was to be expected, in stalemate. Mr. Bennett had gathered no data nor any facts with which to fortify his demand for reduction. His approach was wholly superficial and political. Mr. Wise was willing to yield nothing. He fortified his position with figures. He had all the best of the situation and the argument. How could it be otherwise?

That is the whole trouble with most of these utility rate reducing efforts—their approach is "wholly superficial and political." Politics and the desire to win popularity account for them—even for the Oregonian's own recent efforts along the same line. Utility bailing is a popular pastime, particularly in Portland, but it never gets anywhere because the proponents instead of a scientific study based on compilation of facts, resort to the easier and more superficial appeal to prejudice. And because they are not fortified by fact and reason, confiscatory reduction edicts are promptly nullified by the courts.

The public service commission was created to scientifically study utility rate structures and empowered to establish fair rates and it secured many reductions, principally through negotiation, but because they were not drastic enough, it was made the football of politics; its members were recalled by the people and removed by the governor; it was first appointive, then elective, and then appointive again; and finally it was wiped out entirely by a governor pledged to its abolition, who instead recreated it in the form of a single inexperienced commissioner—whose approach also was so "superficial and political" that his decisions were upset by the courts. And it now proposed to deny courts jurisdiction—although protection of property is one of their primary functions.

Utility rate reductions can be and should be secured, and there is certainly enough capital inflation and perhaps operating waste to justify reasonable readjustment, but it must be proven by a thorough knowledge of facts gathered by experts to stand in the courts. Politics won't do it—neither will newspaper propaganda.

Reforming the Recall

Speaking before the county judges convention, W. S. U'Ren, author of the "Oregon system" of direct primary laws, the initiative, referendum and recall pointed out one of the principal defects and abuses of the latter law, the gathering of recall petitions and placing them in "cold storage" to be utilized to coerce and blackmail public officials under threat of invoking a recall election.

It will be remembered that shortly after Governor Pierce was inaugurated, dissatisfaction with distribution of patronage caused the circulation of recall petitions which although never officially filed, perhaps because of insufficient signatures, were nevertheless used in an attempt to threaten and intimidate the executive. Similar use has been made of a number of recall petitions aimed at Portland city officials, and one is now being so utilized against a circuit judge in southern Oregon. And most of these recalls are secret in sponsorship.

Mr. U'Ren thinks the law should be modified so that no recall petition should be in circulation longer than 60 days, that the petitions should be filed as gathered with the state, county or city treasurer who should also be the treasurer for all political organizations and candidates, and his account be made a public record so that they people may know from day to day who is contributing the funds and to whom and for what service the money is paid.

This would destroy the veil of secrecy that shrouds many of our recalls and initiative bills. Another change that might be advantageously included would be to make the recall inapplicable except in cases of malfeasance in office or other grave abuses.

Philippine Independence

In the current issue of Colliers, Winston Churchill, the British statesman deplors the effort underway to establish independence in the Philippines as a grave error in foreign policy at a time when a militant Japan is attempting to realize its dreams of imperialism. He regards it as certain that an era of chaos would prevail under native rule, which would be taken advantage of by Japan for occupation and annexation, as in Korea and Manchuria.

Mr. Churchill admits that the possession of the Philippines has unquestionably added enormously to the complications and responsibilities of American foreign policy, and to maintain peace, order and progress in the 7000 islands, with their restless and divided population is a task not to be underrated in intricacy and gravity. Our policy has almost severed island trade from all territories except our own, so the islands are dependent upon the United States. Yet he admits that the United States is "utterly incapable" of protecting the islands from deliberate aggression.

Mr. Churchill speaks as a British imperialist. Naturally the withdrawal of America would weaken Great Britain and other European powers in the east. He believes it part of the white man's burden to shoulder the troubles of the orient to develop markets for manufactures, a duty to the race to spread our form of civilization and government. Yet Britain's experience in India does not portray a glowing future.

The Philippines have been a costly burden to the United States and we are beginning to realize that colonies may be expensive luxuries and to turn our efforts towards our duties to our citizens rather than those of alien lands. We lose more than we gain in commerce by the importation duty free of Philippine products and by the invasion of Filipinos in our own industries. Moreover we are pledged to grant independence and should fulfill the long delayed promise.

GRIDIRON FILM OFFERED HERE; MOVIES VARIED

The inclusion of music in the 1933 manner gives added flavor to the unusual drama of the first National picture, "They Call It Sin," which comes to the Warner Bros. Elsinore theater Wednesday and Thursday, with Loretta Young, George Brent and David Manners in the leading roles.

