

**AN OBJECT LESSON IN
GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP**

Seattle has tried government ownership. Read what Ex-Mayor Ole Hanson has to say about it. He was formerly in favor of it. He isn't now. "Men became candidates for office with no other issue than the fact that they were for municipal ownership. When the time came to take care of the utilities in a business way they were always found on the side of cutting the rate to the man who used the power or light and by camouflage apparently showing a profit. We submitted the purchase of the street car lines to a vote of the people. They were purchased for \$15,000,000. We did everything possible, speeding up the cars almost to the danger point, to make the street car lines pay. The right thing to have done, the thing I wanted to do, was to have the public pay a sufficient increase commensurate with the cost of hauling, especially as we had to reduce the principal and pay the interest. The street car men threatened to strike. I asked them for God's sake to strike so that we could get rid of some of the poor men. Under the civil service we could not discharge them. Well, they did strike. Just as soon as the primaries began to get near, candidates promised to force through extensions when there was no reason for the extension and no way at any rate of fare where the municipal street car line could even carry the interest charge on the extension. The city would only pay the head of that street car line, representing an investment in total of something like \$17,000,000 or \$18,000,000, \$4,500 a year. The result—some private company would step in and take the brains away from us. I can not believe from my experience that the public utility that employs any large number of men or when a large amount of capital is necessary can or will function as a publicly-operated utility as a private corporation which has individual reward at the end of the day. Nor do I believe that the cities of the nation or the government of the nation will ever be willing to pay for brains. I believe that it will take ten to fifteen years to rehabilitate the railroads of this country. The time has come when we have got to come right out and tell the truth to the people and let them understand that the United States government is not a self-perpetuating Christmas tree for the benefit of anyone. If we want to make the American government a kind of pickpocket the way to do it is just to confiscate these great properties throughout the country. I believe that every public man's work in this country is to see that investors get justice and at the same time see that the public gets adequate service rendered at a fair price and compensatory remuneration." Ex-Mayor Hansen speaks from experience. Soft jobs at the expense of the taxpayer, inefficiency, and all the other ills that government ownership is heir to, are absolutely alien to the principles of American progress.

THIS IS TODAY!

It is to laugh! The printer goes into the cigar store, lays down 15 cents for a 5-cent cigar and smiles; he goes to the boot shop and gives up fifteen simoleons for a pair of five-buck kicks and rejoices with the storeman over his prosperity; to the druggist he hands a dollar for a bottle of physic that he formerly bought for 35 cents and makes good by adding 50 cents to the outlay as payment for 25 cents' worth of chocolates to make the physic a necessity; he pays the grocer and the butcher two prices and registers approbation; he gives the banker 8 per cent for 4 per cent money and recognizes that in unnatural times one must expect unnatural charges; he pays the garageman, the picture show man, the drayman, and the railroad their increased rates without a kick, but when any of these intelligent and progressive business men desire a handful of letterheads they are shocked at the continual upward trend in the prices of printing. We might offer these gentlemen a number of valid reasons for higher printing costs in addition to the ones that they already know to be legitimate, but do not think it necessary to go into our business details to them any more than we expect them to do this for us. However, we will say to them, that the day when the country printer owed everyone in the community and was dependent upon their charity for his support—the day when he walked in fear of his banker and approached his grocer in confusion—is with all offices of any consequence a thing of the past. To be a successful newspaper man requires nearly as much talent as it takes to successfully manage a soda fountain and should be worthy as much remuneration as

is expected by the proprietor of a pool palace. In addition to this a successful newspaper man must have sufficient literary ability to correct the copy of men who wish commercial printing so as to make it intelligent in its construction. He must work more hours than any other man in business in the village and he must pay his employees higher wages than any other commercial enterprise in the place and these are but few of the reasons why it costs more to have printing done in these days of advanced costs of everything than it did when shoes were selling for \$3.50, wheat for 60 cents and "Horseshoe" at 45 cents per pound. The fact that we dare write and publish these truths is proof positive that in some offices at least fear and trembling have been superseded by that knowledge of actual value which makes for commercial and intellectual independence.

It is to laugh!
—Clay Center (Neb.) Clay County Sun.

