

**Voters Should Read Bill and Learn for Themselves**

In spite of the hysterical efforts to make the electric industry "the goat" of the present campaign, the electric power companies are keeping entirely out of all personal issues and candidacies. This industry is being unjustly abused and vilified for political purposes and, naturally, they resent such tactics, but believe that the people will recognize that most of this stuff is political bunk, perhaps not now, but after the campaign is over.

However, we are much concerned over the injury threatening everybody from the constitutional amendment, designated in the Voter's Pamphlet as the "Peoples Water and Power Utility District Amendment." We realize that many voters are likely to overlook the certain dangers of debt and tax confiscation, if the amendment should be adopted and promoters should get to work to take advantage of its provisions.

Stripped of political claims and counter claims, put down in the cold words of the "Grange" bill, voters are asked to write into Oregon's constitution dangerous tax-breeding liabilities for all the property of the state to pay. There are arguments, pro and con, in your Voters' Pamphlet which you can read if you wish. But don't fail to read the bill itself before voting upon it. Particularly section 12 subdivisions (b) and (c) which authorizes the levying of taxes without limit, as claimed by W. S. U'ren father of the direct primary and the initiative and referendum, and grants the authority to issue, sell and assume (bonds) of indebtedness. This last subdivision grants authority to assume the bonded indebtedness of the plundered irrigation districts and will in its final analysis put upon all the taxable property of Oregon the burden of paying to the irrigation project millionaire promoters the face value of these irrigation bonds which were taken by them as high priced "fees" for promoting these districts when they knew it would be utterly impossible to place these irrigation districts upon a self supporting production basis.

**Apply Business Methods to Unemployment Problem**

A comprehensive system of unemployment exchanges, organized both geographically and industrially so that every locality and every industry not only provides for its own workers but is tied-in with others in some form of a cooperative clearing house system, is advocated by Sam E. Lewisohn, industrialist and philanthropist, in the Engineering and Mining Journal. He says:

"If a certain amount of job losing is necessary, then the task of job finding to balance it must be made as simple as possible. One of the difficulties of solving the unemployment problem is the indifference of business and industry.

"If all employers were to apply those methods of management which are already known and tested, the amount of chronic unemployment would be so reduced that the proportion left to government treatment would be comparatively unimportant.

"There is no panacea for unemployment in any country or any industry; there are remedies for each individual case and most of these remedies are within the power of every employer to apply, alone, without government aid, without tariffs, without elections."

**Thirty Six Thousand Lives**

The United States is on its way toward establishing a new high record for deaths due to the automobile, according to a well known authority. It is forecast that at the end of 1930 the total of casualties will be 36,000—several thousand more than were killed last year, when the present tragic record was established. Hundred of thousands of incompetent still the modern "rules of the road." Hundred of thousands of incompetents are allowed full use of the public highways. This last factor—that of incompetence—is probably largely responsible for our gigantic record of fatalities. Only a few states have laws requiring strict examination of applicants for drivers' licenses. Fortunately, there is a trend toward such laws throughout the nation and when every state has and enforces them at least partial success in accident prevention will be achieved.

Another crying need in most states is for modernization and revision of traffic ordinances. Up-to-date, enforceable codes that would be supported by the public, are essential to highway safety.

We have no more serious problem than that of automobile accident prevention. It affects every citizen and is a vital element in the life of every community.

**More Wheat Planted**

Reports from the Argentine Republic say that for the season of 1929-31, 29,139,000 acres have been planted to wheat in that country as compared with 19,450,000 acres in 1928-30. The annual average for the previous five years was 19,276,000 acres.

**On Oregon Farms**

From College News Service, O.S.A.C.

Hillsboro—Acreage of Austrian winter field peas in Washington county will be increased this year from 150 acres to approximately 1000 acres. Practically all of this will be grown for seed on a contract basis. Arrangements have also been made by County Agent W. F. Cyrus to try out these peas as a silage crop on the farm of J. A. Lindow.

