

THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS

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"THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED"

Pacific Coast Citizens Clamor for Light to Be Thrown on Phone Controversy.

INFORMATION IS LACKING

As Far as Can Be Ascertained No Fact and Figures Have Been Advanced to Justify 75 Per Cent Increase.

Unfortunately for this country, during the unusual times through which we are passing, not all who stand upon the lofty pedestal of governmental function, have shown the efficient qualities of leadership and mastery of unusual situations as has President Wilson.

Egregious blunders have been committed, the worst of which is clothing in secrecy the performance of governmental function that affects no one vitally except the "consent of the governed," and we have always had a sneaking idea that that high-sounding, thoroughly democratic principle embraced about all of us. It seems not, if the trend of recent events is any index of the observance of that declaration. Just as the rest of the world is about to emerge into the light of democracy, we feel ourselves sinking into the shades of an embryonic autocracy.

If there is one thing more than another that should be left to the function of State government it is the absolute control of all intrastate public service corporations. No one denies the right, nor the urgency, of Federal control of such utilities as it may need, in time of war. But when war ceases, such jurisdiction should cease and be returned to the exercise of the State and the integrity of its jurisdiction unimpaired through any temporary suspension.

A few months ago the government took over control of the lines of the telephone and telegraph companies in order that military exigency should be served first and best, which was quite proper. At the time this was done, there was not a shred of information given out as to the "manner" control of these public utilities was acquired. As far as the "consent of the governed" crowd was concerned, it did not matter one whit at the time. They were for anything and everything that would expedite the "winning the war" program. But, in a big advertisement in Tuesday's Oregonian the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company in an attempt to quiet public clamor against the huge increase in phone rates, reveals for the first time the details of the "manner" in which Federal control was acquired and exercised. It shows up a perfectly regular transaction.

The text of the advertisement was written in a most conciliatory vein. It attempted to sugar-coat a pill which we are expected to gulp down without protest. By publishing the details of how Federal control is being exercised it broadly intimated that there was no chance for argument nor protest to avail anything. That it was inevitable.

The war is over. Military urgency in Pacific Coast states, at least, no longer needs prior use of commercial telephone lines. Telegraph lines will answer most military purposes and with more accuracy.

The people of Oregon who have responded with untiring loyalty to the government's appeals for the sinews of war, feel that they have the right to ask how much longer they will be shorn of their power to exercise control, through their State Public Service Commission, over the public utilities within their borders? How much longer their municipal franchises are to remain inoperative?

Further than that, the people of Oregon feel they have a right to ask of the Commission they created to act for them, what investigation, if any, has been made in the financial status of the Pacific Telephone Company, and, if so, what such investigation revealed? Is its affairs in such shape that a 75 per cent increase in rates is necessary to maintain a fair service? Would not 25 per cent be adequate, or even 10 per cent? If so, why should the public be gouged for more than is necessary? When the Portland Ry. Light & Power Co. asked

for a six-cent fare on their car lines, they were required to "prove" the necessity of it. Besides, the slight advance, looked reasonable. Not so with the telephone company. The 75 per cent advance looks arbitrary upon the face of it as there has been no facts and figures given out to back it up.

The telephone company's advertisement in setting out the fact that the Postoffice Department had acquired the properties of the companies, very carefully omitted to state "how long" the agreement was to stand. Was it for the duration of the war or for a specific number of years? The News believes the public has a right to know these facts. If their public utilities are to be withheld from their control, after the war emergency has passed, they have a right to know for what other purpose they are to be retained under Federal control and why.

Secretary McAdoo very promptly squelched this "public-be-damned" attitude upon the part of railway operatives when the government assumed control of the roads, and Postmaster-General Burleson might, with good grace, bring into play the same policy in everything pertaining to his department that needs it.

It is to be hoped that no executive arm of this government will become so imbued with the martial spirit engendered by the war that they will forget they obtained their just powers by the "consent of the governed," nor forget, either, that a power wielded that is not just will be no power at all.

The same open, frankly stated plea that characterized government action in the Liberty Loan campaigns when the American people gave their money of their own volition, can be stated just as openly, just as frankly and just as consistently at a time when it is designed to impose a heavy tax for the use of a necessary public utility.

Let us have the whole truth! A government OF the people, FOR the people and BY the people will stand for the telling of it any time and all the time.

FILE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

Candidates Spend Sums Ranging From An Editor's Income to \$80.

The Republican county central committee, during the campaign preceding the November election, expended the sum of \$314 in furthering the candidacy of the several men on the county Republican ticket, according to the account of expenditures filed with the county clerk, as required by law. The committee received into its campaign as contributions from the different candidates and others the sum of \$327.88, according to the report. These sums ranged from \$60 each, given by one by each of quite a number of loyal or two of the candidates, to \$1 given by each of quite a number of loyal members of the party.