The cast of "They Call It Sin" in addition to the popular team of Loretta Young and George Brent, has in the supporting roles Una Merkel, Helen Vinson, Louis Calhern, Joe Cawthorne, Nella Walker, Elizabeth Patterson and Erville Alderson.

"Divorce in the Family," drama of divorce and its effect upon children of divorced families and wrecked homes, is the attraction coming Wednesday and Thursday to the Warner Bros. Capitol theater, with Jackie Cooper, diminutive hero of "The Champ" and "Skipper" in the center role.

Lewis Stone plays the father and Conrad Nagel the stepfather. Lela Wilson, Jean Parker, Maurice Murphy, Lawrence Grant, Richard Wallace and many other noted players are seen in the production. Interesting locations with a scientist's camp in an Indian settlement, thrills of a boat wreck on a river, and other interesting details are seen in the production.

Football fans who listened to the radio report of the thrilling Notre Dame U. of S. California football game played December 10th at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena now have the opportunity of actually seeing the game played before their eyes. A complete film record of the game which has been made by Warner Bros. is being shown on the screen at the Warner Bros. Elsinore theater Wednesday and Thursday. All who have seen this exciting football film are agreed that it is the closest thing to actually seeing the game ever flashed upon the screen. Every play has been caught—some with slow motion photography. The cheering crowds, all the color of this annual football classic, is reproduced in detail with remarkably clear camera work.

The National Whirligig

News Behind the News

By Paul Mallon

Washington — You can measure how long it will be before the sales tax is enacted, by figuring how long it takes for a change of mind to flower in a Congressional skull.

The leaders privately say three months. That is what they are planning on. They believe the sales tax will be passed in the special session of Congress after March 4.

It may come sooner if a majority should develop in favor of it. The situation inside is that the Democratic leaders favor the tax. They see no other way of balancing the budget. Neither does anyone else in Washington who deals with realities instead of rhetoric. At the same time the leaders know tax is unpopular. They burned their fingers on that issue in the last session of the Congress.

They are going to wait now until the demands for it come up from the ranks. Former opponents of the tax must become convinced that it offers the only way of raising enough revenue to run the government.

The prospects are two to one that they will reach that conclusion before the next fiscal year begins July 1.

Meanwhile the Democrats plan to do their utmost in economics, hoping against hope that the tax may be avoided. The Roosevelt plan for funding the building program in long term bonds is one thing that will be proposed. Beer will be offered for \$300,000,000 revenue. Other items are in the backs of their heads.

All put together they will not be



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PACIFIC GREYHOUND

sufficient to meet the Federal needs in the confidential opinion of those who are working on the figures.

The Herriot ministry has picked a soft spot to fall on. Our best diplomatic channels have confidential information that it is all fixed for the Chamber of Deputies to topple Herriot on the American war debt issue. Herriot will want to pay and the Chamber will refuse.

That means that the French probably will default.

Mr. Hoover and his Secretary of State were very much worried early in the week about the British payment. They could not decide what to do. That was the reason the subject was left out of Mr. Hoover's annual message to Congress.

He was trying then to find some way whereby the British could pay without affecting international exchange. He realized payment would be excruciatingly painful in gold with the pound at \$3.15.

The idea was broached that payment might be arranged in francs or lire. Officials thought they might be able to work out something along that line.

Insiders have already coined a phrase for Gen. Schleicher's policies: "field gray socialism." Future industrial subsidies will be confined to enterprises which are useful to national defense. Schleicher intends to convert these subsidies as well as past ones into shares in these concerns, thereby in many cases making the government majority owner.

Mr. Hoover's \$300,000,000 Veterans' cut got marked down to \$127,000,000 before he announced it in his budget message. He has been trying with the idea since the beginning of the Presidential campaign. He planned to break it in a speech but his political associates privately warned against it.

The Government will be very lucky if Congress authorizes even that much. Underlying sentiment on the Hill is strongly against economizing on veterans' expenditures in these times. The cut will hardly be as much as Mr. Hoover recommended.

Farm Board members hope to keep their jobs by changing their business. Their report fits in significantly with the Roosevelt allotment plan. Also they are getting rid of their heavy timbers. The Treasurer is being shifted off on the Home Loan Mortgage system. A high priced attorney to whom Congress objected is being traded for nothing to the R. F. C.

