Control With States

Power Generation Subject to Commission Regulation

According to a statistical bulletin just published by the National Electric Light association, and which is based on a survey started several months ago, the amount of power generated in the United States not directly subject to control and regulation by state commissions is only 4.11 per cent of the total, and even this is subject to regulation insofar as rates to the ultimate consumer are concerned.

Based on reports from those of its 400 member companies engaged in the interstate transmission of electric power, the bulletin shows that [illegible] per cent of the total amount of electric energy is consumed within the state where generated. Of the remaining 10.73 per cent, two-thirds, or 6.62 per cent, consists of power sold direct to consumers in one state by a company generating it in another state and is subject to direct regulation by the public service commission in the state in which it is sold. The remaining one-third, or 4,11 per cent, consists of power generated by one company and sold to another company in another state for distribution to its customers.

"It becomes apparent from a study of each of the separate interstate transactions," says the Bulletin, "that the primary reasons for the interstate transmissions of electricity may be classified under three headings." These are: (a) Generating plants separated from their normal markets by state boundaries, which accounts for two-thirds of the electricity, which can be considered as interstate; (b) Interchange of power, occasionally or permanently, between companies having their own sources of energy, but operating in adjoining states, which accounts for one-sixth of the so-called interstate power, and (c) Extension of minor transmission or distribution lines across state boundaries to serve contiguous territory not so economically accessible to the lines of other companies operating in that state, which accounts of the remaining one-sixth of this class of power."

Rest of the World Matched

The production of electricity for public use during 1929 is now estimated by the National Electric Light association at 97 billion kilowatt-hours. This output equals that of all of the rest of the world combined. During the last seven years the industry added 13 1-2 million kilowatts to its generating capacity; constructed nearly 50,000 miles of transmission lines above 22,000 volts; and increased its customers by more than 11 millions. At the close of 1929 the total generating capacity was nearly 40 million horse-power.

Life's Golden Threads

Little self-denials, little honesties, little silent victories over favorite temptations—these are the silent threads of gold which when woven together gleam out so brightly in the pattern of life that God approves.—Dean Inge

Wheat Shields Poppies

Poppies are associated with wheat because they grow in great luxuriance in wheat fields. This is due to the fact that they can mature among the wheat before it is cut and the ground is not disturbed in the spring.

"Wouldn't This Be Swell?"

A "Reasonable" Gas Tax

Invention of a new tax is always a dangerous thing, however necessary it may be at times. Only a short 10 years ago the state of Oregon led off with a tax of a cent a gallon on gasoline. Today every state in the union and the District of Columbia has such a tax and in 30 states the rate is four cents or higher. It was not until 1925 that all state revenues from this source exceeded $100,000,000, but in 1927 they were about $250,000,000, last year they were $350,000,000, and oil authorities estimate the total for 1929 at $450,000,000. The average gas tax per motor vehicle has considerably more than doubled since 1925.

Taxation of gasoline was originally justified and has since been easily extended and increased because of the sound argument that users of the public highways should pay for them in proportion to use. These tax proceeds, however, are not everywhere confined to construction and maintenance of roads and it is doubtful whether such a principle can be maintained against the temptation political officers are always under to raise the revenue in the easiest possible way. But it affords some measure of reasonableness to consider that under the miniumum rate of two cents gasoline is now subject to a sales tax of something like 10 per cent of retail value and that in many states the tax is 20 to 30 per cent of value.

Declining prices for gasoline no doubt explain the public acquiescence so far in so startingly rapid an increase in the taxation laid upon its use. A reversal of market conditions or even a period of stability, especially if coupled with a tighter grasp of the tax collector, would tell another story. —Wall Street Journal.

Florida Paper Scouts "Power Trust" Bogey

A newspaper, which declares that it has been classed as a "public ownership newspaper," in a recent issue declares that there are two sides to the matter. The paper is the St. Petersburg, Fla., Times, and the feature which is disturbing it is propaganda conducted by public ownership advocates.

