

CITY MUST ACT OR PEOPLE WILL

WAITING MEANS DYING IN THIS WATER MATTER.

3 MONTHS, NOTHING DONE

The People Will Not Wait Until 1914 for Water.

A long petition, signed by 95 per cent of the business men of this city (the heaviest taxpayers) asking for a pure water system, and immediate steps to acquire the same, was not taken up at the last meeting of the city council.

The unanimous resolution of a special session of the Live Wires, asking that the city council at once take steps to have a competent engineer to examine the available water sources within reach of this city, was not taken up at the last week's session of the city council.

The resolution unanimously passed by the Live Wires that the compensation of the city health officer be increased from the present salary of \$10 per month to a sum which would warrant him in giving necessary time to the work was ignored by the council.

And then the council went on record as follows: "Resolved that the council go on record as favoring the installation of a hydro-chloride plant by the present water board."

Now the "installation" of this "plant" simply means dumping chemicals into the present water and telling the people to drink it. But this "resolved" will not settle this water question any more than a feather duster will stop a cyclone.

It will never be settled until it is settled RIGHT, and why CAN'T the council recognize public sentiment, when it falls over it? Why will not it represent the people who elected them? Why does it play tail to the Live Wires and have to be FORCED to do what the people want? Why can't it take the initiative? Why can't it represent—lead.

Now the Courier editor knows just what he is talking about when he makes the statement that this resolution of the city council to dump some chemicals in the Willamette water isn't going to stop getting pure water. He knows it because he knows that every member of that city council ought to know—the sentiment of the people on this matter.

The people want PURE, safe water and they are going to have it. They are going to have it if they have to resort to the initiative. They are going to have a competent engineer make the investigation of the water sources, which the council has passed up, they are going to see that it is undertaken before next August, and they will, if necessary, do it with their own private funds.

And these two actions would be as much of a rebuke and disgrace as a recall. The people are dead anxious to take the responsibility in this water matter and the council should at least permit it. It has been over three months since typhoid broke out and we haven't done a thing. This talk of going slow and waiting until 1914 for a new water system is all right for other towns between here and Portland, but our people are trying. If, as it was stated at the Live Wires, it will be 1914 before we can get pure water for this city, we won't have any census figures to crow over this summer, and we won't break any building records.

Where is there authority that chemicals will kill disease germs in filthy water? And even if they would, do you want to drink the sewers from Eugene, Corvallis, Salem and other valley cities, even if the "vegetable matter" and germs are killed? Do you want to drink dead sewer juice?

New York city had the hydro-chloride system. Why did that city quit it and spend millions and millions of dollars for mountain water? Because it was unhealthy and because the people rebelled.

Today Cleveland drinks the drugged water—what little the people drink—and the people are protesting. The water is unpleasant to the taste because of the drugs; the people have a prejudice against it on the ground that chemicals strong enough to kill germs, which have to be boiled a half hour to kill, is strong enough to injure the systems.

So hundreds of families boil their own water and hundreds of others have the pitchers of beer always on the table. This is true of Chicago. That city does not use chemicals, but drinks lake water direct, and there is a pat saying that only the dead people are Chicago's water drinkers.

Ango now here's another point we want to drive home to you. It is on an altogether different line of argument, but come alive to it, let it soak in, heed it. Did you read the two column article that the Southern Pacific publicity man gave out the other day, and how he told of the big development work planned for the west side? He said a city was going to build up across the river; that 100 trains would pass there daily, and that big things would come to pass over there.

Now again—Do you remember last summer when the general manager of the Southern Pacific was before the Commercial Club and how he told the people the company had more in store for this city than we dreamed of?

Now once more—and you keep these points all in view: Do you remember what the Moody Land Company's representative gave out as to the city that company intended to build up over there? And the Courier is informed the Moody Land Co is the Southern Pacific.

Now if these things come to pass, and a lot of them are dead sure to, the first move will be a water system on that side, and you may bet your life and not take a chance that it will be a PURE system—that it won't be taken out of the state sewer.

And when the pure system is installed and the city starts, you will see the residents of this city who are not tied down with homes going across that bridge like a string of sheep.

CAN'T you fellows see how the interests which own the west side want us to continue our present system? Can't you see that such action would be the biggest boom asset the west side could ever hope for?

The Courier isn't printing this column of protest to knock the council—not on your breakfast food. It is printing it to try to remedy the worst knock Oregon City ever yet received—typhoid.