The Board will have to do more than that to sustain itself. Congressmen are getting ready to cut off the appropriations. Liquidation will be officially turned over to the R. F. C.

The Republican Congressional leaders are kicking off Mr. Hoover. Pow went near the White House at the opening of the session. Usually they come trooping in droves, beaming and full of handshakes. The difference apparently was mutual. Mr. Hoover called in only one Senator — Reed of Pennsylvania — for consultation about his annual message.

There will not be many Congressmen who will care to go out of their way to help Mr. Hoover from here on.

The happiest Lame Duck on the Hill is Republican Floor Leader Watson. He has the season's finest line of amusing stories. His health is better than it was last session. "I've got nothing to worry about now," he says, "except making a living." He really means it.

Publicly given the ideas on branch banking of big business as expressed in recent speeches of Pierre Jay, former Federal Reserve Agent and Thomas Lamont of J. P. Morgan & Co., will boil no eggs. The Glass Bill will be re-written in conformity with the wishes of small bankers all over the country. It is certain that they will get the protection which they demand.

The fact that the Administration would come out for a sales tax was first printed in this column more than two months ago. That is how long the Administration mind has been made up on the subject. There is another reason why a vote on the sales tax may be postponed until next session. House members already are on record against the tax now. The new



REGULARLY—once a month—many a girl decides to do something about it. Surely there must be something to help such pain, such weakness. . . . some way to get relief.

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Lydia E. Pinkham's
VEGETABLE COMPOUND



by SIGRID ARNE

SYNOPSIS: Inga, Toyland's most beautiful doll, is driven out after she has been changed to an ugly old woman by a witch who gives her a magic mirror. Pincocchio, a clown doll, befriended by Inga, helps her build a cabin in the woods. The mirror tells them where to find the witch.

Chapter VI

HUNTING THE WITCH

That magic mirror put new hope in Inga's heart. Pincocchio was so



Inga and Pincocchio met a little squirrel carrying a basket of nuts.

delighted he did a few somersaults outside the little house they built in the woods after Inga had been bewitched.

"Let's eat," he cried happily. So Inga rushed around and found acorns for cups and filled them with dew. She made some nut cake and Pincocchio found some sweet berries hanging on a vine.

They built a warm fire in their fire-place and were just as merry as though nothing had happened. When dinner was over, Inga took out the mirror again and spoke to it.

"Where will I find the witch that put her spell on me?"

"Go East by East,

Where neither man nor beast will spend the night

Unless the moon is bright."

Several times the little mirror changed her direction and as Inga and Pincocchio looked into it they saw a path unwinding in the woods until it climbed a mountain side that was all rocks. The path stopped at the door of a cave where big bats hung upside down, the way they do.

"Why that's the little path that runs right out from our door," said Inga.

"And it looks like a long, long walk," said Pincocchio. "We'll start with the sun in the morning. Wrap up your little mirror and we'll take it along."

The next morning the two dolls were up and ready when the sun sent its first stream of light through the trees to their doorway. Inga wrapped the pretty mirror up and then the two started out.

As they went along, they met a little squirrel walking through the woods with a basket of nuts.

"Where are you off to today?"

Congress will be largely unencumbered. . . . A Republican leader in the Senate who does not like Mr. Hoover had plenty to say under his breath about the international aspects of the annual message. . . . Publicly he said sweetly: "I believe the message adequately covers the problems to be handled at this session of Congress."



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the squirrel asked. "We're going where neither man nor beast will spend the night unless the moon is bright."

"Oh, you foolish dolls," said the squirrel. "One of our bravest squirrels went there once to bring back the basket that is never empty. But he never returned. You had better go home."

"No, we are seeking a witch there, and when we find her we will burn her," said Pincocchio. "Yes, I know the one you mean," said the squirrel. "Every so often she comes down and turns all the nuts bitter. Good luck to you."

And then the squirrel went on and so did the two dolls. What they had heard worried them a little but they would not abandon their search.

Soon they met a little old lady in green who smiled at them brightly.

"I am the fairy of this woods," she said. "Where are you going?"

"To the Cave of the Bats," answered Inga.

"You poor children. That is a hard trip. And the witch will see you coming up her steep path. But I shall give you a disguise. Here are two little coins. When you want to change back just rub the coins."

She waved her wand and the two toys disappeared and in their places stood two beautiful red foxes.

