

An Announcement

To the Friends and Patrons of
Moro Theatre

I am more than pleased to announce that I have secured Harold Bell Wright's world famous novel, "The World's Best Seller," of which 2,500,000 copies have been printed and sold in book form besides having been read by at least 10,000,000 people as a newspaper serial.

United Artists, producers of this wonderful story on the screen, paid also the record price ever paid for a story to be used as a motion picture. United Artists paid \$125,000 for the motion picture rights; then spent eighteen months in the making of the picture, which cost them almost \$2,000,000 to picture it for the screen.

This mammoth picture is in ten reels, every foot of which is necessary in bringing out all the details of this world famous story.

Other big productions coming for your special entertainment are "Partners Again" with Potash & Perlmutter; Rudolph Valentino in "The Son of a Sheik"; "Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall"; "The Bat"; "The Three Musketeers"; "The Cat and the Canary"; "Back to God's Country," by James Oliver Curwood, and many others too numerous to mention.

From E. Von Isacescu, of Vienna, is said to be the first woman who attempted to swim the English Channel. She made her first attempt in 1890.

Farmers Are Misled

Idaho Settlers Disappointed By
Electric Rates

Farmers in the irrigated territory adjacent to the government power stations at Minidoka, Idaho, have been grievously disappointed in the prices they are compelled to pay for electricity, according to a report just made public by Professor M. R. Lewis, head of the department of agricultural engineering of the University of Idaho.

Minidoka is a U. S. government irrigation project generating electricity as a side line. Farmers were promised current at 2c a k. w. h. from this project, but find that they are compelled to pay about 15c per k. w. h.

Some of this high price is due to the fact that the average consumption per farmer consumer is less than 30 k. w. h. per month. The rate would go down if the use were higher but in all events there is no prospect of even approaching the 2c rate.

According to Professor Lewis, the cost of the current at the power station after it had been stepped up for transmission for higher voltage, is 3.84 cents per k. w. h., operation of the lines and maintenance is 2.64 cents, depreciation of distribution lines 2.78 cents, depreciation of transformers, meters and services, 1.35 cents, interest on investment in lines, 4.39 cents.

The cost of distributing and marketing the current is therefore three times as high as the cost of producing it.

Norris Bursts Bubble

Muscle Shoals Has No Value
As a Producer

Farmers have been told for the last ten years that Government operation of the Muscle Shoals hydro-electric plants means overnight rehabilitation and enrichment of depreciated soils at little or no cost—the government owned electric plants to supply unlimited quantities of fertilizer. This fanciful story was probably inspired by local land booming interests about Muscle Shoals which desired the taxpayers of the United States to assist in booming their lands by supplying them with electricity at rates far below costs of production.

Now comes United States Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska, high priest of government ownership and operation of electric utilities for light and power, to bear witness that Muscle Shoals does not possess any value as a source of producing fertilizer.

In a signed article in The New South Magazine, Senator Norris says: "In connection with Muscle Shoals there remains for discussion—the question of fertilizer. At the time the law was passed providing for construction of Muscle Shoals, it was believed by everybody that by the use of cheap power we would be able to extract nitrogen from the air at a price that would materially reduce the cost of fertilizer to the farmer."

"Originally, nitrogen was extracted from the atmosphere by what was known as the arc process. It required a great deal of cheap power. Later the cyanamid method was discovered, requiring less power. That was about the condition of the knowledge possessed in America at the time of the breaking out of the World War."

"It was known that the Germans had invented an improvement over the cyanamid process, known as the Haber process, but the details were not understood by the American scientists at the time of the construction of the plant at Muscle Shoals. The cyanamid process was well understood. Its possibilities were definitely known, so the government provided for a large plant at Muscle Shoals, known as Nitrate Plant No. 2, capable of extracting 40,000 tons of nitrogen from the atmosphere in a year."

"When the war ended scientists learned what the Germans knew and which they had greatly improved during the war, and it was then possible to construct a plant along more modern lines. From that day to this, scientific men have improved the Haber process. In every improvement made, less and less power was used until at the present time it is definitely known that in the construction of up-to-date plants to extract nitrogen from the air, water power will not be used. Instead of locating a nitrate plant in the vicinity of water power, any one designing such a plant today would locate it with a view of getting cheap coal instead of cheap power."

"With this knowledge no efficient government or private corporation would think of using water power for the purpose of extracting nitrogen from the air. In every case coal is used because it is more profitable to utilize the by-product of coal than it is to use water power for the comparatively small amount of power that is necessary."

"Private parties in our own country, using nitrogen for commercial purposes, have, since the war, constructed a number of comparatively large plants for the extraction of nitrogen from the atmosphere, and in no case are they using water power."

They Blame the People

Governmental economy is a surmounting issue in the state politics—state debts having increased \$78,713,000 in 1926 over debts of 1925. Taxpayers and homeseekers are learning to shun states that do not keep within their budget and heap up new debts. About \$8,000,000,000 is now flowing annually through the state and municipal government, and officials exist who still expand functions and swell the outgo.

One of the most accurate and painstaking newspapers has found only 14 states living within their budget requirements, and sums up the situation thus: "While extravagance is but a single factor in the skyward flight of state taxes, substantial savings can be effected through prudent expenditure and the careful guarding of the taxpayer's dollar. The continued prosperity of the country should not be used as a vehicle for governmental excesses, but rather as an opportunity to economize to lower taxes."