We are in bad on this water supply. We have got to right it or this city will take the count. Mr. McBain told you something at the Live Wires Tuesday and he stated a literal truth when he said typhoid fever had done more to set back the city than the commercial club can do in 5 years to redeem. This office knows many families that will leave this city unless the city speedily takes action to provide pure water—not a doctored supply, but absolutely pure water.

OREGON CITY COURIER

30th YEAR.

OREGON CITY, ORE., FRIDAY, JAN. 17, 1913.

No. 36

COUNTY JUDGE BEATIE ANSWERS MR. OLDS' LETTER AND EXPLAINS THE COUNTY BRIDGE MATTERS

SAYS COUNTY COURT HAS FOLLOWED PRECEDENT IN BRIDGE MATTERS, AND THAT THESE BRIDGES WERE BOUGHT AS CHEAP AS BENTON COUNTY GOT ON \$70,000 CONTRACT

SAYS W. F. HALDERMAN APOLOGIZED FOR HIS LETTER AND SAYS HE WAS FOOLED IN OLDS

Says Mr Olds Never Observed the Law He now Claims is Violated, and Scores Him and His Bridge Work in This County. Says in no Instance did he ever Report Cost of Bridge Work.

Editor Courier:— It has not been my policy to pay any attention to "Jabs" handed to me by irresponsible parties through the press, taking it for granted that the good people of Clackamas County were well able to judge for themselves as to the merits of the charges and being always willing to submit to their good judgement. But I now feel that in justice to the County Court as well as to the taxpayers, a brief explanation is due.

In so far as a compliance with section 6368 L. O. L. is concerned I have to say that in my humble opinion we have complied with the spirit of the statute and that we have followed very closely, if not absolutely, precedent established by this Court, in fact Hon. G. B. Dimick informed me only a few days ago that while he was County Judge the Court had followed exactly the same course that our board has followed, when the commissioners and himself purchased the steel bridge which now spans Milk Creek, at Mulino. I find out also that many of the County Courts, of other counties of our state are following the same procedure in the purchase of their bridges and the erection thereof, and feel when doing so, that they are acting entirely within their rights and as laid down in Section 6368.

The first steel bridge bought by our board was purchased under the following conditions, to-wit:—The old bridge across Clear Creek, at Fisher's Mill had been taken out by high water. The bridge site was visited by myself, Commissioner Matton and Blair, Mr. Sears, of the Coast Bridge Co., and Mr. Severance, who was representing some other bridge Co.; measures were made, the length of the bridge determined and we returned to Oregon City, the commissioners went to their hotel and I to my home. Sometime after my arrival at home Commissioner Matton called me over the telephone to the cost of any of them. I make this statement on the authority of Mr. F. W. Greenman, who was clerk of the County Court during all of the time Mr. Olds was bridge foreman. If this phone and requested me to come

down to the Court House, stating that Mr. Severance wished to talk with the Court about the bridge. I came as requested and met Mr. Matton, Mr. Blair, and Mr. Severance making no reference to the bridge whatever I then brought up the bridge question myself, and the bridge question was discussed for sometime, no reference was made by Mr. Severance about submitting plans and specifications or naming a price for which he would be willing to do the work, I then asked him if he desired to do so and his reply was that he did not know whether we desired him to make a bid or not, I replied that the road was open to him or any one else and that what our court wanted was quick action as the bridge was imperatively needed and that we were going to build at once. The status of the bridge question was, I am satisfied thoroughly understood by Mr. Severance, and why no bid was received from him I am unable to say. Mr. Matton says that he never told Mr. Severance that the Judge had let the contract. Mr. Sears of the Coast Bridge Co., at once furnished plans and specifications and submitted a bid thereon. The commissioners and myself made a trip to Marion, Linn, and Benton Counties where the Coast Bridge Co., had erected a large number of steel bridges, made an examination of the bridges and purchased, a few days after, the duplicate of a one hundred foot span which the company had erected for Benton County, after first having submitted to us the contract which these counties had signed with the Coast Bridge Co., which contract set out the prices paid by these counties for their steel bridges. We were given the same price on the bridge we purchased, that the other counties had paid, notwithstanding the fact that some of the other counties had purchased more than \$70,000 worth of steel bridges at one time our idea being that if we could get the same price on a small purchase that the other counties had on very large ones, that we were, to say the least, doing very well. We have followed the same plan in all the purchases we have made from this company and

have always felt that we got good value, and I am sure of one thing, that the bridges have all been as represented and that every one of them is a splendid piece of work. As to the letter of W. F. Halderman which was published by Mr. Olds, in his communication in your paper, I wish to say that Mr. Halderman came before our court at the term just closed and in open court apologized for the letter and made the statement that he had been mistaken as to the kind of a man Olds was, and that he was sorry he had even been connected with him in any way and wanted the court to distinctly understand that there were no further relations of any kind between himself and Mr. Olds. The people of this county no doubt remember that Mr. Olds was for quite a long time bridge foreman for the former County Court and that he constructed several bridges and in no instance did he make a report to the court statement is doubted by anyone let them go to the County Clerk's office, where Mr. Greenman is now employed, and inquire of him or look through the records and satisfy themselves.