The Times says that there has been great notoriety given to pulicity of the utilities. "But if there are gigantic public ownership propaganda operations, the success of which would put these great interests out of business, should it not be expected that they will resist them, to the best of their ability?" asks the editorial. It then quotes from the twelfth annual report of the Public Onership League of America, particularly concerning the use of franked literature supporting public ownership. This franked literature consists of speeches of Senator Norris which have been sent out in connection with municipal campaigns for public ownership at no expense to the Public Ownership League. The furnishing of material for debates in schools and universities, as set forth in the League's report, and the prospect that during the coming year more reprints may be franked, are also matters of comment in the editorial. The Times says: "It is very evident, therefore, that the people of this country are not at all at the mercy of the power interests in the matter of propaganda."

The Springfield (Mo.) Press wants to know where all the old-fashioned barrel stave hammocks have gone. Most of them passed with the generation that was industrious enough to make them. A mail order civilization seems largely to have succeeded the day of home-made articles.

Machinery is expected to do the work of more men. The economic idealist will foresee more time for reading or for golf, as tastes may incline. There is no likelihood of reversion to the announcement, "So long as we have so much leisure on our hands, suppose we start a fight."

The most successful managers of money are invariably earnest in warning the man of small means not to speculate. And "small means" no longer means a few thousand dollars. In these days of big figures it may mean a million or two.

Jean Rongelet, ninety-five, has been awarded a medal by the French government for conspicuous bravery in the Crimean war, which ended in 1856. We understand there is a movement to award him another medal for obtaining the first.

The Cleveland biologist who has issued a bulletin telling why cats find their way home would have made himself more popular with a lot of people of he had found a way to prevent them from finding their way home.

A self-extinguishing cigarette and a fireproof match are reported to have been perfected. Now if some one would just invent a substitute for lightning many a tree in American forests would be saved.

Henry Ford buys a motorcycle for his museum, possibly to provide a demonstration of what the Ford owner uses when he lays his big car up for the winter.

No, Pauline, we don't know any lady in town that is really better looking than the one you mention.

Oregon State News

Excellent butterfat yields are reported by the Yamhill County Dairy Herd Improvement association for December. The dairy herd of Pete Ribbers produced 41.14 pounds of butterfat, which is the best record made for a herd of less than 12 cows.

Final cost of the new Klamath Falls-Bend The Dalles line of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company, now under construction, will be $1,400,000. The last unit of the line, extending from Bolter's ranch, in northern Jefferson county to The Dalles, will be completed in June.

The largest single movement of beef cattle from central Oregon to the California market since the construction of the Great Northern line was shipped out of Bend recently. It consisted of a trainload of 15 cars consigned to San Francisco. At Chemult the cars will move over the Southern Pacific track.

An increase of 10.34 per cent was reported for orders for lumber above the output of the commodity by 212 mills in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, was reported by the West Coast Lumbermen's association. This is the second consecutive week orders have shown an increase over production.

Salem again led in the state, outside of Portland, in building construction during the year 1929. Salem's construction represented $2,663,972. Klamath Falls, which was second, had building permits aggregating $1,750,810. Medford was third with permits totaling $650,576, and Eugene fourth with $571,772.

Sale to the Brooks-Scanlon Lumber company of Bend by the Deschutes national forest of 28,125,000 board feet of yellow pine and intermixed species in the Fort Rock district was announced at Bend. The sale covers 3315 acres, and is in the vicinity of Fox butte, scene of two big forest fires in recent years.

Living Standards Up

Rural Electric Service Takes Drudgery From Farms

The development of rural electric service is not only making agriculture more profitable but is raising the living standards of the American farm home, according to M. S. Winder, executive secretary of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Decreased labor costs more than offset the expense of operating many farm appliances by electric power, says Mr. Winder, which often represents a "very substantial saving."

