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E. F. IRVING, Editor and Proprietor

EMERY'S LETTER

WRITTEN BECAUSE OF "MY GREAT INTEREST IN OUR BEAUTIFUL LITTLE CITY."

Prominent Dallas Citizen Denounces His Statements as False and Without Foundation—Tells About Water Emery Said Couldn't Be Used.

DALLAS, Or., July 1.

TO THE EDITOR:—

As a citizen interested in the welfare and growth of every town in Oregon, and especially the towns of the Willamette Valley, I have long noted with interest and admiration the earnest and intelligent campaign waged by the newspapers of Corvallis in behalf of a mountain water supply for your growing city. The need of a larger and better supply for domestic use and fire purposes has been so clearly set out, that I shall not undertake to enlarge upon what has been said. Corvallis is a town in which we are all more or less interested, from the fact that it is the seat of one of our largest institutions of higher learning, and hundreds of Oregon's brightest young men and young women are entrusted to your care and protection each year. The health of the town is a matter of utmost importance, and every effort of your people to improve sanitary conditions, already good, has the hearty approval of the people of the entire state.

DALLAS HAD OBJECTIONS.

I notice that some of your citizens are opposing the effort to better the city water supply and are throwing every obstacle in the way of the success of the movement. At first thought this seems strange and almost impossible of belief, but, after all, it is not to be wondered at. The kicker, like the poor, we have with us always, and Corvallis, like other towns, doubtless has its share. The town of Dallas installed a mountain-water system over a year ago, a system of which its people are justly proud. And yet it must not be imagined that this result was easily accomplished. Far from it. The desired end was reached only after years of earnest, faithful work, inaugurated by a few men and taken up and pushed forward by loyal citizens who loved their town and desired to see it grow and prosper. Kickers there were in plenty; doubters shook their heads and predicted failure; a few croakers and mossbacks, (fortunately there were few), prophesied ruin and disaster; obstacles were thrown in the way and had to be met and overcome, and misrepresentation had to be dragged out into the sunlight of truth and shown up at its real worth. The task was not easy and at times the most enthusiastic grew discouraged, but the officers persisted in their work, knowing that a large majority of the people were behind them, and at last had the satisfaction of seeing their efforts crowned with success.

EMERY'S LETTER.

After working so long and earnestly to install a system of water-works that are in every respect first-class, the feelings of the people of Dallas can well be imagined when they read the libelous article concerning the Dallas water system, written by one W. G. Emery and published in the Corvallis papers this week. Untrue and uncalled-for, is the verdict of every Dallas citizen who has read it. But do not think for an instant that our people hold this publication against the people of Corvallis. Those who know Emery believe he came here for a purpose, and that that purpose was fulfilled by writing the letter which appeared in the Corvallis papers. They believe that he was opposed to the proposed mountain-water system for Corvallis, and that he thought by coming here and writing up 'Dallas' mountain water system as a failure he could prejudice Corvallis people against the improvement in their own town. It is evident to any thinking mind that Emery did not want to tell the truth, but that he came to misrepresent and distort conditions to suit his selfish purposes.

I am pleased to note that some of

his glaring misstatements have already been shown up by the sworn statements of Dallas citizens to the contrary, published in THE TIMES of Saturday. The two affidavits in themselves should be sufficient to discredit all that he has said, but lest some of your citizens might still be misled by the many untruths he has given publication, I beg space to call attention to a few of the notorious inaccuracies in his letter.

DALLAS' INSURANCE RATES.

I note in Mr. Emery's statement that he says that the insurance rates on dwelling houses in Dallas were 7 per cent to 10 per cent before the water works were installed, and that "the rates are still 7 to 10 per cent. A moment's thought will certainly convince every property owner in Corvallis of the absurdity of this statement. Seven to 10 per cent means \$70 to \$100 a year on each \$1000 insurance carried. Has any citizen of Corvallis or any other town, ever heard of any such rate being charged on dwelling houses? Here, in Dallas, before the installation of the water supply, property owners considered \$7 or \$8 a thousand a high rate on residences. These amounts some of them were obliged to pay—but never \$70 to \$100, as claimed by Mr. Emery. The house in which the writer lives is now insured for \$1000, and for this insurance the owner pays \$5 a year, or \$15 for a 3-year policy, such as is commonly written on dwellinghouses. Instead of 7 to 10 per cent, as Mr. Emery would have your people believe, the rate in this instance is just ONE-HALF OF 1 PER CENT.

The reduction on business property ranges from 10 to 30 per cent., with a good, honest average of 15 per cent. I wish to say, frankly, that this reduction is not as great as the people of Dallas had hoped for—not as great as the insurance people had led the council to believe it would be. The expected reduction was 25 per cent.—the real reduction was 15 per cent. As your readers are aware, the laws governing insurance charges in Oregon are very lax; in fact, there are practically no laws on the subject in this state, and, as a consequence, the insurance people do as they please. But in spite of this drawback, Dallas got a reduction in rates averaging 15 per cent. and all the stories of Mr. Emery to the contrary will not alter the fact. As to the truth of this statement, the insurance ratebooks, with which all local agents are supplied, are the best proof. Messrs. Sibley and Eakin are not in the real estate and insurance business, as claimed by Mr. Emery, and I do not believe that they ever told him what he says they did about insurance rates in Dallas.

MORE EMERY WHOPPERS.

The right-of-way for the Dallas pipe-line, something over 7 miles long, cost the city less than \$3000. This amount includes all necessary expenses of right-of-way committee, attorney's fees, money paid to property owners along the route, and the purchase of one acre of land in the edge of town for a reservoir site. In many instances, the farmers did not charge the city a cent for crossing their premises. The pipe is laid deep in the ground, and it is a noteworthy fact that the owners of agricultural lands were the ones who made the least charges. Mr. Emery tells your readers that "one claimant received \$380 for damages caused a 20-acre tract, besides having the costs of a lawsuit assessed to the city." There was no lawsuit with the owner of this tract, and the council upon its own motion paid him \$380 because the 12-inch pipe from the reservoir ran diagonally across his land. Mr. Emery says further that had it not been for the liberality of Judge Boise and a Mrs. Hallock in asking nominal damages, the cost of the right-of-way would have been much greater than \$3000. This statement will cause the Dallas people to smile in derision. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Had it not been for the greed of these parties, the right of way for the entire pipe line could have been paid for less than \$1500. They were the only ones who caused the city any trouble whatever, and it must be sadly confessed that in their efforts to extort big damages from the city they were aided and encouraged in every possible way by citizens of the town who were opposed to the improvement. Mrs. Hallock asked \$10,000 damages; the council offered her \$500. Judge Boise asked \$5000; the council offered him \$50. The cases were carried into court, and a jury awarded Mrs. Hallock \$600, \$300 less than the council offered; Judge Boise was awarded \$51 damages, one dollar more than the council had tendered him. The defendants appealed to the supreme

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