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S. A. PATTISON, Editor and Publisher

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WAR MADNESS PRODUCES FAMINE

Hoarding is in full swing on the Far Western coast; new wood is filling the abominable insurance sacks while last year's wood still fills the warehouses and burdens the banks.

Though the mines are running at less than fifty per cent of their capacity, nearly a billion pounds of unsold copper is vainly seeking buyers; the prune tree has blossomed and the tiny new fruit is forming on innumerable stems, but the bins will contain almost half of last year's harvest.

This glut of useful products is the direct result of Europe's sham peace. They fuss about reparations. The American farmer paid five billions of it last season through the shrinkage in the value of his products.

The four million unemployed Americans lost a billion in wages in three months' down in Buenos Ayres the wharves are sagging under the weight of American merchandise, rejected because Europe could not buy Argentine products. And yet the armies of Europe are on the march again as spring begins.

Since 1918 no fighting season has opened with worse prospects for the entire world. But the darkest hour comes just before dawn. It may be that the present red Spain of Europe is the last and most violent before the return of sanity and order. —May Sunset.

TELEPHONE MONOPOLY TENDS TO INCREASE RATES

PORTLAND, Ore., April 23.—(To the Editor)

Two agencies—competition and public regulation primarily—control the quality of service received and the price paid for it by the patron of a public utility privately operated. Where competition exists, there is little need for public regulation, which usually comes into play when a monopoly has been created.

There is a third element always present in some degree and given but slight consideration, namely the ability or willingness of the public generally as distinguished from individuals, to take the service and pay the rate required. A fourth element, always magnified and put forward prominently, is the alleged necessity for the utility or more agency.

When it is considered that in Portland, no attempt has been made to increase rates for electric lighting in which service to separate concerns compete, the question naturally arises, why different principles are applied to the construction of rates for competitive service and for noncompetitive service, and how it happens that competing utilities are able to carry on without appealing to the public for increased rates.

Must the public fight and just merely and encourage competitive service with its attendant economic loss and duplication of facilities to protect itself against unbridled exactions or should the Public Service Commission take into consideration, in connection with an application to raise public utility rates, whether competition has been stifled.

The history of the acquisition of the Home Telephone and Telegraph Company's property by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company is decided pertinent at this time of its relationship to the reported granting of increased rates to the existing monopoly. It may be well to re-

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Heppner High met and defeated the Pilot Rock High in a slugfest here last Saturday with a score of 8 to 15. The first inning the Pilot Rock boys started with three runs. Then in the last half of the first the Heppner boys hit the ball for 11 runs, making the score at the end of the first half 3 to 11 in Heppner's favor. After the first inning both sides tightened up a little but the pitchers didn't get warmed up good until the sixth, after which only one run was allowed and that to Pilot Rock. There were few big hits during the day and Peterson pulled down the only home run of the day. The Heppner team hit the ball much better last Friday than they ever have before, but they made a lot of errors in the field.

The town people turned out as well as could be expected for a cold day, but if Heppner High expects to make baseball pay they will have to have larger crowds out to their games. We are expecting a game with Hill Military Academy here on May 27 and 28th.

The play "What Happened to Jones," given by the high school last Friday evening, went off in a very smooth manner. We are sorry that more of the town people could not get out to the play for we feel that they have missed a very good evening's entertainment.

Some time in the near future the High School will take a day off for plenikin. Mr. James says the grades will go on a picnic of their own the same day.

A review of the Home Telephone transaction and its application to the two proceedings before the Public Service Commission involving increased telephone rates in Portland and some other communities creates a very vivid impression that something is out of joint either in the regulatory activities in this state or in the generally accepted theory that the rights of the public is the paramount consideration.

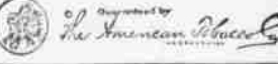
In its order No. 459 of May 2, 1919, the Commission says that the acquisition of the automatic system by the Bell interests will in our opinion result in improved and more efficient service and the removal of duplication, save to the telephone users of the four cities named not less than \$25,000 annually, and "It is anticipated that the equipment purchased will take care of the greater part of the new business expected for the next three years."

A careful examination of the Commission's proceedings in the telephone cases fails to disclose any intimation that the elimination of the automatic system was in any respect



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recognized as influencing the demands that the Pacific Company now makes, or that the Commission in granting them remembered the findings it made in the order of May 2, 1919.

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G. FRANZEN, Prop.

FORMER PROMINENT CONDON CITIZEN PASSES

Jim Dunn, one of the original members of the pioneer firm of Dunn Bros., died at the home of his sister, Mrs. Susan Greiner, in San Diego, California, last Sunday evening. The funeral services were held in San Diego yesterday.

For a number of years Jim Dunn was one of the leading business men of this section. With his brother, Judge Ed Dunn he conducted the general store business now owned by J. D. Burns, and was also extensively interested in the livestock business. He left this section some 15 years ago, and has since been in business in Arizona and California.

Mr. Dunn never married, and the only immediate relatives surviving him are his brothers and sisters. They are Ed Dunn of Boise; Joe Dunn of Mt. Clemens, Mich.; Mrs. F. W. Burns who recently moved from this city to Portland; Mrs. Thomas Crimmins, Monroe, Mich.; and Mrs. Susan Greiner, of San Diego. —Condon Globe-Times

Mr. Dunn was an uncle of Mrs. Ed Breslin of this city.

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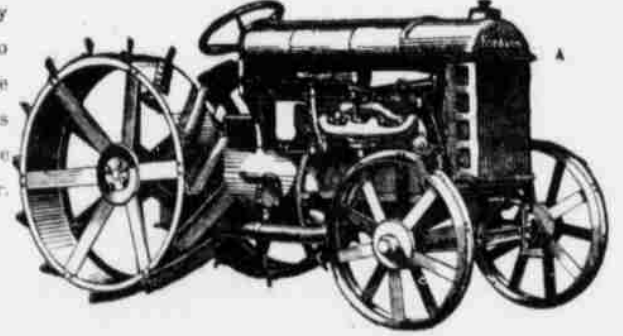
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