

CENTRAL POINT HERALD

BY GLEASON & BACON.

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GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP

There is a good deal of agitation for public ownership and the general idea seems to be that in most cases the government could improve conditions in most public service enterprises—that is, could make the service better and the rate cheaper. It doesn't seem to work out that way, however, in actual practice.

The city of Seattle recently took over a railway to run under municipal management and the latest statement shows the city is losing about \$12.00 a day in maintaining the same service the private company furnished. Not a very profitable business at that rate surely. In most cases it seems to cost more to carry on a business under public ownership than where private interests does the managing.

In this connection it is interesting to note some figures given out by B. C. Carroll in comparing government-owned telephone service in European countries to the service rendered by private capital lines in the United States. In Europe there is only one phone for every 150 residents while in this country the average is one phone for every ten residents. The question naturally arises, if

government ownership lessens the cost of the utility, why is it that so many more telephones are in use here than in Europe? The usual answer is, "Because there are so many more poor people in Europe?" This is not strictly in accord with the contention that government ownership will improve conditions for Europe has much more government ownership than the United States.

It is well known that it always costs a municipality more to get work done than it would cost private interests. Contractors and individuals expect more money for less work when they work for the government and there are very few men who will put the same interest and effort into managing a business on a salary basis as when their profit depends upon the measure of success realized in the enterprise. There are other reasons, too, why government ownership does not exactly spell perfection but even at that it serves well enough for a political watchword and most people will fall for it.

Jackson county is trying out a little experiment in the municipal working proposition on the Pacific highway work between this city and Medford wherein it was thought the county could do the work cheaper than contractors. No figures have yet been given out to show how much has been saved but many of the taxpayers are awaiting with considerable interest the outcome of the venture.

COUNTY GETS NEW PATHOLOGIST

The county court last Friday signed a contract for the services of M. P. Henderson, of the University of Wisconsin, as pathologist to succeed Prof. P. J. O'Gara and he will have charge of the pathologist work of spraying and blight conditions, and Prof. Reimer of the O. A. C. experiment station working in conjunction with him will have charge of soil work, pruning, and other orchard work. Prof. Henderson will arrive about July 1. He was recommended by the committee appointed by the orchardists. Judge Tou Velle and Commissioner Leever signed the contract.

SPORTSMEN'S AID SOUGHT IN PREVENTING FOREST FIRES

Because of the fact that many forest fires are set through the carelessness of hunters, campers and others who go into the woods for recreation, the forest service has taken up with manufacturers of firearms and ammunition the question of a cooperative arrangement through which purchasers and users of guns and cartridges shall be reminded of the fire danger.

It has been pointed out that in the lumber regions of the northwest, for example, manufacturers and other business men have been having printed or stamped on their stationery and pay checks various crisp, catchy statements about the loss which the public suffers through the decreased demand for labor and decreased money in circulation if timber, which is the source of many of the northwest's industries, is burned up.

It has also been pointed out that in the east particularly many forest fires are started by the carelessness of hunters, who drop burning matches, cigar or cigarette stumps, or pipe coals in the woods, or perhaps build a fire which is left burning when the hunter goes on. Forest fires of course greatly injure the interests of sportsmen by robbing the birds of their proper cover. They also impair the food supply of both birds and big game, through the destruction of the undergrowth which furnishes browse, berries, and other food.

The eastern woods are exposed to the danger from fires principally in the spring and fall, when most of the trees are bare and the leaves on the ground are dry. The spring fires, many of which are due to trout fishermen, may

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The Live Wire

Will H. Wilson.

GRANTS PASS,
312 South 6th Street.
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126 North Front Street

destroy the eggs of game birds and even the young birds themselves. Since trout fishermen are likely to hunt in the fall, the same individuals, if careless, may be a source of danger at both seasons.

