

## BIG BUSINESS PLANS WATER POWER GRAB

Special Interest Bill Before Congress Would Deprive People of Rights.

Unless the people promptly and vigorously protest, and thus create such a pressure of public opinion that Congress will fear to act, certain great Wall Street interests will succeed in monopolizing all the remaining water power resources of the United States. While the soldiers are at the front and the people at home are absorbed in war questions, the selfish power interests are quietly scheming to put over this gigantic raid on the people's heritage.

The Shields bill, after passing the Senate, was abandoned because conservation exponents pitilessly exposed its vicious character. But the Wall Street crowd has another bill introduced by Congressman Raker of California, even worse than the Shields bill. They hope to get it through before the people are aware of its provisions.

### State Should Develop Power.

Ten years ago public opinion compelled a Federal order withdrawing from entry all power sites located on government land. There is scarcely a city or town in the United States that cannot be reached in time by water power transmission. Experts predict that we shall have little use for coal in the not distant future. Every progressive citizen, therefore, wants to see this resource of such tremendous importance developed by the government itself and the power supplied at cost. Only thus can private interests be kept from getting a strangle hold on American business. But granting that private development is to be tried for a time, the Raker bill is, nevertheless, a vicious measure.

### Commission is All Powerful.

It provides a commission of three to have entire charge; it provides for private sale of this public property; it provides a minimum charge of 10 cents per horse power per annum; it prevents the government from taking over any water power development except temporarily under military necessity; it provides no real time limit within which construction must be completed; it grants a franchise for fifty years.

A bargain between the public and a private interest should be at least fair. The Raker bill is not a bargain, but a gift. The charge of 10 cents would not pay the expenses of the Commission, and when once fixed the charges must stand for fifty years.

### 50-Year Contract Absurd.

A 50-year contract is absurd because no one can foresee conditions for that time. A contract that proves unfair to a private interest cannot be enforced, but a contract unfair to the public is always sustained. The bill allows preliminary permits with out cost. This gives the Wall Street interests the chance to grab all the good sites at once and to develop them at their convenience.

There is no provision for limiting the charges to the public except our general anti-trust laws. No independent will be allowed to do any developing because the financial power back of these interests is too strong. In a few years the profits from water power development would probably more than pay the expenses of the Federal Government.

### Monopoly Will Be in Saddle.

Unless this bill is defeated, the people of the United States will be saddled with a monopoly that will outlive the children of the present generation. It is not even a war measure, as claimed, because no power can be developed for at last three years.

Burdened with this power monopoly our American business will not be able to meet the competition of more progressive nations.

## POLITICAL REVOLT IN EAST

Discontent Among New York Farmers to be Voiced at Polls.

Inspired by the accomplishments of the farmers of the Northwest who have taken their political fortunes in their own hands, agriculturalists of New York state have determined to launch a political party of their own.

This uprising of the farmers is the result of dissatisfaction with the way the state administration is handling agricultural and food problems.

The plans call for an entire state ticket, with candidates for the assembly in every rural district in the state. It will be a purely agrarian party. None but farmers will be named.

New York state politicians are greatly agitated over this evidence of independence on the part of the farmers who have been voting for years the way they were told to vote. Republican leaders tried to avert the inception of the new party. The agriculturalists refused to accept the olive branch offered by Lieutenant Governor Schoebeck on behalf of the state administration.

### State Superior to Citizen.

"The right to run my business as I see fit," has received a hard jolt by the necessities of war. Two ketchup companies at Greenville, Ohio, have been told to shut up for the year because they disobeyed government regulations.

## HOARDING CAUSE OF ADVANCE IN SHOES

Packers Store Hides While the Price of Leather Soars out of Sight.

Hoarding of hides by the packers and phenomenal profits of tanning companies are the principal causes for the high prices of shoes and other leather goods, according to a preliminary report of the Federal Trade Commission.

Figures show that the take-off of hides has increased 30 per cent over that of 1912, that the imports of hides in spite of tonnage scarcity, increased by 70 per cent, and that at the same time exports of shoes decreased from the high level of 13,000,000 pair in 1916 to a little over 6,000,000 pair in 1917.

### War Doesn't Excuse Prices.

The frequent excuse for high shoe prices, namely, the large government orders for our soldiers, evidently had little or nothing to do with the prices to the public. The Trade Commission went behind the publicity of the packers and the leather and shoe companies to get the facts, and again found that their widely circulated reports covered up unjustifiable and vicious profiteering.

Although stocks of hides are abnormal and there is little or no market for country hides, the leather companies are working at far from capacity. The people, therefore, not only suffer from famine prices for shoes and other leather goods, but are threatened with real shortages as soon as the present manufactured stocks are used up. The big leather interests are not only asking monopoly prices, but are reducing production.

