

# The Corvallis Times.

WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

Vol. XVIII.-No. 17.

B. F. IRVINE Editor  
and Proprietor

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## HIS LETTER

COUNCIL EMERY AND "THE  
FUTURE WELFARE OF  
OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY."

He Writes Alleged Facts About the  
Dallas System, and With Ref-  
erence Thereto—Some Affi-  
davits by Dallas Citi-  
zens Appear.

EDITOR TIMES:

In discussing the merits of the proposed water system for Corvallis a number of purported facts have appeared in your columns concerning the Dallas gravity system lately installed, and inferences have been drawn therefrom as to the advantages and results that will consequently follow the installation of our proposed system. There being a marked difference between the facts as published by you and the statements asserted to be true by other citizens of our town, I have decided to look into the questions for my own satisfaction. Marked copies of your paper containing the statements above referred to were forwarded to a member of the Dallas city council for verification. "Come over and see for yourself," was his answer. I did so, and I would make the same suggestion to every one in our city, especially those, if any, who make statements of the facts as appear herein. Messrs. Eakin and Sibley, the well-known and prominent law firm of Dallas, and who are credited with having the largest insurance and realty business in that city, very kindly placed in my possession the date in regard to insurance rates in their city and as to the damage suits, costs of right of way, etc. Other facts were obtained from other business men and at the homes of the citizens.

The system.—The Dallas water system consists of a pipe line 6 miles in length which laps a stream near its source in the mountains west of the city; the water is ice cold and tests have proved it to be almost pure. The pipe line is of 18 feet galvanized iron dipped in asphalt and is 10 inches in diameter, giving a flow of one million gallons per day. The reserve water is stored in a reservoir, capacity one million gallons, located on a hill one mile west of the city and at an elevation of 190 feet. The feed pipe from the reservoir to the city is of redwood and is 12 inches in diameter making the total length of the pipe system about 7 miles. The distributing system is of 8,694, 35 fire hydrants in the city and is equipped with a complete up-to-date fire apparatus, giving the most perfect fire protection to any building within the city limits.

Insurance Rates.—Previous to the installation of the water system the greater portion of the residence district was entirely protected from fire, and insurance rates in residence property were accordingly high. In 1894, 50 per cent was the established rate for these and all wooden buildings in the business portion of the town, seldom less than 10 per cent in the latter instance. Brick and stone buildings were rated at from 1.50 to 2.00 per cent. Statements were freely made before the bond election by the city newspapers and by those working for the installation of the system that these rates would possibly be reduced at least 30 to 40 per cent business districts, and 50 per cent in the residence district. Numerous claims were also made by insurance adjusters. One was passed and how does the present state of affairs compare with the ante-election promises? In your paper, Mr. Editor, you have repeatedly stated that the reduction from 50 per cent has resulted in that city. In your issue of June 24, you state: "The citizens of Dallas have saved enough money by reduction in insurance rates since the installation of their mountain water system to pay the interest on the bonds." The facts prove the contrary to be the truth. Residence property is still 7 to 10 per cent. Wooden buildings in the business districts are still rated from 7 to 10 per cent. In one or two instances there has been a slight reduction allowed to brick buildings where the brick may have been credited to mountain water. To quote the words of a prominent business man to whom your statement was read in regard to money saved on insurance rates: "Such assertions are untrue; we have no seven months' money enough to pay for printing the bonds, much less any interest on them."

Water Rates.—Now charged for mountain water in Dallas is \$1.25 per month for family, 50 cents additional for bath tubs, 50 cents for water closets, and \$2.25 per month for each 100 feet square for lawn sprinkling. This makes a total of \$4.75 per month during the summer months. In addition 50 cents is charged per family for each cow and horse, and \$1.00 per month for each horse for water in addition to the small water it uses. Hotels pay \$10 per month, \$24 is paid for sprinkling the courthouse lawn and \$15 per month is charged for the water used in the building. The courthouse and the county building are areas as do ours. Before the bond election in Dallas the citizens were led to believe that water rates would be \$1.25 or less per family per month.

Right of Way, Etc.—Three thousand dollars in cash besides the several lawsuits over damages and water rights, before the completion of their gravity system. This sum would have been even larger but for the fact that a large portion of the land across which the pipe line was laid is owned by Judge Boise and a Mrs. Hall. This is a acre and a half in size, and is the right of way. One claimant received \$300 for damages caused a 20 acre tract, besides having the costs of a lawsuit assessed to the city. The owner of a small mill situated on a stream below the land in question received \$100 awarded \$400 and costs amounted to about \$100 by the courts after long legal fight, and this in spite of the fact that the mill had not been in operation for seven years. All other claimants for damages settled with the city at from \$30 to \$100 each. If the damages for 7 miles of pipe

line cost \$3,000 and three lawsuits, how many dollars, and how many lawsuits would 16 1/2 miles of pipe line cost?