Klamath Falls—Potato shipments from Klamath county this fall are expected to be far greater than any previous year, reports County Agent C. A. Henderson. Shipments started early in September and reached 10 or 12 cars a day during the latter part of the month. Five additional warehouse storage plants with capacities of 50 cars each, are under construction, and a number of farm storage cellars are being completed. The tubers are of good quality and a little larger than usual.

Enterprise—The average production of the Wallowa County Dairy Improvement association herds this

year was 331 pounds of butter fat, according to the annual association report compiled by County Agent N. C. Donaldson. This was 19 pounds more than last year and 45 pounds more than the year before when the association was formed. Nine cows averaged more than 500 pounds of fat for the year. Figures showed that one herd owner has increased his production 88 pounds per cow during the three years the association has been in operation.

Eugene—Because of the relatively high price of prepared dairy feeds, Lane county dairymen are feeding considerably more home grown feed than usual. With the assistance of the county agent, balanced rations are being worked out containing maximum amounts of feeds produced in the county.

**Canadian Wheat Pools**

The total handling of grain through Suskatchewan pool elevators up to September 1st this year amounted to 3,954,775 bushels, as compared to 2,470,065 bushels at the same date a year ago. There the now 1,034 elevators under pool control in that province.

**Beneath the Surface**

There is a great deal more to the present political campaign for public ownership of electric power in Oregon and Washington than whether or not these states or a few towns shall build and operate electric plants. The whole economic and industrial future is involved.

It is an axiom that if Government once gets its grip on one major business, it is never satisfied until it controls other great business. Oregon and Washington would be no exception to the general rule.

Next November the people will vote on a measure to form local power boards or districts with the authority not only to compete with existing power companies but to acquire their properties and build plants which would sell power far beyond the boundaries of the local tax district which, in case of losses, could be obligated to make up the deficits for their own electric service and also for service sold to customers outside the tax district obligated to pay for the public owned plants.

Private electric power development would cease, for investors would not purchase securities in companies menaced by political tax-free competition.

It is safe to say that government ownership of the electric industry is favored by many citizens who would fight to the last ditch against government ownership of their own businesses. It is a telling commentary on the attitude of our "partial socialists" that they always advocate socialization of someone else's source of livelihood and never their own. They fail to realize that if politicians get control of one industry, they will inevitably extend their power to others.

At present the northwest, in company with the rest of the nation, is facing a business depression, one of whose primary results has been an unemployment crisis. To discourage industry by threatening government competition, would further depress business and throw more citizens out of work, as it has already done in several specific cases.

The result of next November's election will be watched by investors throughout the United States. It will determine whether or not local and outside capital will continue to flow unrestricted into Oregon and Washington industries which employ a multitude of workers at good wages and pay millions of dollars in taxes into the public treasury, or whether the development of these states will

depend on public bond issues and increased taxes which are the inevitable result of establishing tax-exempt government or municipally owned and politically operated business enterprises.

**A Small Item**

New force to the statement that gasoline is the "cheapest commodity" is given by statistics recently issued by T.R. Agg and H. S. Carter of Ohio State College. They estimate that out of every dollar spent for operating an automobile, 20 cents goes for gasoline, three cents for oil, 27 cents for maintenance, 22 cents for depreciation, 10 cents for tires and tubes, seven cents for garage rent, two cents for license and six cents for interest.

Actually, the motorist spends less than 20 cents out of each dollar for gasoline, as 10 to 33 per cent of his gasoline bill goes to the state in taxes. Those who complain about the "high cost of gasoline" should know that it is one of the few major commodities we use that costs less than it did in 1913. If this saving to the motorist is offset by excessive gasoline taxes, as is the case in many states, that issue is up to the public.