**WHAT A FORD
WORKER CAN DO**

If this Ford man which, we will follow through his day's activities at the Ford factory has been frugal, as many of them have, he will arrive at work in a Ford car. During his morning's work he may be stricken with toothache or headache, whereupon he will visit the Ford doctor or dentist for relief. At noon, he is served with a lunch consisting of sandwiches, fruit, hot coffee or soup, and after that may see a Ford safety film.

Now supposing that this is the man's pay day. After subtracting living expenses, he may deposit the remainder toward a Ford investment certificate. Finished with the day's work, he can go to the shoe store for shoes for himself or son who is in school; or to the grocery store where, among other things, he can buy a sack of flour made from wheat grown on Henry Ford's farm—where Fordson tractors do the work—and ground in Henry Ford's flour mill, and then hauled by Ford trucks to the Ford store where it is sold to Ford men; or he may want to order a custom-made suit, or buy one ready-made which he does in the Ford clothes shop. Maybe, a toothbrush is all he needs, but he gets it at a Ford store. Then he can purchase his meat in the Ford market. Or order his winter's supply of coke from the coke department. Everything is sold at cost to Ford men.

If this Ford man wants to rent a house, he goes to the Ford rental exchange. Legal advice is given him by the Legal Aid Department. But possibly he is a student in the Ford school; in that case he attends class after work. And stops in the Ford library on the way out.

Then he may go to the Ford athletic field for a set of tennis or for baseball practice. Possibly he desires to take his family to the Ford band concert that evening; he procures tickets before driving home in his Ford car.

DESTRUCTIVE LEGISLATION

The so-called Oleomargarine Bill is not a revenue measure in fact, and revenue is not its purpose. Regulation and control of the margarine industry was not its purpose. Its purpose was to kill the margarine industry.

It is a destructive law, and the last word in class legislation. The only difference between laws of this nature and outright prohibition laws, is one of degree. If such a law be in harmony with good governmental policy, our legislative body could just as well levy a similar tax on lard compounds, to protect lard; on beef, to protect pork; on cotton goods, to protect silk and wool; on corn, to protect wheat, and so on, ad infinitum, and throw the country into civil war.

Those directing their efforts to the passage of such legislation, as the Oleomargarine Bill, have for their chief purpose "to kill outright margarine industries, not by clean competitive methods, but to kill it by vicious prohibitory laws, and other tricks of commercial knavery, such as the boycott; false doctrines of economics, and misrepresentation of the facts of ingredients of the product and its food value."

What agencies have developed this industry, thereby extending markets for various products?

Has a dollar ever been spent by any state or federal agency in researches for the perfection of margarines in which fats and oils of our farms and mills are combined for food?

Have any of our colleges carried on such investigations?

Are our bureaus of markets attempting to find a market for these products? Yet peanut oil; cottonseed oil; coconut oil; beef fats and milk which enter into the composi-

tion of margarine, are products of agriculture. Millions of dollars have been spent by the state and federal agencies in researches, looking to the perfection of the manufacture, of storage, transportation and marketing of butter. Yet margarine and butter are both products of our soil and of our factories.

Without the assistance of a single governmental agency, state or federal, a few strong-willed and courageous spirits have spent their own money in researches with uncertain returns, and have succeeded in the production of many forms of wholesome foodstuffs, which are found on the tables of thousands of our people, who are able to buy whatever they want to eat.

The crime of laws of the nature of the referred Oleomargarine Bill, is not so much in the hardships and expenses which they impose on manufacturer and merchant, as in the destruction of a fundamental right of an American citizen to purchase in a free and open market, any necessary consumable commodity of his choice, manufactured in a form suitable to his taste.

Will the time ever come when the people of this state will awaken and beat back the radical spirits, who would kill competitive industries by crafty and subtle legislation, rather than by good old fashioned and honorable method of clean business ability.

Committee in Opposition.

"You can't get an intoxicating drink except with a doctor's prescription," remarked Mrs. Cornstossel. "Yes," replied her husband. "I was josh' thinkin' of writin' to our boy Josh tellin' him to drop law an' study medicine."—Washington Star.

A Los Angeles policeman claims that to hang a hen up in a tree confined in a birdcage after having hatched her brood will start her to laying again. But when eggs are so high anyway, why fiddle away any time with a hen? Get an ostrich.

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