

THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS

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FAIR PLAY FOR UTILITIES

Public utilities play a very important part in community development and there are four parties interested in the development of all public utilities—the owners, the employes, the government and the general public.

Unless every public utility can be put on a basis where it is making profits, it can not keep up its property and cannot do the work of extending its service to meet the growth of the community. Increased cost of labor and materials and war taxes have crippled them for the reason that they have not been able to pass on the increased cost to the community as has been done by other industries or wage earners.

We need an investment of \$100,000,000 new capital in public utilities of the West. There is no such thing possible as a prosperous community served by poorly equipped and financially broken down public utilities. When utilities are prospering and extending their service the community prospers.

Public officials, taxing bodies and public service commissions should employ only constructive methods to make utility properties, whether in public or private ownership, valuable and profitable and from the standpoint of the best possible public service for the community. The policies of the state and federal banking laws, to build up and make banking properties strong and worthy of public support and to make banking stock a desirable investment for the people in the community in which the bank is located, and to make that stock profitable as an investment by the citizen, should be the policy of public service commissions and of the utility managers themselves.

THE PAPER SHORTAGE

The Susquehanna, (Pa.) Daily Transcript believes the newsprint paper situation would be very materially relieved if the big papers of the country would cut out some of the foolish feature stuff.

The Transcript editor says: "There is a shortage of print paper, such as newspapers use in publishing their regular editions. There is a possibility that many newspapers will have to suspend publication for want of newsprint. The price at present is as high as during the war, and is increasing steadily. It is indeed precarious times for newspapers.

"The big city papers are in no danger, as they maintain their own paper mills. They use enough paper for colored supplements and dampfoolishness every Sunday to supply the small newspapers with newsprint. Large editions, just volume regardless of quality, seems to be the aim of some publishers.

"It is these big publications which waste so much newsprint that are howling against the postal zone law. They want the small papers to help them repeal the law which makes it necessary for them to pay postage on their inflated publications.

"The newspapers of the country, by cutting down their publications, improving the quality at the expense of quantity, can do much toward bringing down prices. Let the big papers chop off the pages now used in each issue to tell about the heartthrobs of some hand painted woman, or the foolishness of some nincompoop, reducing the price in proportion, and they will set a good example for other lines of endeavor."

THE FUTURE OF OIL

A nationally prominent oil man says: "The fear of a possible over-expansion of the oil industry is not well based. Last year the U. S. produced 341,000,000 barrels of oil, but this was 42,000,000 barrels short of consumption, which had to be imported from Mexico.

"Eliminating the war increase and

taking the ten years preceding the war we find that the average annual increase in consumption, if continued, will in eight years require every refinery in the United States to double its capacity.

"The ten-year pre-war increase occurred before the airplane and the submarine began using large quantities; before conversions from coal to oil as fuel for ships became frequent, and while the automobile industry was just getting into its stride. In ensuing years the demand from these sources for oil will increase tremendously. The possibilities in use of oil as vessel fuel alone can be appreciated from the fact that three 5000-ton cargo boats burning oil can do the work of four same size vessels using coal, and at less expense per boat."

Is it any wonder that far-seeing men are striving for a national policy and legislation encouraging to rather than discouraging to further development of our oil lands?

PULCHRITUDE AND THE PRESIDENCY

Gen. Pershing's handsome appearance on the day of the parade here was the subject of wide remark and warm admiration. It was generally agreed that a more striking figure on horseback had never been seen in this town. "Won't that help him if he runs for the presidency?" was the inquiry of a looker-on.

Pulchritude has not always helped presidential candidates. It did nothing for Gen. Scott, who was a handsome man and soldierly figure. It did nothing for John C. Breckinridge, who was regarded as the handsomest public man of his day. Gen. McClellan lacked inches, but his figure was well knit, and he was regarded as handsome of face. Gen. Hancock was an extremely handsome man, and sat on a horse superbly. However, he lost to a man almost as handsome as himself. Gen. Garfield had inches and pose and a fine open countenance.

The case of John C. Breckinridge recalls the fact that he lost to an extremely homely man, judged by the standards of physical beauty. Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Breckinridge were as the poles apart in the matter of personal appearance. The one was an ungainly giant, spare of frame, long of arm, and coarse of feature. He walked awkwardly and said of himself, in his quaint way, that he was "a spectacle on horseback."

The other was almost an Adonis. Mr. Breckinridge had stature, and mold of form, and grace of movement. Wherever he was, on the street, in the Senate or, at an evening function, in the drawing room, he instantly attracted attention. Later, when he became an officer in the Confederate army, he showed to as great advantage in a soldier's uniform as he had done in the dress of a civilian.

But if Mr. Breckinridge had the advantage in the matter of pulchritude, Mr. Lincoln topped him, as he did every other American of his generation, in the matter of expression. Mr. Breckinridge had eloquence. He was almost as effective on the stump as Henry Clay. He drew great crowds to hear him and in every campaign was in request at home and elsewhere.

But such a gift as marked the conclusion of the first inaugural, the whole of the second inaugural, the Gettysburg oration, and the letter to the bereaved mother whose five sons had perished in the armies of the Union was not his.

We have then the interesting fact that the homeliest man who ever ran for the presidency defeated the handsomest man ever nominated for the office. Born in the same state—Kentucky—the one the child of extreme poverty and with no opportunity, the other the child of wealth and every opportunity—they ran interesting courses, but the child of poverty, unaided by anything but his genius, won the great prize—the greatest of all prizes.—Washington Star.

UNREASONABLE DEMANDS OF COAL MINERS

Washington, Oct. 14—(Special correspondence).—Senator J. S. Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, recently placed in the Congressional Record the correspondence which shows the details of the controversy between bituminous coal mine owners and the mine employees which threatened curtailment of bituminous coal production to such an extent as to bring about a disastrous shortage. The demands of the mine workers were thus summarized:

"First: That the present wage agreement between the operators and the miners, which it was generally understood would not expire until April 1, 1920, shall be considered as null and void after November 1, 1919;

"Second: That hereafter the miners shall work only five days a week and only six hours a day;

"Third: Wages shall be increased 50 per cent;

"Fourth: For overtime there shall be a 50 per cent additional overtime compensation, and for all work on Sunday and holidays the extra pay shall amount to 100 per cent."

Senator Frelinghuysen declared that if the demands should be granted it would add from \$2 to \$2.50 to the price on every ton of bituminous coal marketed, and a billion dollars would be filched from the pockets of those who can ill afford any such tax in view of the innumerable other demands made upon the family purse.

Judge Gary of the United States Steel Corporation gave some interesting figures in his testimony before the senate committee tending to show the efforts made by the company to insure the contentment of its employees. He stated that \$32,000,000 had been expended in residences for the men, and houses not yet completed represented \$7,000,000 more. On the rented houses the rent had not been increased since 1914, a fact that the senators mentally compared with conditions in Washington and other cities where extortionate profiteering in rents had been the practice during the war. Since 1912 Judge Gary said his concern had paid out \$65,700,000 for welfare work, and in the same period had built forty-seven schools and twenty-three churches. He contended that the interest of the employees

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TO THE DAIRYMEN OF SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT

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People of good temper are not all ways kind people.—Mortey.

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Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.

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