## THE MEDFORD DAILY TRIBUNE, MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1908.

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# Medford Daily Tribune A LIVE PAPER IN A LIVE TOWN

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#### \* PUBLICITY MOST DESIRABLE.

Everybody in Medford is interested in the water ques tion. It is the one great problem before the municipality and upon its satisfactory answer depends the future of the community. The right solution means growth and prosperity. A single false step means bankruptcy. Small wonder, then, that the people want to know what is going on, and what progress is being made toward the settlement of this problem.

The water committee of the city council has full power to settle the water question. Its members have devoted many hours of their time and labored earnestly and sincerely to find an adequate solution. They have done more work for the city than all the other committees the council has together, and their efforts are fully appreciated.

The people have shown their faith in the committee by voting them \$365,000 honds to be expended in securing an adequate supply of pure water, without knowing anything of the merits of the proposed propositions other than the word of the committee, which was accepted in blind faith. The day before the bond election the committee made public the Wasson canyon deal. There was no time or opportunity to discuss the proposal, and the word of the committee was accepted, and the bonds voted upon this word.

In every material way the committee has had the support of the people and of The Tribune, and still has it. But the committee is making a mistake in not taking the public into its confidence more fully. There are many things that can best be settled in committee perhaps, and by observing secrecy until the end sought is accomplished, but there are many things also which can and should be made known.

The American public is a jealous master, and to shroud public business in mystery always arouses resentment, especially when public servants are handling a large amount of the people's money and their expenditures af fect everyone living in the community. For the sake of the public servants themselves, the fullest publicity consistent with good management, is desirable. The secret of Roosevelt's remarkable popularity is that he takes the public into his confidence.

It is a wrong attitude to assume that fault is being found because publicity is requested. The people have the right to know what is being done and public servants have no right to withhold information that will not interfere with plans. For an official to refuse this information and to exclaim, not literally perhaps, but in effect: "It's none of the public's business what is done with your money. If you haven't confidence and can't trust us, use the recall and get somebody else," puts him in the wrong.

The public has shown its confidence in the water committee, but the committee, at least two members, Messrs. Merrick and Wortman, who seem to be running things, have never taken the public into their confidence regarding the various water propositions submitted to them. No one doubts but that the committee is doing its best, no one wants to use the recall (except prohibitionists), and all that is wanted is to know what is going on, and because the information is withheld the people are getting figity. Great power has been placed in the hands of this water committee. They can accept or reject propositions, without ever making the various proposals received public. The city council has agreed in advance to back them up in whatever they do, and is it any wonder that those who foot the bills want to know what is going on ? All of us are working for a common end-for the common good. It is evident from what has leaked out: First, doubt in the minds of the water committee as to the sufficiency of water in Wasson canyon is so serious that an option has been taken on the Slinger ranch and water rights of the north fork of Little Butte creek; second, that a price and possibly an option on 300 miners' inches, more or less, of the water rights of the Fish Lake Ditch company has been secured. If these additional rights are necessary this means added expense to the already large estimate of the proposed gravity system and complicates the situation. The engineer's estimate on the cost of the Wasson canyon project was \$330,000. If these additional water rights are neeessary, the public is entitled to know what the additional cost will be, and the question arises, what guarantee the people have that the actual estimated cost of the engineers will not be exceeded.

within 20 years; the sinking fund to repay bonds would be \$11,000 per year, a total expense of fixed charges of \$44, 000 per year, not including operating expense, repairs and Leading Rooming House of the city Free baths. Over Postoffice. extensions.

To pay these fixed charges of \$44,000 per year, the city of Medford has at present a water revenue of \$7000 per year. The question arises: Will this revenue be increased sufficiently to pay this enormous expense? If not, then the taxpayers of Medford will have to shoulder additional tax burdens,

The water committee claims the right to keep all propositions secret from the public in order that they may make better bargains for the public, but they also claim the right from the city council to close with any proposition that they see fit, even if it meant the expenditure of \$300,000

or more, without submitting it to the council or the people. It may be conceded that it is proper at times to keep proceedings secret, but there is no question that before closing ony any proposition that all propositions worthy

of consideration shoul be made public and should be submitted to the city conneil for action.

A Conquering Herc. Dot Loute, who conducts der band Has vork dor's hard to understand Yen politicians comes around Date ver the inscitness is found Dry pey that reasonable sams To play ther Conquering Hero Comes To is the conduction of the play Mit great expression so dey say.

