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Electric Power Monopolies

Electric power is one of the things which has given Williamston and all of eastern Carolina much concern for many months. The people generally know very little about electricity. Even most towns, their managers, and even their electricians, do not know so much about it.

If there is any real political disgrace in this country, it has come from the States and Nation permitting the giant power companies to manipulate and gobble up the water power privileges.

They have, in many cases, worked by the means of key men. Big business interests would go to a field and sound it out. They would get in bed with the politicians; they would manipulate and scare employees of municipalities by showing them how their old jobs would fade away, and would promise to embrace them in their big warm fold if they would help them teach the public that they should be admitted to tie up territory.

They have, in many cases, worked on city and town officials until they could convince them it was best to lie down in their arms. They have de-

liberately helped to elect men on town boards whom they could handle.

One of their favorite pastimes has been to employ attorneys and hire prominent business men to talk up the failures of municipalities and boost big power companies. Their methods have been so thorough that towns and cities have fallen in their wake like hay before the teeth of a sharp mowing machine.

But they have not given the facts to the public. They have sought to warp the public mind into believing our natural resources should be turned over to individuals for development. The mistake will be discovered, not in the distant future, but when it is too late.

An editorial in the News and Observer, of Sunday, sheds some light on the subject.

Writing from Toronto, Judge King, director of the Popular Government League, gives some interesting information about the operator of the

publicly owned and operated Hydro-electric system. That company supplies light and power to 463 cities, towns, hamlets, and farm districts

More Game Laws Needed

The squirrel season opened September 1. Doubtless the lawmakers fixed the date early to save any farmer who might shoot a squirrel off of his own, which sometimes almost becomes a necessity with farmers who have farms running back on the creeks. Certainly they did not think for a moment that sportsmen with fine guns and big cars would be coming from hundreds of miles around to get them all the first week.

It is hard to sleep in the early hours of the morning along the roadsides that lead to the lowgrounds on account of the roar and rattle of cars going to the hunting grounds, which means that there will be no squirrels

all over the province. It is said to be the greatest giant power system in the world.

"He points out that one large building in Toronto last month was supplied 1,260 kilowatt hours. The net bills was \$40.32. Before the publicly owned and operated "Hydro" the bill would have been \$151.45. In twelve months the bill would be \$590.77. The price charged by the old Toronto Electric and Light Co., would be \$2,630.16 for the same light, the current coming from the same place, Niagara Falls. Quoting a citizen of Toronto, Mr. King gives the following:

"But the drop in domestic rates has been just as pronounced and that is what interests me most. Where we once paid 8 cents a kilowatt straight, we now pay an average of 1.8 cents.

The result is that practically all workers' homes in Toronto, even the poorest, have electric lights and electric irons. Thousands of working women cook, wash and iron, sweep clean and make clothes with electric appliances. Only cheap rates could have made this possible. The use and variety of all such appliances is steadily increasing. Why, I operate my radio by hydro juice—at a cost of 10 cents per month! I have 52 lamps in my house and many appliances, and my total bill runs considerably less than \$2 per month.

when the proper time comes to hunt. Thousands of young squirrels will be left in their nests to perish and die because some dressed-up sportsman shot their mother.

The sportsman is not the only fellow that is destroying all the game. The single-barrel-gun negro is playing a good part in the destruction of game. He quits work and hunts for his living, because he counts it easier, and he is just as good a sniper as the real sportsman.

Between these two, the game does not have a chance. The only way to save the game is to increase the penalty and shorten the season for hunting.

propaganda told us we would have to pay taxes to support the public-ownership system. That has proven absolutely false. I have paid taxes in Toronto for years, but never a cent for Hydro. All charges are met out of revenue paid by customers. All we did was to put the credit of our city back of the bonds.

"Ownership of the electrical industry is the greatest gold mine on

the North American continent. In Ontario we believe in owning our part of the mine. Others can do as they please, of course, and play Esau if they choose."

"Do you now understand why the power companies are determined that Uncle Sam shall not complete and operate Muscle Shoals? They know power and light could and would be furnished at such low rates as would

disclose the fact that they are charging prices far in excess of a rate that would pay good dividends on the money invested. If Muscle Shoals, operated by the Government, should furnish power at a rate somewhat like that charged in Canada, how could the Alabama Power Co. and other private companies continue the high rates they are now charging. If they capture Muscle Shoals, they can cover up

"Better be sure than sorry"



"There is no fun in driving when your car is missing fire—starting jerkily—refusing to climb your favorite hill—lying down in traffic—a regular kill-joy. And all because you took a chance with your gas—filled her up with some unknown stuff and trusted to luck.

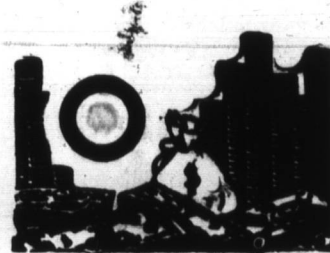
"Better to be sure with the best—'Standard' Gasoline, always dependable, obtainable everywhere—than sorry with any old brand."

says Dealer Dan

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