Cause of high water rates and proposed remedy—Dallas has approximately 400 families within its city limits. Of these less than 50 per cent are inside the city walls. At the time that it was suggested and voted upon before the bond election that all or almost all would discard the use of well water, and it was upon this hypothesis that the promised rate of \$1.25 per month on well water was made. Every water user must necessarily have minimum revenue or run at a loss to the city. In case of municipal ownership this loss necessarily would have to be made up by direct taxation. As 400 families in Dallas do not pay \$1.25 per month, the 200 or 250 families that do will have to pay twice as much, or double for families alone, besides the extra mentioned above, and under similar conditions the result in Corvallis would logically be the same. In Dallas, the people in poor or moderate circumstances, and many who were older and unable to pay the high rates of water connections, piping, faucets and fixtures, not connecting water charges, when they could get well water for nothing. Besides as the months rolled round, it was found that the ice cold, pure water of Corvallis was the healthiest water in all kinds wherever along the road much of these desirable characteristics. Last summer and fall during the long sultry days it became so warm that it was undrinkable unless cooled down. During the winter rains and after heavy rains there became mud and impure. The result is a condition of affairs never dreamed of by the citizens of Dallas. Their much wanted mountain water is now being used principally for lawn sprinkling. Dining rooms, closets, porches and all kinds of places where water is used and to which water is piped are dependent on for water for family use. I had the pleasure of interviewing quite a number of the good wives of Dallas and their statements in regard to water are pathetic and to the point.

The citizens of Dallas have a unique scheme for forcing the citizens to attach to the water mains whether they want to or not. Sewers are being built in the city and an ordinance has been passed compelling property owners to install patent closets in the residences and make sewer connections. If they are not near a main sewer they must build private sewers. By the time the charges for tapping the water main and cost of pipe, patent closet and connect with the sewer is met, a necessarily large bill comes from the owner. Mr. W. G. Emery, a well-known citizen of Corvallis, who lives about a mile from the business part of the town, and who by means of owning water piped from a spring on his hillside, has spent considerable time about his home, has been ordered to build a private sewer and make connections with the water main. The estimated cost of this work is over \$100. This is more than twice as one of a score of similar cases in Dallas.

W. G. EMERY.

## SOME AFFIDAVITS

That Discredit Mr. Emery's State-  
ments—They Are From Dallas.

In spite of its great length, and in spite of the further fact that the Dallas system has little or no bearing on the Corvallis system, the TIMES gives place to the above letter by Mr. Emery. Some little care had to be taken, however, to ascertain whether or not Mr. Emery's statements were facts and application was made by him to Dallas people. "It's a pack of lies," said one man. "The d—d rascal," said another. Accordingly the letter was sent to Dallas with the result that the affidavits printed below were supplied the TIMES without solicitation. Others in the same line were offered, but these two, especially as one is by an uncle of Mr. Emery, are deemed sufficient.

All along, it has been apparent that the opposition to mountain water had to be based on misrepresentation. The theory that the commission could not be made elective was exploded and resort had to be made to other features. Going from one thing to another the Dallas plant was taken up and this letter by Mr. Emery concocted.

SAYS IT'S A LIE.

STATE OF OREGON, } ss.  
COUNTY OF POLK, }

I, Dan P. Stouffer, being first duly sworn according to law, depose and say: That I am the auditor and police judge of the city of Dallas, Oregon, and as such officer am the legal custodian of and have charge of all the ordinances and records of the city of Dallas; that with the exception of about one month, I have filled said office continuously for a period of more than ten years last past.

That I have read the communication of W. G. Emery to The Corvallis TIMES, in which it is said: "The city council of Dallas has evolved a unique scheme for forcing the citizen to attach to the water mains whether they want to or not. Sewers are being built in the city and an ordinance has been passed compelling property owners to install patent closets in the residences and make sewer connections. If they are not near a main sewer they must build private sewers. By the time the charges for tapping the water main and cost of pipe, patent closet and connect with the sewer is met, a necessarily large bill confronts the owner."

That said statement is false in every detail and particular; that no person whomsoever has ever been compelled to connect with a sewer or to build a private sewer; neither has a person ever been compelled to install a patent closet of any kind and to connect with the water mains of said city; that such matters are left wholly to the choice of the citizens of Dallas, and no ordinance

continued on page 4

## JARS! JARS!

Ball Masons Royal and Weir  
Stone Jars

Tumblers and Jelly Glasses!

BUY THE  
Diamond W Jar Rubbers,  
BEST ON EARTH

Parafine and Sealing Wax

WE SELL THE  
SAGINAW TOOTHPICKS

Flat, Polished, Double Pointed  
Price 5 cents per Box.

Hodes' Grocery.

INDEPENDENT PHONE 203

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A large and varied line.

We always keep Vegetables when  
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Watches, Clocks, Jewelry  
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Eyes tested free of charge  
and glasses fitted correctly  
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