

CITY PLANTS SOLD

According to a recent bulletin, 105 municipal electric light and power plants were transferred to private operators during 1926, making 1,234 such plants sold, abandoned or shut down within the last few years since records have been kept.

The greatest number of city plants disposed of during the past year in any one state is reported from Georgia, where 20 were sold. Iowa reported 14, Illinois 8, Florida 7, North Carolina 6, Texas 6, Oklahoma 5 and New York 5, while the rest were scattered among various other states.

From newspaper accounts on file with the National Electric Light Association, in practically every case municipal ownership was abandoned after an overwhelming vote of the communities concerned. Uneconomic operation, due largely to political influence, was given as the change of policy demanded by the voters in most instances.

Should the present trend in the direction of private ownership and operation, under public regulation, be maintained, it will not be long until the municipal ownership experiment, so far as electric plants are concerned, will be at an end.

CANADIAN BOY'S GRIT

Admiration must be felt for the plucky Canadian lad, George Young, only 17 years old, who swam the channel between the California mainland and Catalina Island, being the only one of 103 contestants to finish the course. Of the entrants 22 were women.

Young's time in crossing was 15 hours and 16 minutes. For his feat he received the prize of \$25,000 offered by William Wrigley, Jr., to the first person to swim the 22-mile channel.

Two women, Margaret C. Hauser of Long Beach, Cal., and Martha Stager of Portland, Ore., swam about three hours longer than Young, but failed to finish. They were each given a consolation prize of \$2,500 for their brave efforts.

The Canadian lad travelled from his home in Toronto to California by motorcycle to win the prize and honor in competition with some of the greatest long-distance swimmers in the world. He will now have the opportunity which comes to all outstanding stars of the athletic world to go into the movies or vaudeville.

Asked about his future plans, while resting in a hospital, Young said: "I'm going to build a home in Los Angeles and bring my mother to California to live."

NO ONE WANTS WAR

In the midst of all the turmoil in consequence of the administration's foreign policy with respect to Mexico, one note sounds clear and strong. The American people do not want war.

However people of the United States may disagree with regard to this or that detail of foreign policy, the general demand that some peaceful settlement of our differences with Mexico must be found is too strong to be ignored.

There would be neither glory nor advantage in a resort to arms because of real or fancied grievances against our southern neighbor. While recent enacted laws by Mexico may appear somewhat drastic, it must be remembered that they only affect the internal affairs of that country and do not menace either the lives or property of American citizens to an extent to justify armed interference on our part.

If conditions appear to warrant protests on the part of the United States, these should be made through diplomatic channels, with an appeal to arbitration if necessary. It is reported that both governments have expressed their acceptance of this principle. No one wants war, and there will be no war.

BACK TO THE FARM

In spite of many gloomy predictions about the farmer, made in some instances by professional political reformers there is an apparent trend toward return to the farm on the part of country folks who have been drawn toward the city during the depression in the farming industry. This is the information which reaches us through the National Association of Real Estate Boards which recently completed its fourth annual survey of farm market conditions in the United States. The results of the survey are based on reports of 127 communities in the United States and Canada. The report shows, among other things, that prices of farm lands though having a tendency to advance, are fairly stable at a level below 1920 but above the farm price level of 1914. It is stated that there is a greater optimism among the farmers than was evidenced at this time last year with a corresponding increase in credit facilities.

Of the 127 communities which replied, according to the farm report, 56 per cent reported the farm real estate market more active than last year; 28 per cent reported the market about the same and only 16 per cent reported that the market was not so good as a year ago. The best farm markets were reported in the North Central and Central Eastern sections of the country, and the Mountain and Pacific states.

The report adds that the greatest reason given by the purchasers for buying farms was the purchase for a home and the carrying on of the farming business, while the second most numerous reason was the expectation that farm land values are going to increase and that the purchase of farm lands now is a good investment.

We have had all sorts of opinions on how the farmer is getting along and whether his condition is improving or declining. This report on the sale of farm lands ought to furnish pretty good evidence. If the buying of farm lands is on the upgrade, as the report seems to find, then there is good basis for the reports that the condition of the farmer generally is improving. Nothing succeeds like success and people will not be returning from the cities to the farms unless they believe there is a better chance to succeed in rural communities.

The attempt of scientists to eliminate the necessity for sleep will be sternly resisted by the mattress makers.

