

No. 23

Will It Profit Eugene?

To sum up the principal contentions made in these articles during the past several weeks:

Competition in public utilities in cities is deceptive and defeats the very objects at which it aims; namely, lower rates and better service.

Two electric plants mean the investment of twice the capital NECESSARY and absolutely compels the charging of higher rates—if the competitors are to avoid heavy loss—than would be required were the investment what it should be.

With two "competing" utility plants losing money, each will be in a non-prosperous state and each would neglect physical maintenance and fail to make improvements. As a result the service would be impaired.

"Competition" by the municipal Power Plant against the Oregon Power Company will demand a further heavy increase in the BONDED DEBT of the city, and will result in heavy losses in the operation of the municipal plant, which MUST BE MADE UP BY INCREASED TAXATION.

When the present outstanding WARRANT INDEBTEDNESS is liquidated, and the SINKING FUNDS to redeem bond issues REALLY CREATED, taxes are bound to go up materially, without any assistance from losses by the MUNICIPAL POWER PLANT.

If the municipal power plant should obtain half of our Company's present business at PRESENT RATES, it would not earn enough to pay interest, depreciation and sinking fund charges on the total investment, which will be necessary to offer competition.

The municipal power plant cannot place itself in position to offer commercial service unless it builds a STEAM AUXILIARY STATION and a local commercial distributing system.

It is fair to suppose that the municipal plant can take away little of our present business unless it DOES cut rates substantially.

Whether the PRESENT RATES are cut materially by the city plant or not, certain losses stare it in the face.

The Oregon Power Company can, if it sees fit, cut rates also. Its losses will be borne by a strong organization, which by no means depends upon the

electrical business of Eugene for revenues.

SUCH LOSSES BY OUR COMPANY WILL STAND IN THE WAY OF REDUCTION IN GAS RATES.

The losses of the MUNICIPAL PLANT will fall upon the people, who will pay them in HIGHER TAXES.

ADDITIONAL BOND ISSUES will soon exhaust the credit of the city, and it will be difficult, if not impossible, to sell more bonds for such improvements required by a GROWING city as sewers, extensions and improvement of waterworks, better fire fighting apparatus, new fire station houses, paving, new city hall and other public buildings.

Higher taxes will DRIVE PEOPLE AWAY from Eugene and will cripple the city in performing the proper work of municipal governments such as policing, street cleaning, maintenance of a paid fire department, maintenance of sewer systems and maintenance of adequate health and other departments for the general safety and welfare. IT WILL ALSO PREVENT REDUCTION IN WATER RATES.

A losing municipal electric plant will mean that every property owner will contribute to the POWER BILLS of manufacturers served by the city at a rate lower than cost, and every department store lighted by city service at less than cost.

The small home-owner cannot possibly use enough electricity in a year to make up for the INCREASE IN TAXES.

If the municipality undertakes to drive the Oregon Power Company out of business and out of the city, that fact will become known to business men and investors far and wide.

Will the above program profit Eugene when the Oregon Power Company is managed progressively and liberally in such a manner as to insure good service and the lowest rates consistent with sound and scientific operation?

Will it profit Eugene, in the present or future, when in all probability the state railroad commission will shortly be empowered to REGULATE THE RATES of all utility companies and regulate the quality and character of service as well?

Oregon Power Company

NEW HIGH SCHOOL RECOMMENDED BY STOCKTON

Building Costing \$150,000 to \$200,000 Should be Provided in His Opinion

Following is the annual report of Professor G. C. Stockton, city superintendent of schools, submitted at last night's annual school meeting:

Enrollment.
The enrollment for the year was 1,124 boys and 1,067 girls, or a total of 2,191. This is 15 less than were enrolled last year. The decrease was in the attendance of girls in the grades. We enrolled 43 more boys and 63 less girls than last year. The High school enrollment shows an increase of 26 students.

Enrollment.
The percentage of attendance was fairly satisfactory, being 95 for the year, but when we consider that there has been no serious epidemic of disease during the past nine months and that weather conditions have been favorable we are forced to believe that much of the absence and most of the tardiness of pupils is due to preventable causes. It is to be regretted that parents and guardians do not realize that 75 per cent of the retardation in our schools is due to irregular and tardy attendance. An investigation of conditions in the schools of Eugene a short time ago showed that an average of (37 1/2) thirty-seven and one-half per cent of the pupils then in attendance were more than a year behind their proper place in the schools. The overcoming of this condition is one of the most serious problems we have and we need the help of those sending children to school in order to accomplish it. If the children are in school every day that it is possible for them to be there and if they are in their places on time we shall have taken a long step in the direction of the solution of this perplexing question.

Medical Inspection.
The scope of this work should be very materially extended. There should be, once a year at least, an inspection of every child in the schools for diseases of the teeth, throat, and nose and for defects of the organs of sight and vision. The value of such inspection under proper rules has been proven beyond any possible doubt, and its beneficial results are prompt and sure.

Kindergarten.
There has been a large and growing enrollment.

(Continued on Page Three)

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