### Huge Leather Stocks Held.

"The quantity of hides," says the report, "stored by the five large Chicago packers increased 45 per cent during 1916 and the first half of 1917. These five concerns are undoubtedly the chief factors in the hide market in the United States, and the Swift and Armour interests are among the important leather manufacturers."

"The increase in the values when the packers have placed on their hides is much greater than the increase in the price they have paid for cattle. Thus, at the five principal plants of Swift & Co., the price paid for cattle in nine months of 1915-16 compared with the same nine months of 1916-17 increased approximately 17 per cent, but the value which Swift & Co. put on the hides from these same cattle increased 25 per cent."

### Excessive Profits Revealed.

"Financial reports secured by the Commission from Swift & Co., and Armour & Co. show phenomenal increases in the profits of their leather business in 1915-16 compared with the previous year.

"Reports of the larger companies show that net profits in 1916 were in several instances two, three, four, or even five times as large as in 1915, and the 1915 net profits in turn showed increases of from 20 per cent to more than 100 per cent over those of 1914."

## NULLIFIES ALASKA COAL ACT

Section in Walsh Bill Would Put National Resources in Jeopardy.

In Section 2 of the Walsh mineral lands bill, which has passed the Senate and is pending in the House committee on public lands, has been inserted an amendment which wipes off the statute books the Alaska coal lands act.

This was done by Senator Jones of Washington, who offered the simple amendment, "or territory" to the Walsh bill. It was accepted without debate, and it is claimed that most of the senators were in ignorance of the fact that it would wipe out the Alaska coal lands bill under which half of the coal of the territory is reserved for government development and the other half is safeguarded by laws which define labor conditions under which it may be mined.

To destroy this act would be a betrayal of the nation's property right in \$1,000,000,000 worth of coal and it would be a repudiation of the whole purpose of the building of the government railroad.

Fear is expressed that this provision in the Walsh bill which repeals the Alaska coal lands act, is the first step towards destroying the effects of the great fight for conservation that was won in the Roosevelt and Taft administrations by Brandeis, Pinchot and those associated with them and that it is the opening wedge by which the resources of the north will again be at the mercy of the Morgan and Guggenheim interests.

A determined fight will be made in the House to remove this objectionable amendment now that the attention of the public has been called to it.

### Lawyers Not Necessary.

Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo announces that neither soldiers, sailors or their dependents need to employ lawyers to collect insurance. The government furnishes simple blanks and will assist any person in filling them out. Iowa farmers, who employ mostly lawyers as legislators, should take the hint and do their own law making.

## EXCHANGES

One of the largest crowds outside of a celebration attended the Red Cross sale in the public square in Broken Bow Saturday, that has come to this city for a number of years. The articles which had been donated were numerous and many of considerable value.

Four auctioneers were busy most of the afternoon and yet all the goods were not sold. These auctioneers were Jim Jones of Ansley; William Holly, Berwyn; P. L. Fuller, Broken Bow; and Jud Kay, Broken Bow.

The farmers had been very liberal in their donations to the Red Cross. Pigs, thoroughbred with the papers, calves, sheep, chickens, ducks, and geese, were numerous. There were any amount of household articles for sale. Plants and cooked articles, with canned goods were in abundance.

The bidding did not become strong in the early part of the sale until the thoroughbred calf donated by Judge Sullivan had been brought upon the platform. Judge bought it back the first time for \$51. He then put it up for sale again, and his closest bidder before bought it and put it back. Attention was called then to the fact that this man was of German descent, the crowd cheered and the bidding was started. The calf sold nine times, bringing a total of \$345 the last man buying him having bought him once before and put him up for sale again, decided to keep the calf.

The following is the Treasurer's report of the Saturday Sale:

"The gross receipts of last Saturday's Red Cross sale at this date, March 19th, is \$2,108.65. There are various sums yet unpaid amounting to about \$300. It is hoped that the completion of this sale next Saturday will push the net receipts beyond the \$3,000 mark.—Custer Co., Republican.

## CRAWFORD METHODISTS DEDICATE CHURCH

What is considered the finest church in the Northwest country was dedicated by the Methodists last week. The building represents an investment of \$20,000.00, with a \$2000.00 pipeorgan included in the equipment.

Last Sunday was a big day for Methodism in Crawford. The occasion was the dedication of their new church, and the closing of the Jubilee Week. At both services, and a special meeting in the afternoon, crowds of people from Crawford, Chadron, Alliance, Whitney and surrounding country, filling the seating capacity and requiring large numbers of chairs in the available open spaces in the auditorium and balcony to accommodate the people who flocked to the temple of worship to witness the dedicatory services and other meetings held through the day.