I am informed by some of the men who worked under Mr. Olds, while he was bridge foreman, when he built the bridge across Parrot Creek at New Era, after the bridge was completed and the bills for labor paid by the County Court, Judge Dimick, then County Clerk, asked one of the men if the bill for labor on that bridge was not entirely too much, he was informed by the man that the bridge could be built for less than one-half the amount paid. This is rather over 20 per cent and I think Mr. tax payer will quickly see how much over. Other cases of like nature could be cited along this same line but I think Mr. tax payer knows of them all ready.

In conclusion I do not wish to cast any reflections on Mr. Olds, but "He who lives in glass houses should not throw stones," and "Every crowd thinks his own crown the whitest." Yours respectfully, R. B. BEATIE.

KEEP TO THE REAL WORK.

Let the Politicians and the Place Hunters work their Own Plays.

The Courier editor is a member of the Live Wires and he thinks well of that body of men and realizes that the organization has considerable power and influence in the matters it undertakes.

But the Courier believes that body will conserve its strength and influence if it confines itself and its work to the things that it was organized for and passes up the matters that are, or should be, outside the reach of its cabletow.

When the Live Wires go to incensing politicians and propositions, and requesting that our representatives work for this and that which are outside our city and for the good of place hunters and commissions, the organization makes a mistake.

For instance the last meeting passed a resolution asking our representatives at Salem to work for an annual appropriation of \$25,000 or the bureau of mines.

Now in the judgment of the Courier editor this action is entirely out of place in the Live Wires, for the reason that the Live Wires are in no sense the representatives of the people of this county, and they have no right in passing a resolution for our representatives to work for a certain project unless the Wires have authority from the people to take such action. The Wires are but a small proportion of the voters of the county, and they should not presume to instruct representatives.

The real object of the Wires is to work for the building up of our city and adjacent community, and when we go beyond that and take a hand in politics, we will weaken ourselves and lessen our reputation to do things.

At least this is the Courier's view of it.

COMING TO THE FRONT.

Courier is Fast Adding to its List of County Subscribers.

The Courier doesn't give any premiums, trading stamps or pull the buttons off your coat in an appeal to take the paper.

This paper stands on its own bottom and its doesn't buy or beg subscribers—and it is the only foundation on which a permanent subscription list can be built.

And we HAVE the subscribers. We are getting them every day and we are going to have a lot more of them, for Clackamas county is a splendid field for a newspaper that will not knuckle and the people are beginning to think that the Courier will not.

The Courier covers this county pretty well now, and it is going to cover it a great deal thicker. If you want to reach the people that surround this city, this paper is the medium. We don't bluff, we make this good. Our subscription list is open to anyone that is interested. And the real value of the list is that it is a list of LIVE ones, not a padded list of deadheads.

Good for Senator Dimick.

Editor Courier:— Hurrah for senator Dimick, he has the right view of the tax payers, and we hope the expensive, useless, grafting laws of this state will be repealed. We believe in the greatest good to the number and not for a select few.

We are informed that Superintendent of Schools, Gary has a petition circulating to the Legislature to increase his salary. Now we believe the laborer worthy of his hire and if Gary was doing the whole of the work he should have at least \$1,500 per year, but he has a clerk to do his office work and 3 school supervisors to his visiting schools, so his labor is divided and pay enough. We hear also that he called a school institute right in the busy session of school term and the tax payers have to pay the teachers for the lost time with no benefit to the schools.

H. S. CLYDE.

Robbing Oregon Democrats.

President Taft Tuesday made appointment to offices of about everything that was open, as per the list that our Williams handed him, including postmaster and collector of customs at Portland, U. S. Marshall for Oregon and collector of customs at Astoria. The senate says it will not confirm and the Republicans say if it does not they will block future legislation. Great doings over political pap.

Senator Dimick's Suggestion

Senator W. A. Dimick has a sharp tongue, ground to the keen edge of sarcasm, and when he says anything he doesn't make any apologies.

