

Access To Public Ear

Corporations Are Obligated to Protect Investors

Discussing the investigation conducted by the Federal Trade Commission under the Walsh resolution, the Baltimore Sun points out that in justice to their stockholders, the electric light and power utilities are engaged in an information program that "is not only unobjectionable, but desirable." The newspaper says: "Neither the Federal Trade Commission nor Congress will undertake to prevent utilities from presenting to the public facts about their business, or even propaganda desired to win public favor or to offset attacks. Efforts to do so would be unwise in such an aim could be achieved. Billions of dollars are invested in these enterprises. Corporations engaged in them are subject not merely alone to honest criticism; they suffer repeated political drives and assaults which are calculated seriously to damage them. Not long since their answer to such attacks was to suborn legislative bodies. Many utilities now try honestly to protect themselves by giving to the public intelligent information concerning their business. This is not only unobjectionable, but desirable.

"In this connection it is interesting to note that, while the Federal Trade Commission's investigation is in progress, the National Board of Fire Underwriters, of which Charles E. Hughes is general counsel, has a report providing for a test publicity campaign "to create better understanding of the business." This serves to show that corporations under any kind of public regulation are convinced that they must have access to the public ear. The point is worth emphasizing in view of the present discussion of the utilities' publicity methods."

Grass Valley Harvest Ball

Arrangements are being made for a big time at Grass Valley's annual Harvest Ball Saturday, July 28th, which will no doubt be the biggest dance of the season, except the 4th of July dance which was the record crowd of 324 couples, but the same good time spirit which prevailed at that time will be in evidence. Regardless of hot weather, rain or shine, the big pavilion will be in the best of order and everything done to show you a good time.

A midnite lunch will be served in the park, picnic style, with red lemonade n' everything. "Eck's Gang" of The Daffies will furnish the same red-hot music that has made them so popular in the past. So wherever you live, country or town, crank up lively and come on down.

Science has done about everything possible for the indifferent young housekeeper except to put slipper openers on the tops of tin cans.

A bank in the South has devised a novel and original scheme for thwarting the impatient bank teller. It converted most of its assets into phonies.

Among the women who feel sure about the whereabouts of the husband, are the wives who read that the jury has been locked up for the night.

Horse Caught In Fish Net

Catching a live horse in a fish net is an unusual occurrence in the Columbia river fishing industry, and forms the theme for a brand new and wholly true fish story told by Jesse H. Miles and his son, Astoria gill net fishermen.

They laid out their net miles from shore in the Columbia river one night recently and lay down in their boat to sleep. Hearing a peculiar noise in the darkness from the direction in which the net stretched out, rowed the boat along the line of the net floats and suddenly came upon a horse struggling in the net.

Alarmed at the approach of the boat, the horse tore out of the net and swam away. The boat followed until the horse became exhausted, when it turned voluntarily and swam to the boat. A rope about the horse kept it afloat until the men could make shore. Investigation revealed that the horse had escaped from its stall and had plunged into the river on a floating scow stable.

County Is Represented

Sherman county had 50 students among the 3818 total long-term students last year at the Oregon State Agricultural college, according to a detailed report of the year's registration just issued by E. B. Lemon, registrar. Total enrollment for the year including summer session and other specially classified students reached a high mark of 5311 as compared with 5087 the year previous.

This county also has 4 regular students in the 1928 summer session which has enrolled 707 regular students and a total of 1385 including the junior summer session. For the year 1927-28 students were enrolled from five foreign countries—Canada, China, India, Korea and Russia; three territories—Alaska, Hawaii and the Philippines; the District of Columbia, 25 states beside every county in Oregon.

A "trap hanger" is always viewing with grave concern.

An airplane's life is measured by miles instead of years.

The short skirt is substituting for the overshoe the overstocking.

One dark horse is worth a dozen stalking horses.

The eventual bride of the prince of Wales will interest no wider public than Linda's.

Scientists who are searching for lost civilizations should visit some of our traffic centers.

