

CUSTOMER OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC UTILITIES IS WELL ESTABLISHED

(By Associated Press.)
ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., May 18.—Customer ownership of the public utilities of the nation, while devised as a war financing measure, has become so firmly established that real public ownership is being attained and it will not fade away with the return to normal conditions. John F. Gilchrist, of Chicago, chairman of the Customer Ownership Committee of the National Electric Light Association, reported to the forty-fifth annual convention of the electric light and power industry here today.

As indicating the wide growth in public ownership of utility securities that took place in the last year, Mr. Gilchrist cited the figures of 84 electrical central station companies which showed:

The 84 companies sold approximately 570,000 shares of stock during the year.

The ratio of total stockholders to total customers of the companies was one to 17.

Average Purchases
The average purchase for all the companies was seven shares per stockholder.

"The year just passed has been one of great activity in the sale of utility securities," Mr. Gilchrist's report said. "The growth of the electric light and power utilities has been rapid and for this reason, as well as on account of the falling commodity prices, net earnings have been satisfactory. In addition to these factors, which have made utility securities attractive, there has been the falling price of money and the corresponding increase in the assessing price of securities of recognized value which is always a stimulus to buying."

"The last year has given us more experience upon which to base views as to the improvement in relations with the public, which is directly attributable to the wide distribution of company securities among the citizenship of the community. The conclusion has been more definitely arrived at that customer ownership is not to be looked upon as a war measure destined to fade away with the return of normal conditions, but for a financing standpoint alone will become more and more important each year."

HIGHWAY COMMISSION VISITS WAYNE COUNTY

The state highway commission visited Wayne county in a body Wednesday, staying at a Richmond hotel overnight and leaving early Thursday morning, presumably on a further inspection trip.

The commission met with the Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce Tuesday afternoon and heard arguments in favor of the new state road favored by Fort Wayne, after which it made a trip of inspection over the two alternative routes.

Besides the northern system, it is presumed that the commission is also inspecting the condition of the state roads in Eastern Indiana. No members of the commission could be reached during the brief stop in the city.

Members of the commission who passed through Wayne county were John D. Williams, the new director who has succeeded Lawrence Lyons, Charles Zeigler of Attica, chairman, Earl Crawford of Connersville, A. V. Burch of Evansville, and W. G. Zahrt of Fort Wayne.

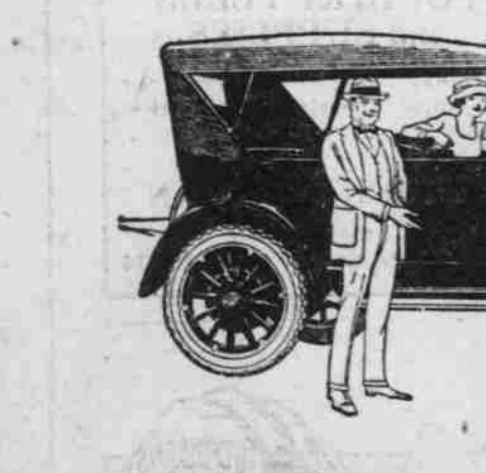
Wool Sacks Are Ready For Preble Farmers

EATON, Ohio, May 18.—Wool sacks for farm bureau members who wish to take advantage of the wool pool which again is being conducted at Columbus this year, may be obtained by Preble county farm bureau members from the office of the county agent.

Advices recently received from J. H. Walker, state secretary of the Ohio wool producers, states that prices are favorable, now running from 35 to 40 cents at the warehouse for half-blood combing wool and even better for the higher grades. Much of the Preble county wool will average a rather higher grade.

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Helping Young Composers

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 18.—Indiana is the first state to make a special effort to encourage its own musical composers, according to Grace Porterfield Polk, well known song writer of Indiana.

Three years ago, Mrs. Polk determined to do for other Indiana folk just what she wished someone had done for her when she was a struggling composer. She had to work alone, trusting in her own judgment to divine what was good and bad in her early attempts. She had to learn, by slow experiment, ways to success that an experienced song writer could have explained to her in a few minutes talk. She decided that in the future, young composers of her state at least should profit by the experience of others.

Accordingly, she began to offer a group of annual prizes for the best original songs submitted by persons native or resident of the Hoosier state. Prizes for the best art songs and ballads were offered, and also a prize for the best manuscript by a junior composer.

Mrs. Polk's belief that Indiana needed this sort of encouragement was justified. From farms, homesteads and city offices manuscripts came in to Greenwood, the suburb of Indianapolis where Mrs. Polk lives. More than 200 entries were made in the first year of the contest. Last year 350 manuscripts came in. This year the number will probably be larger, though the art song prizes have been discontinued. It was found that an art song to the amateur composer meant a very complicated and ambitious work. Many of the contestants were not ready for intricate compositions, so it was decided to concentrate on ballad forms.

