

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 from 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 route favored by Fort Wayne, after which it made a trip of inspection over the two alternate 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 bureaus 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 songwriter 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 future the 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 ambiguous 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.

Sometimes small prizes are given out.

Pesky Devils Quelteus

P. D. Q.



P. D. Q. Pesky Devils Quelteus is the name of the new chemical that actually ends the bug family. Bed Bugs, Roaches, Fleas and P. D. Q. kill the live ones and their eggs and stops future generations. Not an insect powder but a chemical unlike anything you have ever used.

A 35 cent package makes one quart and each package contains a patent sprout, to get the Pesky Devils out in the cracks and crevices. You drizzle it on it can get for free. P. D. Q. can also be purchased in sealed bottles, double strength, liquid form. Sold by A. G. Luken Drug company.

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