The politicians glibly blame the people for voting higher taxes and larger appropriations. Let us show them we are not guilty.

New products of Oregon are continually finding a market in foreign countries. For example, October shipments to Europe included two carloads of honey, representing a weight of 82,000 pounds and a value of \$7,225. One carload of the honey came from apiaries in eastern Oregon and the other from Idaho. Additional shipments may soon follow as a large amount of honey is produced in these states.

Contrary to popular belief traffic on the Mississippi River has doubled in volume in the past forty years.

Where Are It's Friends

It seems very peculiar to the editor of the Sherman County Observer, as well as some other friends of Sherman county, that no one in authority seems to give the Sherman highway the attention it deserves. Authentic word has come to this office that the state highway commission intends next year to oil surface the Wasco highway from Dufur to Cow Canyon, but that all the oil surfacing that will be done on the Sherman highway is from Grass Valley to the south county line.

The stretch of twenty miles between the south county line of Sherman county and Cow Canyon will be left as it is, with some slight maintenance.

When it is known by all officials and the public as well, that the Sherman highway carries all the stage traffic and heavy truck traffic between Bend and The Dalles—even if the route is 20 miles longer—the highway through Sherman county should receive first attention.

The probable reason for this obvious neglect is the attitude of certain interests that want the roads of Sherman county to revert to the old dirt type. In answer to this, we can only state that the roads are built, the people use them, the public want them, and they should not be permitted to go into the discard.

Telephone Contributes To Health and Happiness

The telephone, through research and experience, has become the father of an illustrious family of communication instruments including the Vitaphone, which furnishes a voice to motion pictures; an audiometer to test hearing; an electrical stethoscope which amplifies the faintest heart sounds; a public address system which carries a speaker's voice to tens of thousands; and the microphone—the heart of the radio.

Many of these devices are used in some form by the telephone industry in transmitting human speech; others have found a big useful field in other industries. A force of 3,800 people, composed of scientists, engineers, chemists and research workers, are seeking better, cheaper and faster improvements in telephony.

This service is part of the contribution to the general welfare and happiness of the public which a privately owned and operated utility makes, and is in vivid contrast to the nonprogressive attitude of government owned and operated telephone systems in Europe where the service is so wretched.

A Groundless Idiosyncrasy

Herbert Hoover proposes a question very pertinent to the time, when he says: "I often wonder why it is that insurance must be secured by solicitation."

It is a peculiar fact that, with the exception of fire insurance, practically everyone has to be "sold" by the ability and tenacity of the agent, rather than by their own wish to purchase an indispensable commodity.

Yet the hazards of death, accident, liability, and the rest are every bit as imminent as the chance of fire, perhaps more so. This idiosyncrasy of entire races of people, to "dodge" the insurance seller, is groundless and foolish. It has gone to the extent where insurance selling is the basis for numberless jokes. But the humor quickly reacts on the joker when he dies leaving a penniless family, or is injured, or has his business wiped out by court judgment.

Persons will eventually realize that they should give every assistance toward furthering anything so entirely for their own safety and benefit. And when that comes to pass, more people will come to the insurance dealer's office, instead of trying to avoid him in their.

Gives Credit Where Due

The recent conferring of degrees by a middle western university upon a number of farmers whose work had been of aid in the progress of agriculture, is a salient example of American democracy. It but shows again that this is the one great country in the world where a man is rewarded and judged entirely upon his work, and not by social and economic standards beyond his control. These men being given this honor was but little commented upon for the reason that it is nothing unusual; the people realize it is natural that anyone who distinguishes himself in any way will get credit for it. In Europe, on the contrary, should anything like this happen, it would be so unprecedented as to be a sensation. That is one of the reasons for the immense difference in progressiveness between the two continents.

There can be no danger of radicalism or any other "ism" where democracy prevails. It is impossible to make a malcontent of a person who knows there is nothing that will oppose him should he have sufficient ability to become a great business man, statesman or anything else. Perfectly contented people won't trouble themselves to follow highly dubious theories of "what might be done."

OBSERVER WANT ADS

RHODE ISLAND RED pullets for sale. Mrs. Chas. Bullard, phone 2174, Moro.
FOR SALE—Two young pure bred boars; will trade for hogs to kill. Tom Fraser, phone 2312, Moro. 21-118.

WANTED—1 1/2 dozen Leghorn Pullets. Mrs. Susie Hastings, Moro, Oregon.
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TURKEYS FOR SALE—Seven mammoth Bronze Toms; fine birds for breeding; at \$7.50 each; raised by A. Pierson, owner, at Trout Lake, Wash. Call or phone A. Pierson, care L. H. Martin farm, Moro.

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Responsible Control

A pertinent commentary on state owned and operated business comes from the Panama Canal Zone, where the government finds it necessary to dye all its gasoline green to prevent its theft by officials and hangers-on. The one unanswerable arraignment of the state in business is the lack of interested, responsible control. Some officers are honest; but the tendency is to be more interested in short hours or politics than in the job. With so little responsible supervision, political turnover every few years, and political loyalty the real test for compatibility, service is too frequently submerg.

The face value today of the thirty pieces of silver mentioned in the Bible is about \$22.50.

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