Candidates who have filed their expense accounts and the amount they expended are as follows:

W. W. Branstetter, Republican candidate for coroner, \$45.65.

Fred G. Stickeis, Republican candidate for sheriff, \$80, including \$60 to the campaign fund.

M. H. Harlow, Republican candidate for county commissioner, \$25, which sum he paid as his part of the campaign fund.

D. A. Elkins, Democratic candidate for sheriff, \$61.50, of which \$20 was toward the Democratic fund.

R. S. Bryson, Republican candidate for county clerk, \$60, which was his share of the campaign fund.

Miss Edna Ward, Republican candidate for county treasurer, \$20, which was the amount assessed against her for the fund.

Welby Stevens, Democratic candidate for county commissioner, no expenses.

Mrs. A. B. Van Valzah, Democratic candidate for county treasurer, six cents, expended for postage.

J. G. Wells and J. J. Harbaugh, Republican candidates for justice of the peace and constable, respectively, of the Eugene district, no expenses.

Eugene R. McCormack, candidate for commissioner of the Port of Siuslaw, no expenses.

Other candidates have not yet filed their expense accounts.

Will Buy Organ.

A Basket Social with a program will be held at the Upper Crabtree school house Wednesday evening, November 27th, at 8 o'clock. The proceeds will be used to purchase an organ for the school.

BOOST SPRINGFIELD TO BE THE SLOGAN

Business Men Will Institute Advertising Campaign to Stimulate City's Growth.

Now that Springfield has done its part toward winning the war, a movement has been set on foot by Springfield business men to do something handsome for Springfield.

In other words we shall do for Springfield what we would do for our personal business if it needed stimulating, and we shall do it in much the same manner as we would doctor a single enterprise that was suffering from inaction.

We are going to advertise Springfield.

We are going to step out and secure business for Springfield for the obvious reason that more business is the identical thing that Springfield needs.

How It Will Be Done.

There are not enough business houses in Springfield of certain kinds to take care of the trade contiguous to the town. A number of lines of trade are not represented here at all. By advertising the opportunities to engage in business here, we expect to secure desirable business men from out of town to embark in lines that are not already adequately represented here. These opportunities will be the first ones given publicity. No line of business will be advertised that already has sufficient representation here, as it is desired to avoid any particular line being overdone.

Organization plans are being perfected, after which ways and means will be provided to defray the advertising campaign. A capable man will be selected to take charge of the correspondence necessary to inform inquirers and induce desirable applicants to locate here.

There will be no noise, no blare of trumpets, no fan-fare, but just a persistent, conservative campaign designed to bring satisfactory results.

The first meeting of the business men will be called next week. Every man who cares to keep this town from getting into a rut will be expected to be present, if possible for him to come.

Trouble.

Exact copy of a letter received by the Lally Company, wholesale dealers in plumbing supplies, San Francisco, California:

Mister Lally house, S. F. Dear Fren

I got the valva witch I by from you alright but why for gods sake you doan send me no handel. Wats the use the valva when she doan have no handel. I loose to me my customer sure ting you doan treat me rite. Is my money not so good to you as the otha fella. I wate 10 days and my customer he holler for water like hell for the valva. You no he is hot summer and the win he no blow the wheel. You doan send me the handel pretty queek I sen her back and I order some from kraline companee. Good by. Your fren

Antonio Scaluminta Dutra.

Since I rite these I find the d-n handel in the box excuse me.

Government Urges Early Christmas Shopping.

The postoffices are urging early Christmas shopping this year, as it is anticipated that the mails will be heavier than usual, owing to the many boys and men in the training camps.

All packages to be sent through the mail should be well wrapped and special pains should be taken that the address is made plain. Packages mailed to soldiers and sailors should have their full address on them. Another important thing is the affixing of sufficient postage. If the packages are mailed early they will be more apt to reach their destination. "Not to be opened until Christmas" may be written on the outside of the package.

Pupils Make Good.

The pupils of the grade and the high school are working hard on their campaign of raising their part of the "United War Fund." The allotment to the local schools was \$80.20, which sum was divided equally between the Lincoln and the high school buildings. Already most of this sum has been subscribed, with the grade pupils in the lead.

SCHOOLS RE-OPEN; SOME ABSENTEES

Authorities Impress Upon Parents Urgency of Taking Every Precaution.

The Springfield grade and high school opened Monday after an enforced vacation of five weeks. Several of the pupils were absent, some on account of sickness in the family and others having moved away.

This is more than offset, however, by the number of new pupils. In the grades, there were fifteen new pupils and in the high school four. This makes a total registration in the high school of ninety-three.