It is suggested that the manufacturers of arms and ammunition ought to be sufficiently interested in the matter of perpetuation of game to be willing to help in the campaign against forest fires. This help may come through the printing of some brief fire warning on cartridge boxes or some slip to go with any hunting or camping supplies which are furnished. Several manufacturers have already expressed their interest in the matter and their willingness to help.

DO PLANETS AFFECT WEATHER?

One of our correspondents has asked, says the secretary of agriculture in the crop bulletin, whether the positions of the planets have any effect on the weather.

A few people strongly assert that they do, while many others, like our correspondent, have their doubts, but are willing to be "shown." Those, however, who have given the subject careful attention are positive that none of the planets, nor even the moon, ever has any appreciable effect on the weather.

As a matter of fact all weather changes depend ultimately upon temperature differences. The temperature, as we know, constitutes of itself a most important weather factor. Another and equally important weather factor is rainfall. But to obtain rain it is necessary first to evaporate water from the surface of the earth, and this, as everyone knows, requires heat. Still another important weather factor is the direction and force of the wind, and this, too, requires heat, for the winds will not blow unless the temperature is different at one place from what it is at another any more than the air will draw up a chimney when there is no fire in it.

Since then the heating of different parts of the earth and its atmosphere to different temperatures is the real cause of winds and of all weather changes it follows that the moon and the planets can affect the weather only so far as they supply heat.

Now, according to accurate measurements made with the most delicate instruments, the amount of heat sent to the earth by all the planets and also by the

moon is insignificant in comparison to the amount that comes from the sun. Hence we could not expect either the planets or the moon appreciably to affect the weather. They do not supply enough heat, the one thing that causes all our weather changes.

To most people the above reasoning may seem quite sufficient and conclusive, but there is still another and an entirely different method of testing the whole question. We can observe the positions of the planets and the kind of weather during each position and see whether the same sort of weather always comes when the planets are in the same position. This kind of examination has often been made, both for the planets and for the moon, but not the slightest influence of either upon our weather has ever been found.

To sum up: We have every reason to believe that neither the planets nor the moon can have any appreciable effect on the weather, because they furnish so little heat upon which all weather changes ultimately depend, and this belief is fully supported by weather records.

The belief, still to be found in all countries, that the planets and the moon do affect the weather, never had any scientific basis whatever; it is only a remnant of the many superstitions generated and fostered by that other and greater superstition, astrology.

THE SECRET OF YOUTH

Youth is what we all love to have and to hold, and since Ponce De Leon's time many a way of conserving it has been prescribed: Dosage, drinking sour milk, systems of exercise, bathing, rubbing. Any one of these things may help the individual. And, cautions Collier's Weekly, let us not forget that youth is in great measure a gift of the spirit. Children are young because for them life abounds; they find the springs of energy within and stores of refreshment without. Wonder, curiosity, the enjoyment of ten thousand trifles, a short memory for punishment and pain; all these things make for youth. Quarrels, resentfulness, suspicion, worry, grouching; these bring harder lines around the mouth—hardened arteries—old age. Nothing is too small to delight a child, given the right conditions; nothing too big to darken for very long the spangled sky. That is the secret of youth. Draw the curtain, Master Manager. On with the Human Comedy.—Detroit Free Press.

THE WANDERING BOY

"Oh, where is my wandering boy tonight?" has been sung for thousands of times with tenderness and pathos, but how many of the singers or hearers, ever gave heed to the pertinent inquiry of the song? Statistics are frequently published showing the great majority of our boys spending their nights away from the better influences of home. As they grow into youth and early manhood they seem to grow into the world and worldly ways. If the singer's plaintive question could be answered publicly in any ordinary meeting where the song is sung, it would cause a tremendous sensation, and many a heart would bow down in sorrow and pain. For some reason it is just as well that the nightly haunts of "the boys" are not specifically mentioned in local public meetings, and yet the matter is one of common report. The boys are too often out of home, out of the church and Sunday school, out of organizations of moral character, and into the world "for all it is worth."—Ex.

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