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Columbia River Power Unit Shows Increase in Revenues

Operating revenues from the Columbia river power system, consisting of the Bonneville power administration and power components of the Bonneville dam project and the Columbia basin project (Grand Coulee dam) during fiscal 1947 totaled \$21,000,929. This was \$2,000,344 more than fiscal 1946 revenues.

Total revenues since the beginning of power sales in 1939 reached \$103,352,156 by the end of fiscal 1947. The surplus, after deduction of all charges for operation, maintenance, depreciation and interest amounted to \$22,906,144, of which \$6,606,197 accrued during fiscal 1947. Except for a \$500,000 contribution for which the administrator may use to defray emergency expenses and to insure continuous operation, receipts from operating revenues were returned to the U. S. treasury. With exception of this fund, the administrator is not permitted to use revenues for operations, maintenance or construction and must send their annual appropriations bill to congress for money for these purposes.

Fiscal 1947 revenues were somewhat higher than had been anticipated a year ago. The higher return was accounted for by increases in power use by the aluminum industry and by sales to publicly and privately owned utilities, which more than offset reductions in revenue from shipyard and military establishments. The latter had been operating on a curtailed basis during the previous year, but were, by the end of fiscal 1947, for the most part, closed down.

Ginger, Spice of Antiquity, Still Leads in Popularity

Chinese ginger, from which the first gingerbread men were made centuries ago, again is coming to the United States from Hong Kong. Ginger is one of the "big five" that normally make up nine-tenths of the trade volume of the 25 common spices, says National Geographic society. Its use dates back to early Greek and Roman times. Made into shapes of men, animals or letters of the alphabet, gingerbread was delighting the children of England at Christmas time as early as the 15th century. Often the figures were gilded.

Henry VIII of England included ginger in a recipe sent the Lord Mayor of London as a remedy against the plagues then ravaging the city. Ginger was imported into France and Germany perhaps as early as the ninth century. English tavern-keepers kept perforated containers of it so that customers could sprinkle ginger on their ale and porter. In the United States, the spice has been particularly popular in New England where, among other uses, ginger sauce sometimes is served on ice cream.

Sorting Out Feathers

Chicken feathers not only are being used for stuffing pillows, but also are being spun into newly developed feather fibers. A method has been devised for sorting chicken feathers so that they may be graded for different uses. Working on the theory that the fluffier a feather, the higher it will rise in a current of air, the feathers are chopped and placed in a vertical tower up which they are blown. The feathers are collected at different heights, being separated into grades by the weight of their quills and the amount of fluff. The controlling of the moisture and the upward speed of the blast of air makes it possible to separate a mixed lot of feathers into six grades. The graded feathers can be blended to any exact need by mixing the various grades.

New Enriched Margarine

A cheaper and more dependable method of enriching margarine with vitamin A was reported to American Chemical society. Until now, deterioration of vitamin A in margarine during storage has been so rapid that manufacturers have had to add a 20 per cent surplus of the vitamin to offset unavoidable losses. Margarine fortified by the new method will retain its vitamin A content much longer, so that manufacturers will be able to reduce substantially the initial amount of the vitamin overdose. Vitamin A retention was studied by colorimetric and biological assay methods in a series of tests and similar results were observed.

An Empty Tomb

Washington, D. C., has not only its "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier," but also its "Empty Tomb." The original design for the capitol provided for a tomb for the first president in the sub-casement where he and his wife were to lie in a marble sarcophagus. A member of the Washington family objected to removing Washington's body from Mount Vernon, and the Virginia general assembly also protested. So the tomb remains empty, the space being used to store the catafalque on which noted men lie in state in the rotunda of the capitol. Lincoln was the first so honored.



Hello, Homemakers! According to reports there are many people born under the sign of the zodiac known as Gemini, which denotes a nature with two sides: Versatile, entertaining, lovable, —but changeable, often contradictory. Men say there is a bit of Gemini in every woman and if this be so, it is advisable for them to understand such a disposition.

Probably there are two sides to most women; the dreamer, ready to hitch her wagon to a star—and the practical one with two feet firmly on the ground. A homemaker has always a dream home in her thoughts and at the same time is practical about the things in which she invests as part of a long term plan.

There are ways to judge the justification of any purchase — first: Do I require it? The second consideration is: How much can I afford to pay for it? In addition to the dollar and cents value one must consider comfort, convenience, durability and usefulness.

To the many brides of this season we suggest you follow the principles of Better Buysmanship.

1. Tackle the job with confidence and determination.
2. Consult authorities before going into the market.
3. Decide in advance how much you can afford to pay.
4. Deal with reputable merchants.
5. Learn how to recognize genuine bargains.
6. Read the labels and ask for facts.
7. Choose according to your special needs.
8. Choose modern aids that increase efficiency.
9. Fit purchases into your long-term plan.

10. Respect the merchant's business sense and knowledge of his own merchandise.

11. Give due emphasis to spiritual and psychological values. Good buymanship on the consumer's part helps the merchant supply your needs more economically. For instance, avoid guesswork by obtaining information before you buy. Purchase with the intention of keeping the article. Follow directions on the label carefully and make any report or returns promptly.

We are impressed with the number of skilful shoppers in our town. This was proven as we made our survey recently. However, we decided to write this column for the busy young people who have written to us lately inquiring about budgets.

THE QUESTION BOX

Mrs. J. R. asks:
How can I reduce food bills?
Answer:
1. Learn how to choose the least expensive foods to make up an adequate diet.
2. Never waste food through overbuying, careless cooking, over-serving or improper storage.
3. Grow garden produce and preserve a surplus for winter use.
4. Eat meals at home or carry a lunch.
5. Serve plain, tasty food for company.

Mrs. B. says:
Should I buy a large or small vacuum cleaner for a five room house with just one rug?
Answer:

Your purchase of this item should depend upon your future needs, too. If you buy the larger one and the polisher attachment, you will save time and expense in keeping linoleum floors in condition and have adequate cleaning equipment for the other vacuum jobs.

"Does your husband always live up to his promise of his courtship days?"
"Always. In those days he said he was not good enough for me, and he has been proving it ever since."

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In this young and vigorous nation originality, based on sound thinking, pays off. To the young Canadian who is willing to raise his sights above the conventional, and work hard to make his vision come true, no country today offers greater opportunities for success than our own", says Hedleigh Venning.

HEDLEIGH VENNING
began his career as a junior salesman in 1926. From the beginning, he became aware of the opportunity awaiting the application of imagination and creative thinking to any job. A keen student of modern packaging, an enthusiastic and energetic worker, he is now vice-president in charge of sales of Shirriff's Limited, one of Canada's larger food product companies; a great believer in scientific marketing and a leader in the field of selling and advertising.

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