"Unlike other industrial activities, the farm cannot well be separated from the farm home, and here again we find the use of electricity a most important factor. In times past, the farm woman has often been looked upon by her sister in the city as an unfortunate drudge. We must confess that in many cases this has been true. Even today to too great an extent drudgery is a condition incident to life in the farm home. However, we have found that with electricity most of the tasks that have been most burdensome are so lightened that the life of the farm woman can no longer be called one of drudgery if her home is equipped with electrical appliances as is now the case in so many progressive farm homes.

"Without question, the improvement of the standard of living of every farm home must include the installation of electricity and the equipping of the farm home with necessary labor saving devices. The farmers and farm women of America are interested in rural electrification. This interest is being extended and developed."

Upholding A Precedent

The attitude of the administration on the subject of water power development is not encouraging to government ownership advocates. Secretary Wilbur, reflecting the views of the president, has stated emphatically that the government connection with water should end when it goes over a dam. Any subsequent action, such as generating and selling electricity, should be up to private individuals, who take the risks and spend the money. It has also been definately stated that, in case of Boulder Dam or any other project, the government will go no further than it is compelled to in order to finance the cost of the structure.

This is hardly surprising. Surely, under our established government policy, the government should have have nothing to do with buying or selling. Government is not a business to be run in competition with private citizens and taxpayers. Its proper functions are strictly limited, sometimes by law and sometimes by custom, to protecting its people and guaranteeing fair play to all.

President Hoover and Secretary Wilbur follow a national precedent when they keep government and industry separate. Once government goes into the power or any other business, no matter how small the scale, a basic democratic principle will have died.

May Be [illegible]

Never forget [illegible] to you when he [illegible] charged you with [illegible] better look [illegible]

Value [illegible]

They [illegible] will be sure to [illegible] increased their affections [illegible] and their inward peace [illegible] augmented.—Matthew Arnold

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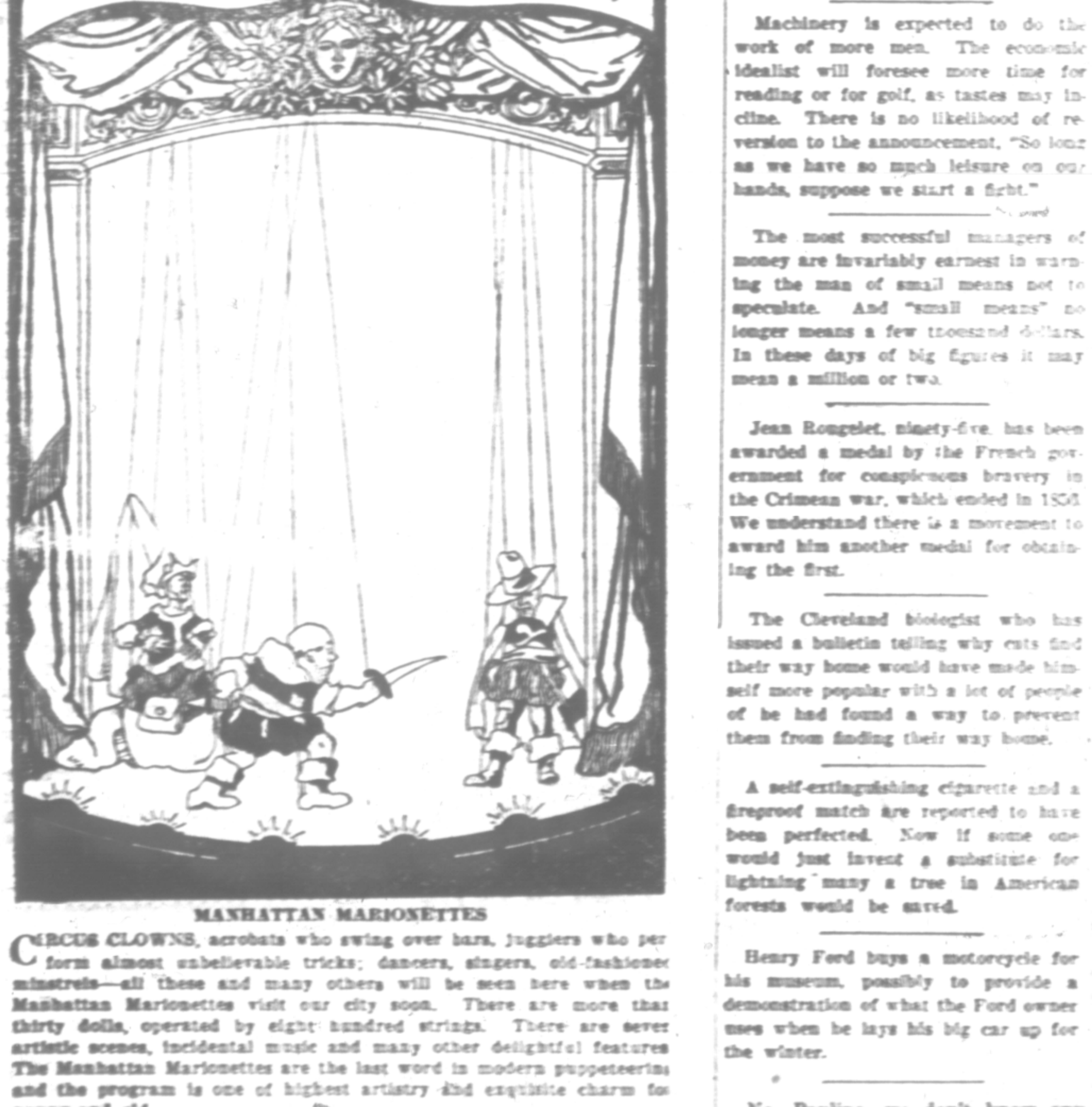