Parley Story: "The man with a toothache rubbed up the dentist's state 'chick' at a time."

Science of only about what is there that both a 'chick' of 'chick' cakes on a 'cold morning'."

The Pennsylvania woman who had had two sets of triplets is now the meaning of the eternal triangle.

Still, we don't know anything that would ruin some men much faster than an answer to their prayers.

A college chaper as a war memorial would be still more appropriate where the attendance is drafted.

Abuse Is Venerable

But Denial Is Made That It Is Respectable

The following editorial from the National Editorial Association Bulletin says that a good time for the government to get out of the commercial printing business is right now:

"George R. Harrison, Master, California State Grange, protests against the passage of the bill to eliminate government competition in envelope printing on the grounds that it will immediately complicate issues of greater moment and importance at this crucial period. Mr. Harrison contends that the abuse which the bill would seek to abolish is of long standing and has become more or less venerable and respectable with age and is concerned with but a small amount of finance.

"The abuse has certainly become venerable, but age has not made it respectable. And we must confess our inability to see how abolishing this too long delayed remedial legislation would clear the way for farm relief or other reforms.

"Entirely too long has the government engaged in direct competition with the printing industry. If the people are to remain politically free, their only hope in that direction is for them to keep their own business in their own hands," said President Coolidge in his recent address before the thirty-seventh continental congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution. He expressed a belief that putting the government in the field of business leads inevitably to a position of entrenched selfishness, with an ever present danger of corruption and scandal. Right now is a good time to take the government out of the commercial printing business."

Many Pairs of Shoes

Starting at the foot, a recent newspaper article defines one of the characteristics of a "gentleman" as the possession of nineteen pairs of shoes and boots and two pairs of slippers, says the Christian Science Monitor. To many a reader, however, the gentleman's nineteen pairs of shoes and boots—almost anybody can have two pairs of slippers—will seem, on second thought, an embarrassment of riches. His shoe wardrobe presupposes a shoe master, shrewd to select the shoes suitable to what some of the radio announcers would call his employer's "program." In this forest of trees (as the artificial feet are oddly called that wear these shoes and boots when not in use) the owner himself might easily get lost, and wish himself father with his single pair of cowhides. There are no doubt some such gentlemen, who, having achieved the shoe wardrobe, cannot quite finance a valet. Happily the writer of the article assures us that the average man, if he counted his shoes, would be surprised to find that he has more pairs than he thought—which leads further to the comforting conclusion that the astonished investigator may be more of a gentleman than he had imagined.

A company has been formed to market Mauna Loa lava in American drug stores. Backers of the project say it's great stuff for eruptions.

Many pioneers were included among the 178 ex-residents of Polk county who gathered at their annual picnic in Laurelhurst park in Portland to talk over old times.

Miss Florence E. Miller, daughter of E. C. Miller of Salem, accepted the position as pastor's assistant and church secretary of the First Methodist church of Portland.

Organization of the Linn County Good Roads association, designed to combat legislation inimical to highway development in Oregon, was started at a meeting in Albany.

Creek county potato growers have approximately 800 acres in potatoes this year, a 50 per cent increase over last year, with prospects for the best crop ever grown in the county.

Sheriff Hurlburt states that it costs Multnomah county more to collect the personal tax on small businesses enterprises than the tax collected totals. The present law is not workable in the county, he said.

Income tax collections in Oregon during the fiscal year 1928, which closed June 30, were approximately \$30,000 less than those of the fiscal year 1927, according to figures of the internal revenue bureau.

A percentage of the sales of 1927 is given as the average total cost of doing business in "general" merchandise stores of Oregon, according to a bulletin just issued by the Oregon Agricultural College extension service.

The state board of control expects to add a 1000 covering approximately 20,000 feet of floor space in the Oregon building in Portland. Twenty acres of the 28 state ranches now located in Portland will be housed in the Oregon building. The activities are now widely scattered.