VOTERS WILL STICK TO THE PRIMARY

Another proposal to emasculate the Oregon primary law has bobbed up in the legislature in the form of a bill introduced by a Jackson county statesman to permit the holding of a convention of precinct committeemen before the primary for the purpose of recommending candidates. The idea may have merit, but it is doomed to failure. The determination of the people to keep the power the primary gives them is so strong that even the legislature understands it and at the last session refused to accept even the mild Mills proposals for a modified convention system. The latest attempt will fail as the others have failed.

In this connection it is pertinent to suggest that if members of the legislature really want to convince the people of the superiority of government by elected representatives they can best accomplish this by themselves making a good record. The reason the voters insist on taking a hand in legislative matters directly is not so much a belief in their own omnipotence as a well-founded distrust of their elected representatives. As long as the legislature persists in going against the known wishes of the people in voting new and unnecessary expenditures to be financed by new and higher taxes, there need be little surprise that the people insist on controlling as much of the government as possible. The fact is that the people show a better grasp of sound state policies than does the legislature. A really foolish proposal has a far better chance before the legislature than it does before the people. The people are more conservative, more opposed to frills and extravagance than the statesmen who meet under the big white dome every two years. As long as this condition exists, and it is the shame of the legislature that it does exist, the people will hold tightly to every iota of the power the direct primary, initiative, referendum and recall give them.—Baker Herald.

BLUE AND GRAY REUNION

Congressman Edgar Howard of Nebraska recently brought to the attention of the House of Representatives the proposal for a final joint reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic and the United Confederate Veterans, to be held in the city of Washington in 1928, as advocated by L. D. Richards a distinguished Union soldier of Fremont, Neb., and others.

While the plan has not been approved by these two great national organizations, it has been widely discussed and may be brought before them for official consideration this year. In an editorial on the subject in the Fremont Tribune the argument is made that each year the recurring reunions with their fatigue of travel and entertainment is a severe strain on the remaining strength of the veterans, many of whose lives have been cut short thereby. Approving the suggestion of Mr. Richards, the Tribune said:

"He proposes, in brief, that a final grand reunion of all the veterans of the Civil War be arranged, and thus mark the final closing of the breach that once threatened the very existence of our nation; that the age-bowed hosts of the Union and the Confederacy march down historic Pennsylvania Avenue, this time joined in a harmony and patriotic brotherhood that will for all time symbolize the lasting unity of our people."

While there may be dissenting opinion, to us it seems that this would be a wonderful demonstration of patriotism and brotherhood, which could not fail to make a lasting and beneficial impression upon the whole nation.

A LAW WITH TEETH

The state of New York has apparently shown the way toward a checking of crime through the Baumes law, which became effective last July, and under which provides among other things that a criminal convicted of felony for the fourth time must be given life imprisonment.

This provision of the law recently has been upheld by the state supreme court. Other features of the law make it more difficult to secure paroles and pardons, and on the whole it is designed to remove the operation of justice from the hands of smooth criminal lawyers and judges susceptible to corrupt influences.

Even in the short time the law has been in effect it is said to have reduced crime in the state to such a marked extent that other states contemplate the enactment of similar measures.

Crime in this country has assumed the proportions and character of a highly organized business, and as such it must be dealt with. The idea of reforming a man who deliberately enters upon a life of crime is utterly futile in practical every case. When one persists in a criminal career after three convictions for felonies, it is pretty safe to conclude that he is utterly unfit to be at large, therefore upon the fourth conviction society is justified of getting rid of him for good, as the Baumes law provides.

The five-day week is a start in the direction of making our week-ends meet.

Those ads describing the horrors of halitosis fairly make one hold his breath.

The only trust that has escaped the attacks of demagogues is the flivver trust.

Evidently it hasn't occurred to uplifters that pestering people doesn't make them happy.

Red propaganda from Moscow will be more convincing when Utopia is realized in Russia.

Mussolini's diet consists principally of milk, yet he has never been accused of being a milk-sop.

Perhaps the woman most envied for her supposed knowledge is the wife of a doctor in a small town.

If a married couple live happily together it isn't news—otherwise newspapers would have to be larger.

Who remembers when the fellow who made only about \$10,000 a year was good for a "success" story?

Wonder if our friends still appreciate those Christmas presents we bought for them on the installment plan.

We may expect to hear any day that Casey of Mudville was "sloughing" when he staged his famous strike-out.

Time is the jokesmith's greatest enemy. Wheezes about the mother-in-law, the postoffice pen and the income tax blank are almost played out.

An unusual tragedy is reported by the esteemed Cleveland News, which states that "Doro surprisd Mrs. Abramvitz and fired a shot at her airhdl pai amfwyoau."