According to reports from the offices of the local doctors, there are still a few cases of the influenza in town, and the number is on the increase in the Mohawk valley.

"In order that there may be no new outbreak of the epidemic, the schools are taking every precaution," says Superintendent N. A. Baker. "Any child who has a cold or is coughing or sneezing should remain at home. Likewise, if any member of the family is suffering from the trouble the children must not report to school until all danger is past. It is much preferable for a few pupils to miss a week of school than to run the risk of exposing all of the children."

At the high school daily sessions are opening at 8:15 a. m. in order that the work outlined in the "Course of Study" may be covered. At the Lincoln building recitation and study periods have been lengthened and a course in physical training has been inaugurated to afford a means of relaxation from the increased nervous strain.

Remove Shoe Restrictions.

Shoe retailers would have sold their wares on a government-approved basis if the armistice had not been signed, according to the State Council of Defense for Oregon.

A telegram received yesterday from John S. Gravens, of the National Council of Defense canceled preceding instructions which were just about to have been sent out to Oregon shoe retailers. The change was made because of the request of the War Industries Board which informed the council that the shoe programme was, by agreement with the trade, limited to the period of direct war requirements. At the signing of the armistice representatives of the trade recommended that price limitations be dropped with the general conservation programme.

This insures "mildly" of having leather boots in as many colors as she chooses to buy during the coming seasons. Many shoe styles, colors and leathers had voluntarily been omitted from the spring buying programme as one of the ways in which the merchants could do their "bit."

The programme worked out by the government included a plan in which all shoes would be grouped in four classes to be retailed at prices assigned with the approval of the War Industries Board. Pledge cards were to have been distributed among dealers to be placed in show windows to inform the public which stores were on a government basis.

MAY SEND PARCELS NOV. 30

Relatives Get More Time to Send Presents to Soldiers in France.

Parents and other relatives of the soldiers in France will have until November 30 to mail their Christmas parcels, according to a bulletin received yesterday at headquarters of the Lane county chapter of Red Cross. The original date was November 20, and 10 days' extension will enable many who contemplated sending gifts to do so, as they otherwise would have been unable to.

According to the bulletin the provisions for boys whose labels are not received will be as follows:

An individual who should have received a label but who failed to receive it, or who has lost or destroyed it, may receive a carton not earlier than November 21 upon signing a statement at any Red Cross Christmas parcel station, substantially as follows:

The undersigned hereby makes application to forward to (giving

the name of the soldier and the organization), American expeditionary forces, a Christmas package. The undersigned hereby declares that he or she is nearest living relative in the United States of the proposed recipient; that he or she has not received this man's label from abroad, and that should such label be received it will not be used, and that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief only one Christmas parcel will be sent the proposed recipient.

Signed

The following regulations will govern the sending of these parcels and should be strictly followed:

No carton can be given on such a request, until November 21.

All regulations hitherto issued concerning contents, inspection, addressing, stamping, sealing and mailing apply, even to the extent that the parcel must be a regular overseas label. The division office has authority through national headquarters from the war department, to print a quantity of these labels to be used on cartons mailed under the above from of request. A supply of these cartons labels will be mailed to each chapter at once by special delivery, and according to instructions should be restricted religiously to the use for which they were intended, inspectors being impressed with the fact that the war department is imposing great confidence in Red Cross and in them.

Labels Have Arrived.

To insure the receiving of the Christmas parcels for men in the service application should be made to Mrs. Bernice Van Valzah, who resides on Second street, for labels. The labels have just arrived and can only be secured by calling at Mrs. Van Valzah's for them.

SOCIAL EVENTS

ENTERTAINS FOR SISTER.

One of the most delightful affairs of the season was the card party dance that Wednesday evening given by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Skinner in honor of Mrs. Skinner's sister, Mrs. Frank Weaver of Billings, Montana. The evening was spent in playing 500 until 11 o'clock. After that hour the guests enjoyed dancing to the strains of the piano and violin. The dancing continued until a late hour, after which a two-course luncheon was served, consisting of sandwiches, pickles, coffee and cake. The guest list included Mesdames Elza Sutton, Ernest Skinner, Wilbur Lloyd, Clyde Fisk of Eugene, J. E. Edwards, Jack Bentley, V. C. Prouditt, Frank Weaver, Billings, Montana, and Ben Skinner; Messrs. Elza Sutton, Ernest Skinner, Wilbur Lloyd, Clyde Fisk of Eugene, J. E. Edwards, Jack Bentley, V. C. Prouditt, Frank Weaver, Billings, Montana, and Ben Skinner.

GIVES SURPRISE PARTY.

