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THE TWIN FALLS DAILY TIMES

Official Newspaper of the City and County of Twin Falls

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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Splendid examples in cooperation are being given by various local bodies and agencies in the campaign for reduced freight rates. The Chamber of Commerce, Farm Bureau and agricultural officials are placing firmly shoulders to the wheel. It is to be hoped they will be a great deal of credit, not only individually for the results obtained, but also collectively for the fine demonstration of teamwork. This is the stuff live towns are made of.

Twin Falls County's reputation as the center of the Shorthorn cattle industry in Idaho will be subjected to inspection next Thursday, when prominent stockmen of the Northwest join an excursion through this county. The big strides made in the growing of fancy cattle in this section is a matter of just pride. The Shorthorn ranchers are doing an important service in the development of diversified farming besides spreading the name and fame of their county.

FORD'S RATE CUT

In view of the rate fight being made by Idaho producers and organizations for lower freight rates the announcement of a voluntary reduction by Henry Ford on his railroad cannot but be read with interest.

"Ford, becoming known as the prince of price breakers, first knocked the war peak off the automobile industry. Now he is likely to be greasing the toboggans for the railroad folks. He can't, of course, reach high freight rates in the way that he reached automobile prices—through competition—for he doesn't occupy the commanding position railroad circles. But there should be an object lesson for the interstate commerce commission in his idea that rates can be lowered all should be. Likewise it should serve to knock a few prop out from under the roughs that prefer to maintain present levels."

Afide from the producer's viewpoint there is merit for the consumer also in the situation, according to economists who are already speculating upon the possible effect Ford's move will have upon living costs.

It is pointed out that the drop in automobile prices was felt in all commodities and that further declines are believed to depend upon reduced freight rates. The psychological effect of Ford's announcement is computed on to bring such a result.

WOULD RAISE POWER RATES

We have called attention to the fact that the Idaho Power company is seeking to get before the public utilities commission an increased valuation which will eventually mean an increased power rate. Some peculiar things happen when these hearings are on and very often changes in rates are granted which are never asked for by the company. But every household will be interested in the proceedings of this hearing and what the average family has to say pro and con the subject.

In this connection we wish to quote from the Bois Stateman the following editorial:

"The Idaho Power company is asking the state public utilities commission to approve a valuation of twenty-two million dollars, for its property and to adjust power rates so that they will bring to the company an income of 8 per cent on that investment.

Certain power users claim that the cost of real property and equipment of the company is worth about eight million dollars and they are contesting, before the commission (which sits a court in such matters), the validity of the valuation. They, and the people in general, are afraid approval of an unreasonable valuation will deprive Idaho industries of the natural advantage of water power at their doors.

"The valuation case is serving to show more than anything else has shown in recent years—the inadequacy of our public interests' properly to protect the people.

The commission sits as a group of judges to hear the case. Before the bar come expensive attorneys and technical experts with a nation-wide power organization behind them and an unlimited fund of statistical and theoretical information to present in support of their claims. To oppose them and contest their arguments on behalf of the people are available an assistant attorney general, an engineer and an auditor, at most. And each of these men must give part of his time to the claims of every other public utility that has any case to argue, whereas the formidable array of talent presented in this case by the power corporation is made up of specialists, some of whom have worked since 1918 in the preparation of this one presentation.

"The power users who are attempting to prevent the power company from, as they view it, 'skipping something over,' have found it necessary in this case to go down into their own pockets and pay the expenses of a valuable expert, and an attorney, and other expenses incident to collecting information for use in the hearing.

"What a paradoxical situation it is! The people, whose rights are supposed to be protected, are paying for the corporation, which, indeed, and because they alone support the great power company, they are paying, too, for the formidable array of legal, financial and financial talent retained by the power company to further its own (and not the people's) interests. They pay for the court and the expensive opposition; but the experts and attorneys working in their own behalf are paid by private donors and not the public at all.

If the power user gets nothing from this case, it will be mainly through the donations he has made. The public's money is going to finance the opposition.

"What strange machinery for protecting the rights of the people!"

TWIN FALLS DAILY TIMES

THE OLD HOME TOWN



MIKE'S SYSTEM MAKES A THREE HAT BENCH
TAKE CARE OF FIVE ON A BUSY SATURDAY

The Woman He Married

By Jane Phelps

Chapter 124

Jessie was in the north. Jessie by her choice of expression when she saw me that I was incomplete. But I could bear it, I would bear it, and I did bear it. Jessie had no time for me. If I could help it that future should not be blighted by scandal.

"How delighted he was to see me," Jessie said, "when I first came to him. That was my first meeting with him."

"Well, Mr. Wintersman, reading him?" she asked, calling Dick by the name of her husband when we first saw her. "That was my first meeting with him. I never had him before."

"Want a seat? to telephone me when he finished the story? He knew I was a writer, and he thought of his friends?" I replied, halfturning that he had the nerve to envelop me with his arms.

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