Remember the good old days when the only persons on the baseball field ever accused of being crooked were the umpires?

It is said that 13,000 new laws will be passed by the various state legislatures in session this year. This means of course more work for the lawbreakers.

A physician says that the lipstick which the girls use attracts microbes. Especially the kind with wide pants and patent leather hair.

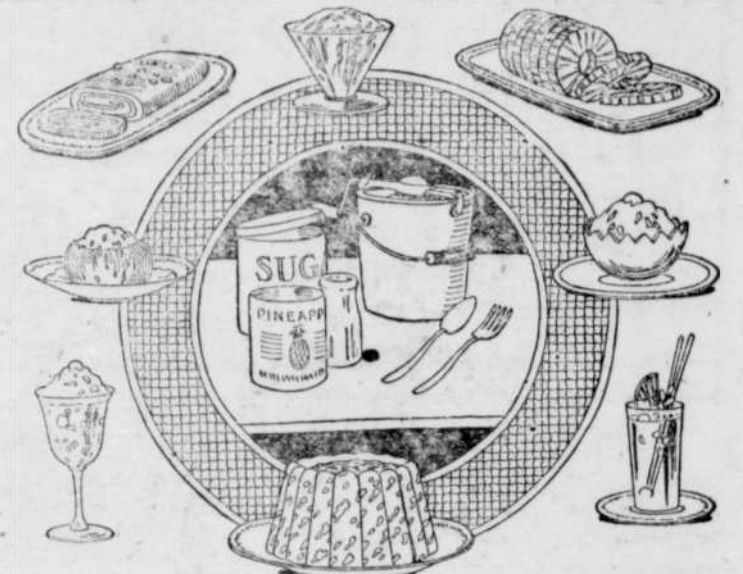
It was forty degrees below zero in Moscow last week so you can't blame those Reds for trying to get into Mexico and Central America.

Gene Tunney has signed to fight for a million dollars, which is more money than we got for winning the World War.

If the revolutionists in Nicaragua arn't satisfied now they will have a chance to tell it to the marines.

Charlie Chaplin is a living proof of the assertion that it is possible to have sixteen million dollars and still not be entirely happy.

When somebody asked George Steele the other day what he thought about Lithuania, George replied that he never drank anything but plain hydrant water.



DELICIOUS FROZEN DESSERTS

WINTER is an excellent time to think of luscious frozen desserts, since most people eat more rich foods during the cold weather than at any other time—heavy roast meats, rich dressings, candy, cake and whatnot, and the housewife who uses forethought will have on her menu lists some light desserts, easy to prepare, but tempting and attractive. Frozen desserts are especially good.

From the eternal summer-time of Hawaii comes pineapple, to add its golden color and its tropical flavor to these iced delicacies. Hawaiian pineapple is especially adapted for desserts because its rich juice contains a digestive property which aids in the digestion of meats.

Frozen Pineapple Bisque is a delicate but delicious dessert simple to prepare. Boil fifteen minutes, two cups water and one cup sugar. Add the syrup drained from a medium can of crushed Hawaiian pineapple and freeze. Before the mixture has frozen hard, fold in the crushed pineapple, from which the syrup has been drained, and one cup whipped cream. Pack and allow to stand one hour before serving.

Pineapple Frappé Hawaiian combines crushed with sliced pineapple in a novel and pleasing way. Mix one cup sugar and two cups water. Boil for twelve minutes.

Cool, add two cups ice water and contents of a medium size can of crushed Hawaiian pineapple with three tablespoons lemon juice. Freeze to a mush, but do not re-pack. Have ready the slices from a medium can of sliced Hawaiian pineapple and place one slice on each plate. Pile the frozen mixture on the slices of pineapple, and top each with a maraschino cherry. Serve as soon as possible.

A more substantial dessert is Frozen Pineapple Custard. Heat two cups milk. Mix two tablespoons flour, two cups sugar and one-eighth teaspoon salt. Add the hot milk, cook in a double boiler, stirring until mixture thickens, then cook ten minutes. Pour onto one beaten egg, return to double boiler and cook three minutes longer, or until mixture thickens, stirring constantly. Chill thoroughly, add one cup cream and contents of small can of crushed Hawaiian pineapple, well drained. Freeze and serve.

A pineapple dessert which is so simple that you can make it in a moment and go away and forget about it until time to serve, is Frozen Pineapple Slice. Pack a large can of Hawaiian sliced pineapple in ice and salt, as you would ice cream, and allow it to stand for three or four hours. Add whipped cream before serving.

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