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## F. D. HAISTEN, FURNITURE ON EASY PAYMENTS

### ENGINEER'S REPORT FILED

ENGINEER TAYLOR EXPLAINS DAM QUESTION.

Man Who Inspected Property at Beaver Creek Offers Suggestion. Engineer Taylor who was one of the

three men who inspected the Beaver creek dam but did not sign the first report filed by a majority of the committee, has filed with the City Recorder his own report of the dam. It says:

To the Honorable Board of Commissioners, La Grande, Oregon.

Gentlemen: Pursuant to request of Messrs. Lafky and McKennon I made an inspection of the city dam on Beaver Creek on August 20th, 1916, and beg to report herewith as follows:

Reservoir site is well chosen. The narrow ravine affords a natural

location for a dam. The type of dam is the proper one for the location selected.

The design of the dam is good; this is confirmed by the fact that the dam withstood a head of water to within about eight feet of the crest while the concrete was comparatively green.

There is ground for seriously questioning the fitness of the sand selected to supplement the shortage of sand in the bank run gravel which was used. Short time tension tests and soft condition of concrete at this time indicate, but only longer time tests and chemical analyses should be taken as conclusive evidence, that this

sand was not a proper material.

Faces of dam indicate that concrete was not placed in accordance with best practice, which resulted in the separation of aggregate and grout. The coping of the dam is badly disintegrated, indicating that it was attacked by frost before thoroughly set.

Spillway is built at an elevation of two feet below the crest of the dam.

The above noted facts and general survey of the structure as a whole, lead to a strong suspicion that the dam will not withstand the pressure from the reservoir full to the level of the spillway. There is a possibility that the dam may withstand the pressure produced when the reservoir is full to eight or ten feet below the crest, but there is also the far more serious possibility that it may go out.

This chance must of necessity be taken this winter, but should be considered practically an unwarranted hazard next year.

At this time the first, and in fact the only thing to be considered, is making some provision to prevent the reservoir rising to the level of the spillway, or two feet below the crest of the dam.

The logical and surest method is to lower the present spillway about eight feet, which would hold the water to about its present elevation in time of flood. This method will conserve all the water now impounded for this winter's use, when no water is being developed in the hills.

The installation of outlet pipes near the bottom of the dam, these controlled by gates, will accomplish the same purpose for somewhat less cost than lowering the spillway, but with not nearly so much assurance of successful control and also with an added risk to the dam due to cutting several large holes through it. Further there is the added risk of damage to the dam due to a heavy flow of water through these pipes under considerable head. These pipes can be placed only by emptying the reservoir. If the reservoir cannot be filled after about November first, this method should not be followed, regardless of the saving in first cost over the scheme of lowering the spillway.

There is a third method that might be used. Cut the dam down for a length of forty feet to about the present elevation of the water in the reservoir. Build a flume from this opening to the bed of the stream below the dam, using material now largely on hand at the dam. This opening could be made at less cost than lowering the spillway and would not sacrifice the water now stored. If a full supply of water is to be conserved and the least risk assumed, there is only one thing to do, lower the spillway.

The prospective cost of replacing the upper portion of the dam, where damage presumably by freezing, rebuilding the gate well, stopping leaks and etc., and still leaving an uncertain structure, will warrant the construction of a new dam, rather than attempting to save the present one by extensive changes and repairs.

If a new structure is built it should

be of the type now in. A gravity section type, a rock fill, or an earth dam are not to be considered under conditions as they exist at the present site, which is the best one available.

If the water supply is at all times to be considered and saved, the new dam should be built immediately down stream from the present one. If the water is of no moment, the reservoir should be emptied and the new dam built up stream and against the present dam. This location gives a somewhat better footing for the dam, fits

the bank better on the east side of the stream, but not quite so well on the west side.

Respectfully submitted, W. C. TAYLOR. La Grande, Oregon, Sept. 2nd, 1916.

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