

**CONTRACT FOR WATER DEFICIENT**

Attorney Phipps Alleges That No Indemnity Is Granted City Against the Claims of Riparian Owners—Medford Has No Right to Fence Property.

Medford, Or., May 1, 1908.

Editor Tribune: Has a citizen and taxpayer of Medford the right to ask some questions and offer a few friendly suggestions about the recent deal wherein the city officials purchased certain water rights of M. L. Hanley? Remember, I was absent from the city at the time and since my return have talked with a number of citizens, including two or three city officers, without having very much light turned on some very important points of this exceedingly important matter. The city of Medford is about to expend \$300,000 for a water system. A water plant is absolutely necessary, of course, but would it not be better business sense to pay even \$500,000 for an adequate supply of good water rather than expend \$300,000 for an insufficient supply which is not so good?

**Monuments of Folly.**

The population of this place at present is composed of many new people who are not aware of the fact that our present city debt is made up largely of expenditures worse than worthless. I am an "old-timer" and know about some of them. I remember the city water ditch, that wonderful piece of engineering, connecting the "water tower" with the salubrious waters of Bear creek. The ditch has (at the city's expense) been filled up; nothing remains but the trail of the serpent, but the old "tower" still stands. The ditch proving a failure, the wise council wisely decided to dig a great well at the edge of Bear creek, at least a quarter of a mile from the "tower." It was dug and walled up with 2x4 timber, from the dark, cold recesses of which water has ever since been forced into the "tower." The city then decided to own its own light plant, and accordingly bought the old junk shop of R. A. Proudfoot, which it still owns, but does not use.

Then, too, there are the rock crusher and road roller which have been standing idle and rusting out since the day of their purchase, five or six years ago. Lack of time forbids mention of some of the transactions of the present administration which in a business sense are counterparts of those enumerated.

**Contract Shows Deficiencies.**

In view of this record should we not proceed with care in this new deal which practically places a mortgage of \$300,000 on all the taxable property of the city?

The contract between the city and Mr. Hanley shows many deficiencies, and falls far short of securing to Medford a suitable and sufficient water supply. Strictly speaking, the city is to pay \$25,000 for whatever right the grantor owns in this water supply.

There are, it is true, certain provisions of warranty to be covered with a bond of indemnity for a period of ten years, but the contract expressly excepts indemnity as to all riparian owners. If the city pipes this water from its source is it not liable to interminable litigation with the landowners bordering the stream below? Already some of these riparian owners are talking of organizing for a legal fight.

**Secure No Land in Deal.**

Again, the city secures no land in the deal and therefore has no right to fence or otherwise protect this water supply from invasion by stock or other contaminating agents.

Furthermore, the officials have not, as I am informed, secured any of the rights of way for the pipe line. Could not these have been secured cheaper before the purchase was made, or at least before it was made public?

The present council is composed of business men who, in the main, have been successful personally. Now I would like to ask, would they or any of them pay Mr. Hanley \$25,000 for the same proposition if it were desired by them for a personal venture?

W. E. PHIPPS.

**CALIFORNIA WOMAN AFTER THAT THOUSAND**

Secretary Miller of the Commercial club has received the following letter from Santa Ana, Cal.:

"A copy of your booklet—Medford and the Rogue River Valley—having come to my notice, I wish to ask if the offer of \$1000 reward made on the cover over your name is still in force. If so, are the resources you have printed in the circles all that you will bring into competition and is every resource you have named or will name produced in paying quantities? Answers to these questions and any further information regarding the matter will oblige. Yours respectfully,

"MRS. D. C. M'GEE."

**MARRIED.**

WILSON-CHAPEL.—At Ashland, April 29, 1908, by Rev. F. C. Williams of Medford, Geo. F. Wilson and Miss Lucy W. Chapel.

LAWRENCE-JORDAN.—In Jackson, April 28, 1908, by County Judge Dunn, Bud Lawrence and Miss Ethel M. Jordan.