The prizes are awarded every year at the American Song Composers' Festival held at Greenwood in June. The festival is another idea for encouraging home talent, both state and national. Each year many musical composers come to Greenwood for a three days celebration and festival. Both experienced composers and amateurs, some from distant states, come to this convention in the cause of American music. The beginners get helpful suggestions and counsel, the oldest musicians consult together, and all get inspiration for their work in the concerts and meetings.

Mrs. Polk is especially interested in the rising generation of musicians. For several years she was junior chairman of the National Federation of Music Clubs, and she is still the champion of the struggling composer, and of the potential composers in the school-room who have not yet realized, perhaps, that they have unwritten songs running in their heads.

Every state should encourage its home musicians, and particularly the young composers. The surest way to promote American music is to interest the young people and give them the assistance they should have.

Concrete Suggestions
There are various ways of doing this. The National Federation of Music Clubs is working to interest boys and girls of the grammar and high school age by forming them into Junior Music Clubs. These clubs give recitals, and sometimes the programs are made up entirely of original compositions. They go to hear concerts. Some of the clubs have made a study of the parts played by the different instruments in the orchestra, so that they might better understand orchestra music. And some of them have orchestras of their own.

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for the best original composition by a club member. These original pieces—little waltzes, marches, and songs—are often crude. Few are worthy of publication, but early attempts may lead to finer work, especially if sympathetic encouragement is given.

In the Indiana composers' contest an effort is made to get an idea as to what led the different junior contestants to write the pieces submitted. Most of them realize the importance of starting with a theme, just as experienced artists do. There is surprisingly little meaningless music submitted.

One little girl, telling about her manuscript, said that her father was away in the North. In a letter he said that he missed hearing the familiar bird songs. So she wrote a song with the bobolink notes carefully imitated in the melody and sent it to him. This song she had entered in the competition. She was in Miami, Florida, where there is one of the best and largest Junior Clubs in the United States.

Musical Memory Tests
Another device for making America more musical is the music memory test. These tests have been used in some public schools and in music clubs for several years. In some cities they have been conducted as city wide contests for prizes.

A list of 50 well known violin, piano and vocal pieces is selected by a local music committee, or obtained from the Federation of Music Clubs, which is sponsoring the tests. These lists contain such numbers as "To a Wild Rose" (MacDowell); "Spring Song" (Mendelssohn); "Narcissus" (Nevin); "Indian Lament" (Kreisler-Dvorak); "Toreador Chorus" from Carmen (Bizet); "Rhapsody Number Two" (Liszt); "America's Dance" (Grieg); and "Fifth Symphony" (Beethoven).

The list is made public and numbers are played as often as possible for the contestants during the weeks before the contest. For the test, a number of the pieces are played on a graphophone and the contestants identify them as to the title and the composer. In the Indianapolis schools so many of the children learned to know all the pieces listed that the contest was not much of a competition. Even after eliminating all papers with every slight mistake it was necessary to give 15 prizes.

The value of the music memory tests is obvious. Acquaintance with a cheap melody is interesting for only a few weeks at most. No one goes around humming the rag time of a few years ago. The Toreador Song, on the other hand, with its gay, fascinating lilt, is worth remembering. It is just as easy to learn as the latest jazz tune, and once really learned it is not easily forgotten.

Saunders Plimsoil, in the middle of the nineteenth century, got the first constructive marine laws through the English parliament.

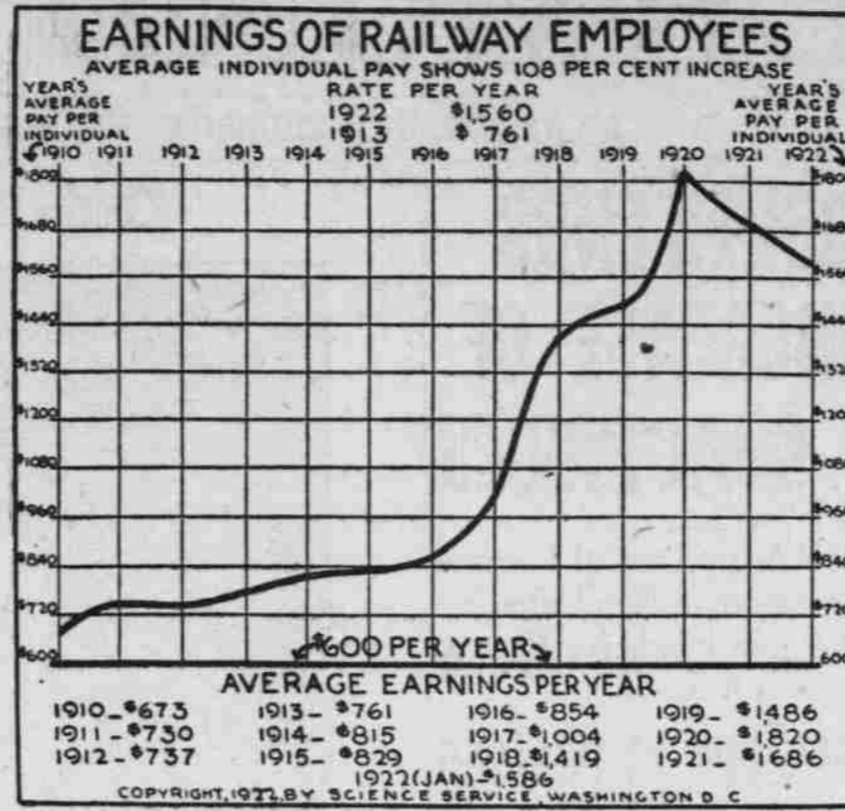
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Suburban