## CHADRON LAD SHOT BY LADY

Last Thursday evening little George Babcock, twelve year old son of Judge Babcock, was shot in the hip while in front of the residence of T. L. Farthing, near the Babcock home in this city.

From what the Chronicle can learn of the affair, George and some of his playmates were playing near the Farthing residence, and were blowing up paper sacks and crushing them with their hands, the result making a loud popping noise. While near the window of the Farthing residence, after one of the explosions, a shot was fired from a small rifle, the bullet taking effect as above stated.

A summons was issued for the arrest of Mrs. Farthing Tuesday, and on Wednesday she appeared before County Judge Slattery, where she pleaded guilty to assault and was fined five dollars and the costs of the action, amounting in all to \$5.50.

It is understood that the interested parties made some kind of a settlement before the trial of the case, as no evidence was introduced and the complaint a not mention that any shooting was done.

## BOYS ARRESTED FOR HAZING

A complaint was filed with County Judge Slattery yesterday afternoon for the arrest of a number of young men, members of prominent families in this city, on account of some hazing which took place on Tuesday of this week.

The complaint, which was tried by the county attorney, charges that Aarlin D. Peet, student at the Normal, was taken by force to the old Academy building south of the Normal, and there stripped of his clothing and beaten by a party of young men composed of Herbert Russell, Raymond Bartlett, Alfred Isham, Frederick Maika, James Tidwell, Fred Larson, Harold Gilliam, Marvin Landes and George Russell, all of whom are students at the Normal.

The young men were placed under arrest this morning by sheriff Canfield and brought before County Judge Slattery. They were released upon their own recognizance to appear for a hearing before Judge Slattery next Monday morning at ten o'clock.

It is understood that the boys implicated in the affair now consider their arrest as a sort of a joke, but the penalty for an offense of this kind is quite severe and should they receive a light sentence they should then, and not now, consider themselves fortunate. —Chadron Chronicle.

**BEST IN THE LONG RUN**



**SAFETY TREAD**

**Masters of America's Roads**

**FIGHTING** tires, which hurl their tough treads and sturdy muscular bodies against the road, and battle the roughest going with phenomenal mileage, are Goodrich Tested Tires. You foresee splendid service in their generous, masterful size, and they have proved it for you on the car and on the road.

For Goodrich Test Car Fleets have brought back from a road test, which ran the length of the continent and the year of 1917, a new standard for tires, the **Tested of—**

**GOODRICH TESTED TIRES**

Actual road roughing it thus proves the tire construction of **SILVERTOWN CORDS**, and **BLACK SAFETY TREADS**; proves that the spiral-wrapped, cable-cord tire body, and tough black tread rubber baffle the teeth of the road.

Get proven durability and dependability in the tires that mastered the roads of America in the 4,178,744 tire miles, traveled by the Test Car Fleets. Get tire economy and satisfaction in "America's Tested Tires."

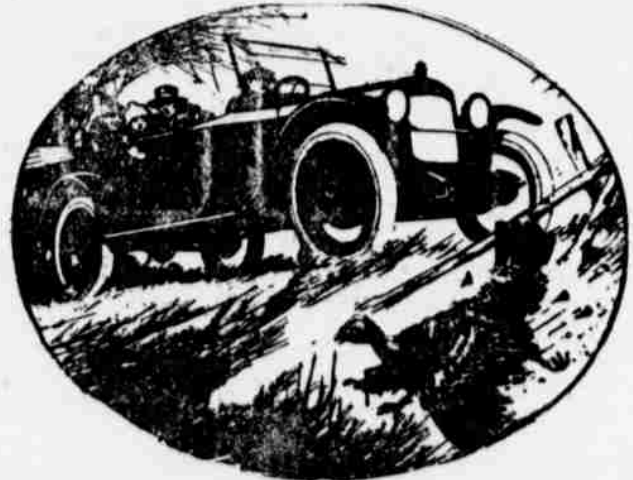
Buy from Goodrich dealers, located everywhere.

**THE B. F. GOODRICH RUBBER COMPANY**  
Denver Branch: 1222 Court Place, Denver, Colo.

**THE CITY OF GOODRICH · AKRON, OHIO.**

# The New Hupmobile

We now have several cars on display at our show rooms. Our factory expert, M. E. Holloway is now in charge of the Alliance department. He has spent ten years in the Hupmobile factory and will give car owners efficient attention.



**The Comfort Car**

It is comfort to know that your car is a better performer. This Hupmobile is 15 per cent better, on all points of performance, than the preceding model—which made the very name Hupmobile mean superior performance.

**Come in and Let Us Demonstrate to You.**

**SCHWABE BROTHERS**

Auto Accessories and Repairs

Alliance Location      Emmerick Building on Third Street

**BUY LIBERTY BONDS!**