

# The Athena Press

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER  
F. B. BOYD, Owner and Publisher

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Athens, Oregon, February 3, 1928

## PUBLIC POWER POLICY

When they realize that electric power ranks with the nation's railway systems in point of industrial worth and importance, the people of the Northwest will wake up and knock the plans for a huge power monopoly "into a cocked hat." But they will have to do the rising up pretty soon else the electric utilities will have beaten them to it, and the state-owned power sites will have been gobbled up. This newspaper realizes that the homes and industry of every kind in the Northwest vitally need the unharnessed power now going to waste within her boundaries to supply them with heat, light and power. Electric utilities are supporting a huge lobby at Washington to secure legislation favorable to their cause, and maintain bureaus that send out weekly propaganda for newspaper publication. This propaganda favors state control of power sites through administration of the public service commission, and is poisonously opposed to federal regulation of any degree whatsoever. Opposition to government ownership is reasonable opposition, but opposition to federal control is quite another matter. The importance of electric service to the people and its distribution at equitable rates, is of such magnitude that in face of the tremendous effort that capital is making to acquire sites and control of electric power service, leads to the belief that a federal commission, organized on the lines of the Interstate Commerce Commission will regulate the new commercial giant. By the way it was the Interstate Commerce Commission, delving into the affairs of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad that exposed an instance of high finance in the electric power game. The commission found that John D. Ryan, a high-up in control of the country's electric utilities, purchased from the railroad company its power sites at Thompson Falls and Missoula, Montana, for approximately \$925,000, and turned it over to the "Montana Power Company" for \$5,000,000 nominal par value in stock of the company. The Ryan family holds large blocks of stock in this company, and since 1913 (four years prior to the Milwaukee deal) they have drawn down over \$1,600,000 in dividends. Evidently Ryan knew what he could do with the Milwaukee power sites before he bargained for them, and believe us, those who are after other sites right now know what to do with them.

Railway companies serve notice on the country that if Congress listens to the appeal of those who travel in pullman, buffet and observation cars, and repeals the so-called "Pullman surcharge," the railroad companies will be deprived of \$40,000,000 of their earnings, and would have to make up the loss by increasing freight rates. Well that's easy. Just what difference will it make to the railroads whether they scrape the \$40,000,000 off the cushions or pan it from the sweepings of their freight cars? In the end it's the John Brown Smith Company who pays the freight.

Statistics do not give the number of milk wagon drivers at Seattle, but the fact that \$13,000 and the vice-president of the Milk Driver's union up there have disappeared, discloses the beverage Seattleites prefer since the country went dry.

A rumored soviet military revolt is countered with the statement from Moscow to the effect that present activity among the red soldiery is confined to cracking sunflower seeds and flirting with "giggling lassies."

We read so much and hear so much of the Crane American, that we would really like to see a copy of the ol' sandhill buzzard. The guy who runs it evidently is on speaking terms with his garlie.

Once in a while Dad Hoffer, down Salem way, gives out something sensible and fairly accurate. Listen: "Thrift should not be confused with miserliness!"

Chicago gangsters are keeping Mayor Thompson so busy that King George is enabled to take a long needed rest.

Having nothing to do and doing nothing but that, isn't conducive to pushing a fellow anywhere.

With the snow fadeout, the sled is in the basement; next it will be fish-in' and marbles.

## THE ART OF APPRECIATION (National Republic)

In this age of criticism one of the lost arts is that of appreciation. The values of things are lost sight of in the contemplation of their defects. A school of historians has arisen which can see nothing in the portraits of Washington but the wart on his face. Critics of government, of the churches, of the schools, of every human institution exaggerate their weakness and overlook entirely their merits. There is as much to condemn in the doctrine: "Everything that is, is wrong," as in the theory that "Everything that is, is right."

Criticism is, of course essential to progress. But it can be and is being, sadly overdone. Appreciation of any existing social value is quite as important to its maintenance and development, as flaw-picking. No individual can be stimulated to achievement by constant criticism. Nor can the good in any institution be increased by contemplation only of the incidental evil that may be in it. Much of the sneering criticism of the time is, indeed, not intended to effect improvement. It is often inspired by the desire for destruction rather than for betterment.

What applies to institutions applies also to individuals. We take their merits for granted, and are inclined only to look for and point out their shortcomings. The value of encouragement is often overlooked. In this field we need to cultivate the art of appreciation.

How many people think to add to the fee of the physician who has saved a life the word of appreciation which may be of even greater value? How many people take the time to commend the preacher who has delivered a good sermon, the teacher who has helped some student over the rough places, the lawyer who has straightened out some difficulty without unnecessary trouble or expense, the philanthropist who has given a fortune to some good cause, the editor who has said some wise and helpful thing in his newspaper, the workman who has done an especially good job? And what it would mean if such evidences of appreciation, felt but unexpressed, were given—what it would mean not only in stimulation to further well-doing in those who render such service, but in its reaction upon the character of those who thus make their feelings known?

Failure to do these things is in most instances due not so much to lack of appreciation as to the habit of taking the good in men and women for granted. Yet, when there is so much of evil, why should good be taken for granted?