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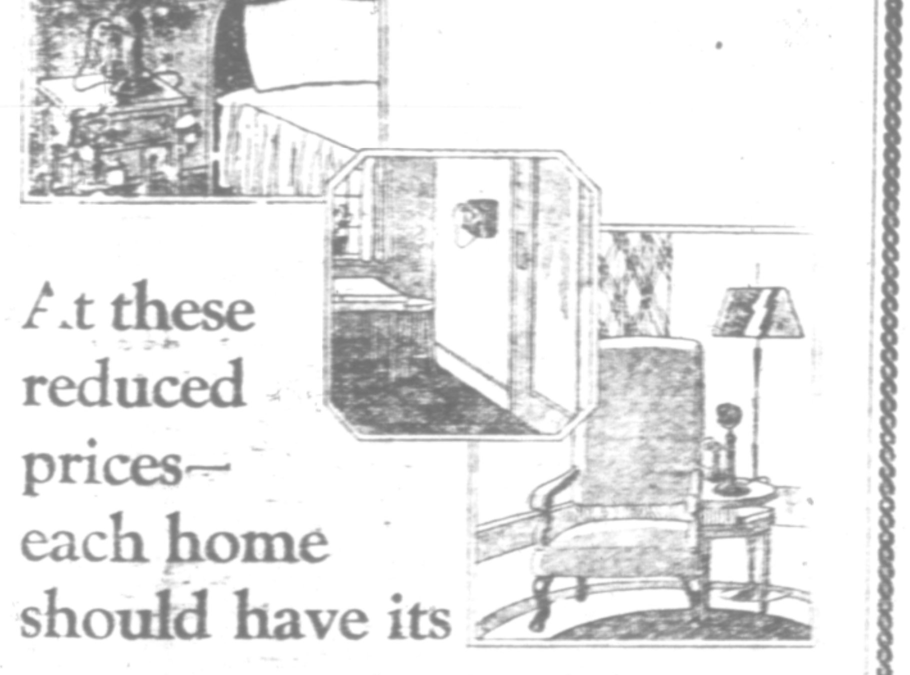

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