BLACK-ANDERSON.—At Grants Pass, April 27, 1908, Wm. H. Black and Mrs. Susan Effie Anderson of Wolf Creek, by Judge Stephen Jewell.

DEARMIN-GITHENS.—At Grants Pass, April 27, 1908, Wm. Dearmin and Clementine Githens, by Rev. A. B. Maclean.

**DIED.**

MASTON.—At Klamath Falls, April 24, 1908, Dr. G. W. Maston, aged 41 years.

**BORN.**

COATES.—At Ashland, April 25, 1908, to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Coates, a son.

**SUCCESSFUL LAUNDRYMAN**

WILL VISIT EAST SOON.

Geo. A. Peil, Who Has Disposed of His Laundry in Medford, Was in Grants Pass This Week Looking After the Elite Laundry, Which He Owns.

The Courier says that it is Mr. Peil's present plan to erect a new laundry building at Grants Pass next spring, or sooner, if satisfactory arrangements can be made. He has been elected delegate from Southern Oregon to the annual convention of the head camp of Modern Woodmen of America, which convenes at Peoria, Ill., June 10th, where he will be accompanied by his wife. They will leave Portland June 6th, at the close of the Rose carnival, and after camp-meeting at Peoria, they will visit New York city, and his old home at Galveston, Texas, returning via Mexico and California.

**NEW FISH WARDEN**

ASKS FOR COOPERATION

H. C. McAllister entered upon his duties of state fish warden May 2 and has issued a statement in which he takes an optimistic view of the situation regarding fishing in Oregon waters. McAllister has asked for the hearty cooperation of all men engaged in the business and says that he will conduct the office in an impartial manner. He has located his offices in Portland, where he expects to be in a position to keep in closer touch with fishermen from all parts of the state. His statement follows:

"Having been appointed master warden by the honorable board of fish commissioners of the state, and having accepted same, will say that I will be the friend of every man engaged in the business, and I want every man's friendship, by respecting the fishing laws of the state to the letter, which I shall enforce as I find them. I shall aim to conduct the office on an impartial basis, and at all times will respect the rights of all the men in the industry, regardless of whether or not they are on the upper or lower rivers. I want the support of every man in the business as well as the Washington commissioner, and the men in charge of the United States fishery department.

"Working in harmony, I believe, within a reasonable time, that instead of a 300,000-case pack, we can increase it to 1,000,000 cases. I intend to locate my office in Portland, having secured quarters in the Oregonian building, room 42, and will deem it a favor if the canners, or anyone engaged in the business, will give me any information or suggestion that will help me to conduct the office in an intelligent manner. I shall also appreciate any information regarding the negligence of any officer holding a position under me. I want every man in the state to send me every possible item that may lead to the upbuilding of the fishing industry, for only through a united effort can we expect to obtain results of mutual benefit.

"I want to take this opportunity of thanking all my friends for the loyal support they have given me in obtaining this appointment, and I shall do all in my power to retain their confidence in me by conducting the office in an honest way.

"H. C. McALLISTER."

**Merrymen Nominated.**

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., May 2.—The official returns for joint senator from Klamath, Lake and Crook counties show that George H. Merrymen's plurality is 49. Crook and Lake counties both went for Judge L. T. Willets, but the larger vote in Klamath saved the day for Merrymen.

**Wise Talks By the Office Boy**



Pa says a rose by any other name would be just as expensive back east this time of year. I sometimes think he pines for the piney woods in old Penobscot, Frappe County, Maine, where he was raised—but that's one thing yours truly never years for. The good mountains and the good old ocean and nice old Oregon atmosphere are good enough for m. But it's all in how you were raised. Pa likes clam chowder and corn on the cob, and harvest apples and a lot of things that a kid who was born this side of the snow sheds hasn't had much chance to get acquainted with. Those who have lived on both sides of this great country, and lived long enough to know what's what can get all those things just as nice one place as another, if you know where to buy. We've got clam chowder from Boston that is just as nice as any you ever ate on the sand, and lots of other things that have that "Down East" taste.

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