Tomorrow—The Bewitched Pools

BUELL ROBBERS SOUGHT BY POLICE

McMinnville, Dec. 13 (AP)—No trace has been found today of two men who last night escaped after robbing the store and postoffice at Buell, near Sheridan. They took stamps and money from the postoffice, and about \$30 from the store. They are believed to have escaped toward Dallas.

Dallas, Dec. 13—Polk and state police were keeping watch here today for two men reported to have headed this way Monday night after holding up the postoffice and store at Buell, near Sheridan. Around \$30 in cash and an unknown quantity of stamps were taken. Deputy sheriffs were notified and started a search for the men who were believed on foot.

Important Issues Put Up To Voters

Ansel, Neb. (AP)—Ansel voters gave themselves the job of deciding for the town council all important questions. At a special election, the town residents voted that every important matter pertaining to town government should be settled thru initiative and referendum. The townsmen took the action when the city council ordered all trucks off the streets.

Nebraska City, Neb. (AP)—Persons who apply to Otoe county officials for aid this winter either must surrender the keys and license plates to their automobiles or go without relief. The city commissioners ruled that car operators are not fit subjects for aid.

Britain's new registration of voters will cost nearly \$1,400,000.

Forum

Contributions to this column must be confined to 300 words and signed by writer.

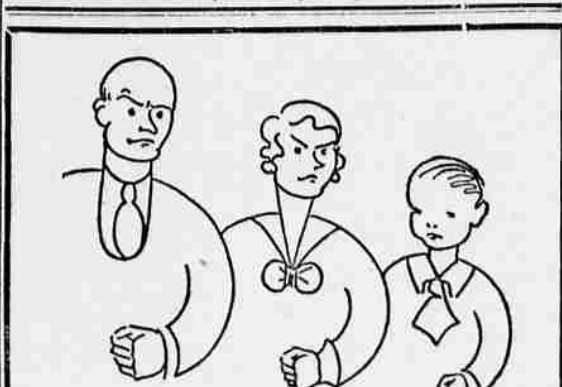
To the Editor:—Whenever new forms of society are developing, the leaders are classed as pioneers. Economic society has been playing a poker game ever since capitalism began. It has culminated in a freeze out; a few have everything and the great majority nothing. Those like the farmers who thought themselves secure, find themselves helpless to control the operation of the economic laws. Those who work for wages find they are no longer needed as the machine has taken their place. For the first time in modern history the two classes are uniting on a common demand that they shall receive the elemental needs of life. That it is their right to life as contained in the Declaration of Independence, that they and their children shall not be compelled to

starve. We see them like the pioneers who crossed the continent facing and overcoming exposure, restraining laws and hostile authorities, on their progress to the National law-making capitol, to compel the lawmakers to realize their needs; that they have created the wealth and it has been taken away from them. That they are determined to live and not starve. That those who have taken the wealth be compelled to provide unemployment insurance for their needs.

That a new form of society be established where those who do productive work shall secure the value of their product. This makes them the pioneers of the next form of society and like all pioneers they have to be the most courageous element of society for they are traveling over hostile territory, but the end they wish to attain justifies the effort and risk. As we have honored the pioneers who subdued the wilderness, so will they be honored and revered in the future.

HERBERT DENNETT
Rickrall, Oregon

London policemen have new auto operating class.



We want something PRACTICAL!

Here's a typical American family expressing themselves quite definitely on the subject of Christmas presents. They don't believe that Christmas 1932 is any time to give useless gifts and neither does Ward's!

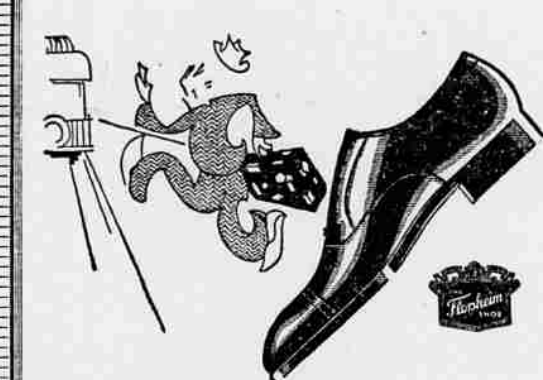
That's why you'll find Ward's ready with a store full of gifts that are PRACTICAL! So bring your shopping list to Ward's where you can select a useful gift for everyone. And of course Christmas shopping at Ward's, like shopping at Ward's any time in the year, means SAVING MONEY!

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