Perhaps we spend too much time in fighting the evil and too little in promoting the good. Perhaps we place too much dependence on the restraints we put on wrong, and too little on the stimulus we extend to the right. There is good in almost every individual which responds to encouragement, and which may vanish for the lack of it.

Perfection is not of this world, and those who look about for the evil in it are sure to get an eye-full. Even the greatest men have their weaknesses, their short comings, their limitations. When we assume perfection in others, or in institutions which reflect the weaknesses of human nature, we assume that for which we can find no confirmation within ourselves upon close examination. It is not enough to condemn the mistakes and evil tendencies of our fellows; we must look for the good there is to be found in them and make some effort to bring it out if we are to help others along the way.

Tolerance can be broadened to the point where it becomes condoning of evil. But we may condemn ideas of an anti-social character without bitterness toward those who honestly entertain them. "I do not hate my friend because he has the rheumatism," the late Vice President Fairbanks used to say, "I hate the

rheumatism because it has my friend."

Every day the newspapers record the unusual—stories of lust, of cupidity, of violence—and we are apt to acquire the delusion that this is American life. But for every crime there go unnoticed thousands of acts of self-sacrifice, of courage, of wisdom; unnoticed not only by the press, but by those beneath whose notice these deeds immediately fall. Only an infinite small part of the total evidence of human goodness or greatness is to be discovered in those who fill the public eye. In obscurity millions of unknown men and women are doing their duty patiently and bravely, usually without hearing from those around them that word of praise which in itself would be sufficient recompense. Such people hold the world together. A survey of any community would reveal many of them.

A little of the thought and energy we expend in praising ourselves by condemning others, applied to seeking out and commending and helping those who are loyal to their obligations to society and to those committed to their care, as officials, as professional men, business men and wage-earners, as fathers and mothers, would make the world a more cheerful and a better place. And the individual who cultivates the art of appreciation, and of its proper expression, will find that the effect of such an attitude upon himself will be to promote his own happiness and his own growth.

## ABOLISH PAROLE (Klamath News)

The proposal of a law enforcement body in convention at Portland recently to abolish the state parole board on the grounds that the board is inclined to grant paroles without sufficient investigation is well met and should accomplish its end. However little we may know of the exact investigation given crimes and their perpetrators by the board, we do feel qualified to state that the parole is flagrantly abused. Its abuse has been too often apparent in Oregon, and is much in evidence today throughout the nation.

Judging from a history of a recent case in this state, of another now pending in California, and still others in the nation at large, the proposal for abolition of the parole board might better serve humanity if it sought instead to abolish parole entirely. That parole is often justified cannot be denied, but more often criminals who should have been hanged at the outset are given liberty after a few years' imprisonment and thus are free to prey again. It is the power of parole, whether it be vested in a board or one official who is directly responsible for the act, which often goes to make life imprisonment a farce and a fraud.

## IN FOURTEEN DAYS

(Oregon Journal)  
February 14, in Portland, Levis, a logger, set aside all laws, all constitutions, set aside the inalienable right of Alma Mathews, 24, Portland waitress, to "life" liberty and pursuit of happiness.

February 27, exactly 14 days later Portland court sentenced Levis to life imprisonment in the Oregon penitentiary.

That was application of the law, without sham or humbug. There were no lawyer's tricks to confuse, no futile fuming to frustrate or postpone the penalty for known guilt.

A valued correspondent wrote The Journal, saying, "I am greatly interested in your motives manifest in the editorial headed 'Make the Law an Ass?' And he added, 'Are you trying to create a sentiment that will lead to the lynching of Levis or some other murderer?'"

The editorial challenged by the correspondent referred in a few words to the Levis murder and asked these questions: "What are the constituted authorities going to do about it? When will they do it?"

The Journal's "motives" in asking the questions were a hope that speedy justice would be meted out to Levis for his crime.

That is what the courts and the district attorney have done, and they are to be commended for it.

And they deserve public condemnation when they do not do it.

## "Keeping Tally"

Now and then one still hears the phrase, "Keeping tally," but it is doubtful if many of its users know its original meaning. The tally dates back to the time when only "scholars" could read and write. The tally was a notched stick, generally of seasoned willow or hazel, notched at the edge to represent the amount of the debt, the amounts being indicated by the size and number of the notches. The notch account being made out and agreed upon, the tally was split, one piece given to the creditor as an acknowledgment that the money was due, and the other piece retained by the debtor as a record of the exact amount he had to pay.



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## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Umatilla County. In the matter of the Estate of Martha J. Shick, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed executor of the last will and testament of Martha J. Shick, deceased, by an order of the above entitled Court. All persons having claims against the said estate are hereby notified to present the same to me at Athens, Oregon, or to my attorneys, Watts & Prestbye, at their office in Athens, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice. All claims must be verified as by law required.

Dated at Athens, Oregon, this 13th day of January, 1928.  
ARTHUR E. SHICK,  
Executor of the Last Will and Testament of Martha J. Shick, Deceased.  
Watts & Prestbye Attorneys for Estate, Athens, Oregon. J13F10

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