Business Men say: "Advertising Pays"

Summary of the Annual Statement of the United States National Income

United States National Income	\$11,781,914.14
Net income received during the year	604,488.08
Income from other sources received during the year	59,258.85
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Total Income	\$11,781,914.14
Net losses paid during the year, including adjustments	209,339.16
Dividends paid on common stock during the year	155,302.10
Taxes, interest and fees paid during the year	28,818.93
Amount of all other expenditures	27,218.03
Net income received during the year	376,148.92
Income from other sources received during the year	13,048.23
Total admitted assets	\$1,478,614.14
Amount of unpaid premiums on all outstanding policies	190,631.90
Due for commission and brokerage	18,952.00
All other liabilities and taxes	47,338.00
Estimated reserves of investment of unadmitted claims	6,000.00
Total liabilities, exclusive of unpaid premiums	\$17,122.90
Net income received during the year	359,026.02
Income from other sources received during the year	57,372.00
Total income received during the year	\$416,398.02
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# A Neighbor's Warning Against Power Districts Amendment

**"You Can't Get Something for Nothing"**

**"An Impossible Promise"**  
Says a leading Seattle newspaper in referring to current propaganda for so-called "public ownership" and to the promise of many a candidate now seeking political office. It gives this warning to the people of Oregon:

"His program restates the promise that has been made in many other campaigns and in many parts of the country. He promises a vast public power and electrical development 'without cost to the taxpayers.'

"This is a promise that has never yet been fulfilled. Wherever the people have been beguiled into permitting the experiment it has proved a failure and a disappointment, and has imposed heavy additional burdens upon the taxpayers. It is a promise that only the fanatical few nowadays venture to voice anywhere within hailing distance of a city or a section wherein the experiment has been tried.

"Nothing of the kind can be done without cost to the taxpayers. Bonds may be sold and debt incurred to get such a development under way, and for a time everything may seem to be moving serenely. But the day of reckoning comes around and the sad results

are apparent both in the evidences of waste and mismanagement, and still more palpable in the recurrent upward leaps and bounds of the general tax rate.

"The people of Oregon have only to cast their eyes in the direction of Seattle and Tacoma to learn much on this score; they have only to cock their ears to catch the loud complaint that arises against these two cities from all the rest of the State of Washington. Seattle and Tacoma launched heavily upon power development schemes to be perfected 'without cost to the taxpayers.' The tax rate in Tacoma has gone up to 81 mills, the highest in the whole Northwest, the Seattle rate of 76.85 mills claims second place.

"Both Seattle and Tacoma have stripped the tax rolls of millions of dollars worth of taxable property for their power projects. They have taken this property not only within their own corporate limits and the limits of the counties in which they are located, but they have invaded numerous other counties and helped themselves freely. All this has added immeasurably to the taxes of property remaining on the rolls. That is why the rest of this state so bitterly complains and so earnestly demands that these city utility projects be compelled to resume a share of the tax load. Should that be done, the city taxpayers again must suffer, by increase in the direct tax levy, by increase in utility rates, or by both.

"Seattle and Tacoma have gained nothing by these ventures. On the contrary they have lost much and stand to lose still more. **The people of Oregon will be well advised to turn away from the foolish thought of getting something for nothing.** On a state wide scale, as promised in Oregon and as proposed in the so-called 'district power bill' initiated for vote in Washington, the result would be so much more disastrous."

Editorial, Seattle Sunday Times, Aug. 31, 1930.

**Tax Rates 1929**

Tacoma, 81.89 mills  
Seattle, 76.85 mills  
Portland, 48.60 mills

**Whole State Suffers Tax Losses**

"Existing publicly owned utilities of King and Pierce counties have increased taxes in every other city and community in the State of Washington."—Taxpayers' Economy League of Spokane.

**VOTE 325 X NO**

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PEOPLE OF OREGON . . . .  
Heed this Warning Against Confiscatory Debts and Taxes  
by Voting 325 X NO!

**Against Power Districts Constitutional Amendment**

Paid Advertisement—UTILITY TAXPAYERS COMMITTEE, H. L. WALTHER, Manager, 206 Sixth Street, Portland, Oregon