Miss Gertrude Williams and Miss Vera Nelson gave a delightful surprise party in honor of George Williams on Monday evening, the occasion being his 17th birthday. The party was given at the Williams' home on Seventh and D streets. The evening was spent in playing games and telling fortunes. Prizes were awarded the winners in the several contests of wits. At the close of the evening delightful refreshments of sandwiches, salad, olives, pickles, hot chocolate, ice cream and cake were served. Those who enjoyed Miss Williams' and Miss Nelson's hospitality were: Misses Helen Stevens, Sylvia Strubin, Carrie Ditto, Edna Moe, Armol Smith, Hazel Brattain and Edwena Parsons, and Messrs. Russel Olson, Odin Olson, Clare Luckey, Eugene; Harry Hughes, Myrl Casteel, Frank Shontz, Eugene, and George Williams.

School at Vida Closes.

The school at Vida was closed Monday for an indefinite period as several cases of influenza have broken out in that district. According to Carry Thompson, one of the directors, the school has not been closed before, but the influenza has begun to have its way there as elsewhere.

Card of Thanks.

We wish to thank the friends who were so kind to us during our recent bereavement for the sympathetic words, the helpful songs and the beautiful flowers.

Mr. Dennis Cyr, Lester, Edith and Pearl Cyr, Mrs. Sarah J. Adams, Mrs. Charles Carson, Mr. Pearl Adams, Mr. Marion Adams.

ASKS INCREASE IN GAS SERVICE RATE

Mountain States Power Co. Shows Justification for Increase.

COLD FACTS AND FIGURES

Hearing Before Public Service Commission is Attended by Representatives of All Interests.

In marked contrast to the shenanigan methods of the Pacific States Telephone Co., the Mountain States Power Co., doing business in Springfield, Eugene, and other cities, went squarely before the Public Service Commission Wednesday and presented its petition for an increase in gas rates strictly upon its merits. There was no hiding behind the skirts of the Postmaster-General, no camouflage, no "propaganda" and no bunk. There was presented nothing but cold facts and upon which the company rested its case.

The hearing consumed the greater part of the day and the mass of accurate data was carefully gone over.

In presenting its case the company asked for the increase based upon the following facts:

That it is not making "out-of-pocket" cost to operate the plant; that the cost of oil from which gas is made has advanced from an average in 1917 of \$2.15 per barrel to \$3.09 per barrel in 1918; that the cost of coke, which is also used in making the gas, has advanced from \$9.96 in 1917 to \$14.15 this year; that the wages of the gas-makers have advanced 30 per cent in that time. The company further showed that it earned on the plant during the year 1914 only .00015 per cent, that in 1915 there was .0007 per cent loss; in 1916, .0122 per cent loss; in 1917, .0069 per cent loss, and during seven months of this year there was .0139 per cent loss. The company also showed by figures that to produce 1000 cubic feet of gas costs \$3.20, although this rate is not requested by the company. The rate which the company asked to be allowed to collect is \$2.25 per 1000 cubic feet if paid within 10 days after the rendering of the bill, with a forfeiture of the 10 per cent discount if not paid within that time.

The commission has gone over the property valuation of the plant with a view of ascertaining the exact amount of money invested.

Commissioner Buchtel, who was present at the hearing yesterday, will leave today for Marshfield to take testimony in a similar gas case.

The Mountain States Power company was represented at the hearing by Elmer Dover, president of the company; George N. Rooker, general manager; Fred E. Brown, local manager; W. A. Leuenberger, expert gas engineer, representing H. M. Byflethy & Co., of Chicago, and A. L. Ingalls, auditor of the company. For the commission, Frank J. Miller, chairman; Fred C. Buchtel, commissioner; Fred A. Rasch, valuation and rate expert, and W. P. Ellis, examiner, were present.

To Hold Baby Clinic at Creswell.

A baby clinic for children under six years of age will be held at the Red Cross rooms in Creswell Saturday afternoon, November 23. This is the first step the government has taken in regard to the welfare of the coming generation. Information will be given on proper feeding, fresh air, sleep, clothing, etc. The children will be weighed and measured. Dr. Ruth Barnes, a graduate of the Lebanon College of Medicine, will give a lecture on child welfare.

\$15,000 Offered for Gowdy.

An offer of \$15,000 in cold cash for Hank Gowdy, the Braves' great backstop, now in France, has been rejected by Manager Stallings of the Boston Braves. Stallings realizes that great as was Hank's drawing powers before he went across, they will be as nothing compared with what they will be when he returns.

It begins to look as if the bottom will be shot out of the price of a lot of wheat flour substitutes 'ere long. The day is coming when Mr. Ultimate Consumer will buy something besides lemons.