The lives of approximately 10,000 predatory animals in Oregon were snuffed out during the fiscal year ending June 30 by workers of the United States biological survey and cooperation agencies, according to the annual report of Stanley J. Zentgraf, in charge for the government.

The 30th state encampment of the Spanish American War veterans opened in McMinnville with attendance estimated at 750. Commander-in-Chief John J. Gerrity of Chicago, was the first national commander to visit an Oregon encampment. W. I. Yntos of McMinnville greeted the veterans for the city.

Just Supposing

(Weston Leader)

Public utilities in Oregon pay approximately fifteen percent of the total tax, according to Earl Fisher, state tax commissioner. He points out that with utility properties valued at \$300,000,000 as of December 31, 1927, taxes on utilities in this state have increased two million dollars in four years. One wonders what would happen if public ownership were carried to its logical conclusion and all these utilities were publicly owned and paid no taxes. Would not the owners of real property have to fifteen percent to pay in addition to their present burden? And would not a political machine be built up with power far greater than that now credited to the utilities?

Beauty and Brains

Dr. Frederick H. Lobot of Boston, chief justice of the Boston juvenile court, says that most good-looking people are feeble-minded, comments the Terre Haute Tribune. Judge Cabot is noted as an expert in sociology and jurisprudence. The Boston Juvenile court is a leader in methods of combating juvenile crime, and many of its methods are worked out by Judge Cabot. It is the practice in the court to have a mental and physical examination of all juvenile defendants. "We do this," says Judge Cabot, "to get the facts in any given case, not that we believe people commit crimes because they are feeble-minded. On the contrary, feeble-minded people are likely to be much more steady and reliable than their brilliant brethren. They do not have volatile minds and are not shoved aside usually, as a result of which they usually are found to be holding down steady jobs. Not only that, but they are pleasant-looking, because their less ruffled existence does not leave as many exterior traces. I do not know of a better test. Any really nice-looking person probably is feeble-minded." What consolation for the ordinary run of honest humanity! But there still is balm for the steadiest and persistency which is likely to accompany lack of brilliance is a valuable possession in the business world.

Movie Notes

"SPRING FEVER" "Head down—eyes on the ball—soak it!" This is the daily drill which William Haines went through for his part as the hero in "Spring Fever," the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production coming to the Moro Theater next Saturday, July 21st.

William learned to play golf—and incidentally became somewhat of a fan on the subject at the same time. He is a golf expert in his first role as a full-fledged star in "Spring Fever," which was directed by Edward Sedgwick from a scenario based on Vincent Lawrence's famous stage play.

When Haines started his golf practice he didn't know a thing about the game—in fact, he scorned it; called it "cow-pasture pool" and asserted that it was a game for old men. But now he blushes when he digs a divot, mutters angrily when he misses a drive, and displays all the symptoms of a dyed-in-the-wool golf "nut."

"There's more to the game than people realize," he defensively asserts. "Also, I can beat Christy Cabanne right now, and after I have practiced for a while I hope to beat Harry Rapf—but so far he's had more experience than I have."

The new story portrays Haines as a young shipping clerk whose golf knowledge enables him to improve the stroke of his employer—which proves the "open sesame" to a fashionable golf club with a train of hilarious circumstances resulting. A notable cast supports the new star in his role.

Haines was elevated to full stardom following his successful work in his last three productions, "Brown of Harvard," "Tell It to the Marines," and "Slide, Kelly, Slide."

Joan Crawford plays the feminine lead in this film. The cast includes George Fawcett, Aileen Percy, George Arthur and others of note.

Protects Small Investor

Ownership in Group of Plants Is Much Safer

If one owns a light and power plant in a single community, his investment and his earning power are subject to the risk of that community. Floods may come and wipe it out; cyclones may hurl it down; crops may fail; business depressions may be there acute. The capital invested in that plant if owned by a single man, is subject to those contingencies. But if the men combine their investments in a large number of plants, widely diversified geographically, the floods will never come to all at once; the cyclones will never hit all at once; the failure of crops will never come to all at once; a depression in business is unlikely to come to all at once, if the diversity is widely made. Therefore, a given investment in a group of plants is much safer than an investment in a single plant of similar amount. Not only is the principal safe, but the continuity of return is better insured. —Owen D. Young.

