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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL
Editor and Proprietor

EDITORIALS

STARTER FOR THE NEW YEAR

New Year's resolutions have been the butt of innumerable jokes. And that's quite understandable—most resolutions are made as the result of remorse from an excess of holiday cheer, and are forgotten as soon as the headache goes away.

But there's another kind of resolution which everyone should make soberly and sincerely, and carry out conscientiously. A resolution of that character might be phrased in such fashion as this: "During 1949, I will do my part to reduce the disgraceful and unnecessary fire loss which is costing this nation more than 10,000 lives and \$700,000,000 a year."

There's nothing academic or impersonal about fire. The fact that it never cost you a dollar directly doesn't mean a thing. All of us pay for fire in one way or another—in the taxable assets it destroys, in its depressing influence on employment and purchasing power, in its consumption of irreplaceable materials, in higher insurance rates, and so on. And, more important, the family that never had a fire may be wiped out by one tomorrow.

Those piles of paper and rubbish and discarded clothing—that frayed lamp cord you've meant to replace and haven't—that faulty heating unit that should have been repaired last week or last year—"little things" such as these are fire's dependable allies. All of them can be corrected easily. How about doing that now as a starter for the New Year?

"RECLAMATION" OR "SOCIALIZATION"?

It is probable that few people have an adequate understanding of the amazing change that has taken place in the policies and activities of the Reclamation Bureau since it

was established in 1902.

In the first 31 years of its existence, the Bureau did what its name implies and really concentrated on its job of reclaiming land. It was given appropriations of \$364,000,000, which it used to develop 2,800,000 acres of arid land. As a by-product of this development, 70,000 kilowatts of electric power capacity were created.

In the last 15 years, however, something new has been added. The Bureau spent more than \$1,140,000,000. For that, it irrigated only 1,900,000 acres—and it developed an additional 2,750,000 kilowatts of electric capacity.

Furthermore, if plans for a seven-year program for 17 Western states are carried out, the changed character of the Bureau will be even more heavily emphasized. This program would cost \$4,000,000,000. It would irrigate only 2,000,000 acres of land. And—of great significance—it would develop 6 kilo-wattsof—it would develop 4,325,000 kilowatts of power capacity, and would construct from 10,000 to 20,000 miles of transmission lines, all or most of which would duplicate lines which are already in existence.

The most cursory examination of these figures leads to but one conclusion: the Bureau is giving much less attention to land reclamation than it is to socializing the electric power facilities of the nation. It is thus becoming one of the most effective tools on behalf of those who look forward to the ultimate nationalization of our basic resources. The fact that this is being done under the guise of constructive objectives which everyone favors, makes it all the more ominous. It's time the taxpayers realized what is going on.

FAMILY REUNION—

A family reunion was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Burrough during the Christmas holidays. Those present were Mrs. Burrough's mother, Mrs. Ethel Grubb, and a brother, Oscar Grubb and family of Pendleton, a sister, Mrs. Rule Burnmitt, of Tacoma, Wash., and a brother E. T. Grubb and family of Footh Creek.

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Locals

To Mr. and Mrs. Clarence London of Central Point, a boy, nine and one half pounds, was born at the Sacred Heart hospital, December 23, 1948, in Medford.

Miss Mickey Camp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Camp, arrived home Christmas Eve, by plane, from Eugene for a week's visit from college. Miss Camp is a sophomore at Northwest Christian college and the University of Oregon.

Noel T. Tomlin, of Portland, was a Christmas week end guest in the Camp home, visiting his wife, Mrs. Bonnie J. Tomlin, and Mrs. Tomlin's parents. He returned to the city Monday evening.

Mrs. Ruth and Maude Helfrich spent Christmas Day with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Burns, of Central Point. Mrs. Burns and the Helfrich ladies are sisters.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Burns and family of Shady Cove, spent part of the Christmas holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Burns. Then they traveled to Brookings to visit Mrs. Burns' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Young. After visiting other coastal points, they returned to their home the first of this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Anhorn and three sons returned Sunday evening from Heppner, Oregon where they spent the Christmas week end with Mrs. Anhorn's parents. The Anhorns and Cecil Warners made the trip to Heppner together.

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"Sonny" Hansen spent the week-end with his mother, Mrs. Nora Hansen. He returned to his home in Portland, Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Warner and son went to Heppner, Oregon to visit her parents for Christmas Day. They went on to The Dalles to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Warner, Sr. They expect to arrive home the first of January after visiting friends and relatives in Portland and Eugene.

Elmer Adams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bud Adams, flew in from San Francisco last Monday noon. He returned Sunday night. Elmer is stationed on the U.S.S. Valley Forge, an air craft carrier.

Kenny Aadms, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bud Adams, had a serious infinger Monday night. Nineteen stitches had to be taken, but x-ray shows that everything is going to be allright.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Lane route 1, Central Point, a girl, four and one-half pounds, was born at the Community hospital, December 26, 1948.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence (Doc) Houston had their whole family home for Christmas Day. Their children live in Jacksonville and Medford.

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Point and myself.

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Mrs. Luther Tingley returned home just before Christmas from a month's visit with a daughter in Sacramento.

Mrs. Chas. Holden returned home just before Christmas from an extended visit to points in Colorado, Oklahoma and California.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas Bateman had fourteen relatives and friends for Christmas dinner, coming from Medford and Klamath Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Johnson and sons of Sacramento have spent the past two weeks visiting Mrs. Johnson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Sullivan and other relatives in the valley.

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