When he introduced his bill to repeal the state militia, he suggested that if it pass General Finzer and George Shepherd should bring a request, while the navy department take the cruiser Boston to a point between the Alentian Island and Shanghai and sink it.

Regarding the county veterinarian law the Senator says all it is good for is to draw \$400 from each county. "If I have a sick cow I will get a veterinary and pay him and so will you."

TRYING TO SAVE SUPERVISOR LAW

AND BOOST SALARY TO \$1,600 PER YEAR.

SHUEBEL TELLS US TO ACT

Every School District Should Call Meeting at Once.

Eldorado, Jan. 14.

I would like to call attention to a few things that happened at the meeting of the school directors in Oregon City last Saturday that to my mind should demand our attention at once.

A special effort was made to endorse the present school supervisor law, Mr. Alderman and Mr. Gary both favoring same, although Mr. Gary said friends of his were circulating a petition in the mills which was to be presented to the legislature to raise the salary to not less than \$1600 per year. He also had a petition at the meeting for the same purpose. A resolution was run through, without giving anyone a chance to say a word against it, to raise his salary. It was done very much as the old time convention did business.

While some very good things were brought out, and I would not for a minute think of kicking without a cause, but to my mind the taxpayers are now overburdened with useless commissions and extra salaries officials and every other manner of holding up the people and plundering the actual producers of wealth in society, that if we do not call a halt soon, we will be perfect slaves.

I will give one argument used there in favor of the supervisor system, which will show the kind of slush they dope out and expect us to swallow. For instance one party said suppose a farmer would go out and hire a lot of unskilled labor to work on his farm and start them to plowing, sowing, etc, and then leave them to follow their own inclinations, leaving them to do the work without any supervision, what kind of work could be expected?

Now this is no comparison at all. We hire only teachers as have passed an examination before a competent board of examiners, who decide that they are up to standard before they are allowed to teach. Now they are not all first class, expert teachers at once, but are supposed to be especially prepared for such work. And they may need counsel occasionally, which to my mind should be supplied by the superintendent, and if the board of directors would co-operate with the teachers and the superintendent, I am satisfied the new teacher would get along just as well without the extra supervision. I am satisfied they have done no good whatever in our district and I hear the same reports from other districts.

The tendency has been all along the line to create too many political jobs for pets in politics, until we are very near the limit of what the taxpayer can stand.

Another argument used in the city paid out as much as \$2.50 per scholar for supervision and tried to make it appear that was the cause of better schools in the city, which is also an erroneous position to take. The city schools are better simply because they have more money to spend and so can specialize and hire better qualified teachers.

Now when you take 60 cents from each scholar for supervision in the country districts you have taken away that much from their fund, which is already too short to begin to compete with city schools, it is simply another case of "money makes the mare go" and nothing else. They will always tell you they are doing this for the good of the country school. The gold brick man with his fake school charts will tell you the same—and it seems the suckers will bite.

Now I would like to see every school board call a meeting in every school district in Clackamas county, take a vote on the matter and report the result to the members of the legislature and head off, if possible, this scheme that Mr. Gary is trying to put over on us in this session of the legislature.

At a meeting held in Eldorado schoolhouse on the 14th of January a vote was taken and resulted as follows:

In favor of supervisors, 0.
Against supervisors, 14.

In favor of raising superintendent's salary, 0.
Against raising salary, 14.

Number of legal voters in district, 18, not present, 4.

B. SCHUEBEL,
Chairman Board of Directors.

Down Goes Another

The United States senate has found Judge Archibald guilty of misconduct in office—in plainer terms of being a grafter—and he has been unseated from one of the highest positions in our nation, and ever debarred from again holding public office.

He will not be punished for violating his solemn oath of office. A little man would be sent over the road for the long term, but no doubt the senate thinks dishonor is enough punishment—and if it is a prison that would hide this man would lessen his punishment, for he can't hide himself.

ISN'T THIS NONSENSE?

Why Spend \$1,000 and Then Have to Continue to Boil Our Water?

At the Live Wire session Tuesday it was stated by several that the chemical proposition the city council has recommended for the present water system is only a temporary expedient, and that investigations for a pure source will go forward. In answer to a question as to whether it would be necessary to boil the water after the chemical plant had been installed, B. T. McBain answered YES; that while filtering and applying chemicals would lessen the danger this would not make the water absolutely safe.