GREEN'S FORK, Ind.—Mrs. Anna Bennett received word Wednesday morning of the death of Mr. Bennett, near Centerville. Mr. and Mrs. George Smith attended the funeral of a relative at Dayton, Ohio, Saturday. Mrs. Mary Williams, who has spent the past week here visiting relatives and friends, left for Richmond Monday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Florence Ridge moved Monday to the property vacated by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Ridge. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Ridge moved to the home place. Mrs. Everett Chapman is visiting in Richmond. A. A. Lindley visited the Sunday schools here Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Swallow spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. John Ellis. Mr. and Mrs. Simon Weddle and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Tom Davis and daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Gray moved Tuesday to the Charles Cummins property. John Clawson of New Paris, Ohio, spent Tuesday here calling on old friends.

CAMPBELLSTOWN, Ohio.—Ruth O'Hara and Edith Larsh were delegates from the Jackson Food club to a meeting at Eaton Tuesday for the benefit of the canning club. The senior class play was well attended both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The play "And Ted Came Home" was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Perry Wright visited home folks Wednesday and Thursday. Jackson Central school will close May 24, with a basket dinner at the noon hour. The usual entertaining features, ball games, etc. School work in the various rooms will be on display and the manual training exhibit will be the best ever displayed. At the next Grange meeting May 25, a banquet will be the main attraction. This will be served by the ladies of the Grange as a conclusion to the membership drive which was closed this week. The lecturer is to secure a state speaker for the occasion. Mrs. O. H. King of New Paris and James Sullivan of this place were called to Ashland, Kan., Wednesday by the serious illness and death of their brother, Morris. Funeral was held Sunday. Mrs. King and brother expected to start Monday on the return journey. Mrs. Charles Fosdick of Eaton, formerly a resident of this place, is very poorly at her home in Eaton. The sophomore domestic science class will give a dinner Friday evening to all the teachers and members of the school board and their families. Carl and Margery Ashworth of Dayton are visiting their aunt Mrs. Mary Wright. Mr. and Mrs. McGill entertained a number of relatives from a distance Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Sullivan and daughter, Lester Benham and family, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Greeding, Mrs.

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Mary Sullivan and son Harry, spent Sunday in New Paris with Mrs. Sullivan's mother, Mrs. Kessler, the occasion being her birthday. Mrs. Lee Flora of Richmond visited her parents here Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs. Leon Craig of Cambridge visited her parents here Thursday. Her children Betty and James returned home with them after a three months' visit with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James Shumate.

SPARTANSBURG, Ind.—Mr. and Frank Catey and Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Scott attended the state convention at Muncie, Wednesday. Mrs. Stowe of Dayton is visiting with her daughter Mrs. Lester Clark and family. Mrs. Hugh Jackson and nephew Dallas of Union City spent Tuesday evening with the former's sister Mrs. Rae Clark. Several from Spartansburg attended the Sunday school convention at the Arba Friends church Sunday. Miss Fern Lacey is spending the week with Mrs. Mary Cook and family of Richmond. Miss Ruth Anderson of Crete and Miss Opal Anderson of Spartansburg were in Richmond Tuesday evening. Rev. and Mrs. M. R. Scott and daughter, Marguerite and Virginia were entertained to a Sunday evening supper by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Claybaugh. Miss Hazel and Mrs. Ellen Clark spent Tuesday afternoon with cousins Sylvia and Lois Clark. Mrs. Sylvia Middleton and daughter Christina spent

Tuesday afternoon with the former's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Hill. John Burkhardt and family spent the week-end with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Burkhardt of Arcadia in the southern part of Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Murl Moody of Lynn spent Tuesday afternoon with the latter's mother Mrs. Laura Manna. Mrs. Garnet Wiggs and daughter Doris were calling on Mrs. W. R. Scott Tuesday evening. Rev. M. R. Scott and son Herman were calling on Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Shockey and family of South Salem Monday evening.

ASKS LAWYER'S DISBARMENT
ANDERSON, Ind., May 18.—Lena Harvey filed suit in superior court seeking disbarment of Joseph Dickey, local attorney. She alleges that he practiced deceit and fraud in a guardianship proceedings in which she had employed him.

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