More than 300 delegates attended the Baptist state convention in Eugene.

Sam A. Koser, secretary of state, notified Governor Patterson that he would accept the appointment as director of the state budget, effective September 1. He will resign as secretary of state at that time and take up the work of shaping the next biennial budget preparatory to the 1929 legislative session.

The wild blackberry crop in the Applegate river out from Jacksonville will be the largest this year in the history of the industry. The berry is not the real Oregon wild berry, but the evergreen blackberry imported from Japan to Oregon many years ago, which has spread and become wild and extends for more than 90 miles along the streams in the Applegate valley. Old abandoned hill ranches under mining and irrigation ditches overgrown with the vines have become valuable from a royalty of 15 cents per gallon paid by people who come from all over the country to pick for household purposes and sell to the canneries.

Show clearing and outfitting of state highways must be reduced, declared the highway commission at a meeting in Portland. The financial situation has been so jeopardized by the filing of the Dunn initiative measure, which will be voted on in November, that the road officials are curtailing wherever possible. Even requests for surveys had to be refused, for the commission has laid off the surveying parties, just as it has also laid off some of the minor officials of the organization. The commission is in a quandary over the situation, for not until the people have acted in November will they know what the revenues are likely to be for the coming year.

The Portland city council has started on its way to the November ballot a telephone franchise providing for a 15 per cent cut in rates and for many other radical changes in the relations between the company and the people. Edwin Van De Walker, state traffic officer, was taken to a hospital Sunday with injuries suffered when a motorcycle he was riding skidded and left the Pacific highway five miles north of Salem. Van De Walker was unconscious when found by a passing motorist.

Japan has never been looked upon as the home of millionaires, but the 1927 tax returns show that there are men in that country who come under that classification. The richest man in Japan, it is reported, is Baron Hisaya Iwasaki, who had an annual income amounting to \$2,154,000 in gold and who pays a tax of \$405,000. Baron Okura, who comes tenth on the list, receives in \$517,000 income and makes no protest against paying a \$119,000 tax. In Tokyo and Yokohama alone there are 753 persons who report personal incomes exceeding \$25,000.

A beggar held in the night court of New York was bailed out by his wife, who drove up in a limousine, attended by a chauffeur. It was then discovered that he and his wife were living in a suite of rooms in an uptown hotel. That would make a beggar of almost anyone.

In Egypt they have exhumed the tomb of King Zepher, who flourished about 4000 B. C. The public will be glad that Zepher wasn't a queen—we are getting so tired of stories about how they used lipsticks and compacts before the flood.

"Now," says a London dispatch, "a phonograph can read aloud to you a full-length novel, if you wish. Or it can give you an entire congressional debate." The first sentence is interesting: why spoil it by adding the second?

It isn't in any of the records that a great masterpiece was ever created in the presence of the genial caller who punked himself down beside the writer's desk and remarked, "Don't let me interrupt you—go right on with your work."

Mussolini's latest attack forbids officers of the army and navy from dancing exotic tads. Nothing is said about dancing to Mussolini's every whim.

A great many of the sugged sons of pioneer fathers drive downtown in the morning with one window of their sedan turned nearly halfway down.

The rumble seat, mounted from the rear, is returning to favor and in France there is a revival of the old-time tonneau that buttoned up in back.

An eastern railroad plans to put in service engines painted in gaudy colors. This will give a further thrill to grade-crossing daredevils in automobiles. They will have a choice of colors, and can bet on the red, the yellow or the green as the one that will knock them into kingdom come.

ANNUAL HARVEST BALL Grass Valley Saturday, July 28th Must Be "ECK'S GANG" Till Three A. M. MIDNITE SUPPER Served in the park Red Lemonade N' Everything

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