Now, Loude e played dut time before A thornard times and maybe more that seel for look like you of me To how. He gets de signal and He disent show de bero's name, nut beside player just der same -Washington Star

### The Funeral Came Too Late Billy Martin, uged four, came to his pother and in great ecstasy exclaimed: Oh, mother! Louise and Carberry band such a nice dead cat, and they

re going to have a foneral, and can 1 or Permission was given, and when diffy returned be was questioned as to tight and baths. Mrs. R. L. e outcome of the funeral. "They did not have it at all." "And why not?" "Mother," was the answer, "the cat as too dead."- Success Magazine

In Transit. Mich spoke of her as "passing fair." But this flice by so fast New some of these same men declare She's actually past .- Boston Gtabe.

Industry. while not stic to idences and sigh. I will not stic volve an unavailing plea of lavors that the studborn fates deny Because the base who have watching me chicago fixeord Heraid.

Dubata Interrupted. you had an argument with the Dhin't some out. He wouldn't let ay atourd long enough to finish

Philudelphia Ladger. Strictly Scholarly. "Why do you call your horse Ethologist? "Recause I am a student of the aces" - Ballin are American.

Not a Myth. Mary had a little tamb-The statement must be 49, For they are doing atoms In a moving picture show Denver News-Times

Which is it?

As we behaved on distant bills Signs of Quark's quinthe pills What is it our system thrilis-is it spring or is it chills? -Houston Post A New Epithet "The climate here is sububrious, lan't Y' remarked the tourist Say, friend." replied the unlive, jest write that there word down fur ie, will yer? I git tited o' swearin' at

his climate in the same old way rhat's a new one." - Philadelphia Угеня. A "Thort." I've often thirt in toesed about Upon my bed in seminer To think of reasons why i should Ou as he a plumber ing why i shouldn't

Cause over 1 way a sign like this, "Young man, you take the lead" The sign way right, but ecome to me That lead should have read lead, -Harvard Lampoon. The foloiwing quotations are an im-partial report of the prices paid by Med walets Wheat-\$1 per bushel. Fiour \$2.70 per cwt. Whole barley \$26 per ton Hay-\$12 per ton. Alfalfa-\$10 per ton. New pointues -\$1.25 per cwt. Butter - 40c per roll Lard-10c per pound Beans De per pound Eggs 12% per dozen Sugar-\$0.50 per cwt. Turkeys-13c per pound Poultry-Spring, \$2 to \$3; hens, \$3.50 \$4 per doren. Hama-12c per pound. Shoulders-10c per pound. Hoge-4% to be per pound Cattle-2% to 3%c per pound



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Admitting, for the sake of argument, that the cost of the gravity system would be only \$330,000, then the bond interest would be \$16,500 per year. The depreciation would be \$16,500 per year, as the pipeline would have to be rebuilt merchants' lunckeon. Try it.

What's In a Name? "What's your name, slr? Wood Whit's your wife's name?" "Wood, of course." "H'm.' Both Wood. A sh, shy kin-Success Magazine Vocal Competition. dinple excellence is all his aim! ough there is maught to compensate hituily attends the baseball game strives to holier loader than the Washington Blar Endurance. "Your daughter has a wonderful ear

r music." "Yes," answered Mr. Comron weard-Seems like it can stand most aything " Washington Star.

Their Destiny, 'Fine feathers make this birds," 'the said There's no denying that's There's no denying that's They halp to make fine hats —Pick-Me-Up

#### Those Wild Oats.

opher. "always come home to roost." Chicago News.

The Other Side of It. The found his loc was growing cold, be back to reached bit never told big distorts were the earlier His distorts were the earlier Philadelphis Press.

The Reason Seems to me you look younger than

Buy Tickets oy Wire.

Something which is of considerable interest to the public generally and which is perhaps not generally known is the system of prepaid orders now in effect between stations of the Southern Pacific company and all points in the United States. By means of this system tickets may be purchased at Medford from any place in the United States and mailed or telegraphed direct to the "What," goeried the youth, "is that id saying relative to wild onts?" "Wild outs," replied the ragtime phi- cash is connection with these tickets may also be furnished at the same time."

The old reliable Albauv Nurseries I have the largest stock of fruit trees on the Pacific coast. Pears, apples, peach, plums, apricots, nectarines, cherries, English walnuts, shade and orus mental trees, berries, roses and shrubs, all of which I offer at lowest prices consistent with first class nursery stock "Why not? As i grow order I beyone Having been with this nursery 15 years i can guarantee all stock to be true uame and free from disease. I handle nothing but Oregon grown trees. L. B. WARNER, Medford, Ur

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