Now we all know, and every local authority backs it up, that boiling WILL kill all germs, if boiled long enough. If we have got to boil the water AFTER the chemicals are put in to kill that one little per cent of typhoid and filth that has dodged the filter and ducked under the hypos, WHAT is the use of spending \$1,000 to put it in?

WILL SOME ONE PLEASE ANSWER?

It was stated by two or more of the Live Wires Tuesday that we could not do any satisfying work in locating springs and water sources until the weather had settled next August and it would probably be 1914 before we could change our water plant.

Men can do anything they want to do, when the situation is of enough seriousness and public sentiment demands.

WE COULD have pure water here in 60 days.

Let the city give public notice it will give a franchise to any private company to put in a system, and see if it will take until 1914.

It has been over three months since typhoid broke out here. It's time to ACT.

Winter in Oregon.

For those way back East: The nearest to winter the Willamette Valley has seen is one inch of soft snow which lasted one hour after daylight. Apples are yet hanging on the trees; picking of grapes has just been finished; the grass is as green as in spring and the shrubbery is full of buds.

Clackamas Not in It

With both houses of the state legislature represented from this county, yet in the list of places given out at the opening of the session, this county does not get even one little, lonesome job.

CLACKAMAS AT SALEM

This County Has Already Started Something at Legislature.

The state legislature at Salem has opened and members are crawling over each other to get a pet bill into the scramble. From the first day, almost from the first hour, they commenced, and they range from studied heavy weight proposition of state wide interest down to the trivial "freak" variety of placing a tax on all bachelors.

Clackamas county is already in the limelight and it will be more seen and heard of later. Representative Schuebel has introduced his water power and water tax bill, and he has several other county and state-wide bills of general interest he will introduce.

Senator Dimick is in with three bills, one to abolish the state militia, one to abolish the school supervisor law, and one to abolish the county veteran law, and he will work hard to get them thru, and they say he has some other matters he is holding back on.

Representative Gill has a good roads law that is being taken to pretty friendly by Clackamas County, and there are good chances of its passing.

W. S. O'Ren of this city, was at the opening of the session and it is said he has some amendments to the initiative which will be introduced. One is to put tight lines on the paid petition solicitor by providing that any man who secures over 200 signatures must have authority by appointment from the governor. Another to make the acceptants, by the secretary of state of an initiative petition final, and no court have a right to dislodge it. A third provides that there must be a negative argument to every proposition and if none is filed that the attorney general point out the weak spots, while the fourth provides for second and third choice in voting for governor and U. S. Senator.

Senator Dimick has introduced a bill for a flat eight hour law in Oregon.

Representative Shuebel has introduced a bill to repeal the law for the publication of the tax sales.

Senator Dimick, with Senator Thompson, Treasurer Key and others have lined up for the passage of three of the bills the governor vetoed two years ago, and will try to pass them. The outcome will show "who is who" and is being watched with keen interest.

MASS CLOSES TAVERN.

Sheriff Gets Goods on Famous Night House and Closes It.

The Milwaukie Tavern, which has had much fame of the kind taverns do not usually desire for two years past, is closed; Sheriff Mass has the keys in his pocket and Arthur J. Burns is under arrest.

Sheriff Mass did a pretty piece of work, for which this county will thank him, in closing this night house. He knew the place smelled bad, but he couldn't get direct evidence. When the night auto accident happened last week, he went after the matter. He learned where the auto party was from and that it was bound for the road house and after midnight. Following up the clues and getting live evidence he then nabbed the employees of the tavern, brought them before the grand jury, and when they saw Mass had the goods on them, then they "snitched" and told all. Then the sheriff arrested Burns, and to do a good job while he was at it, he closed the tavern. And the people of the county should give him a vote of thanks.

After indictment by the grand jury, Sheriff Mass went to Milwaukie Monday night, closed the place and brought Burns to this city under arrest. Burns declares the court has no jurisdiction in the case, and he will not plead guilty to violations of the liquor law.

This place has had a decidedly unsavory reputation for some time and it is the place where the governor took the militia and tore down the high surrounding fence some months ago. But it has been very hard to get any direct evidence on which it was safe to make an arrest.

If the case comes to trial, and it is very likely that it will, and will be tried hard, it is predicted that several matters in connection with joy rides and midnight drinkings, including some of the prominent men of Portland will be brought into the affair.

George C. Brownell and Seneca Fouts will defend Burns.

Why a Legislature?

"Why a legislature in Oregon" is a question asked by the Portland News. With the initiative, referendum and recall in the hands of the voters, this is the question that suggested itself to the Courier editor on his arrival in Oregon two years ago—and he is yet asking it.