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Why Not End It?

The situation in which Hood River finds itself in regard to establishing a municipal water plant, is a complex one, with the probability that it will pay more to secure uncontested ownership of the private system through the courts than if it had bought the plant outright at the company's price. With the amount of the verdict awarded and the legal expenses, the figure already mount up to \$37,250. Judging by the cost of the water condemnation suit in the circuit court, a no inconsiderable sum will be added in carrying the suit through the higher court. It is reasonable to opine that the amount fixed by the lower court will not be reduced by the higher tribunal. In fact, as the case will be reviewed solely for the purpose of determining the actual money value of the plant, it is liable to be raised. The testimony taken in the circuit court that does not bear on this feature entirely will be thrown out as irrelevant, as will also that that does bear on it where it appears that the witness had interest in raising or depreciating its value from personal motives. Therefore the value of the plant will be judged from the investment in it and its earning or going value, and it is within the power of the supreme court to raise or lower the amount of the verdict or to order a re-trial of the case, as it sees fit.

Apart from popular prejudice, the preponderance of technical evidence, the evidence which will form the basis of the decision of the supreme court, is in favor of the appellant, or, otherwise, the private interests—in fact the attorneys for the water company made it a point to get that kind of evidence into the testimony, and, furthermore, they got it in. We were led to believe that although both sides reserved the right of an appeal to the state supreme court, it was not likely that the case would be appealed. Nevertheless, it has been appealed, with every prospect that it will go to a final decision.

Injected into the situation is the fact that although the circuit court ordered the plant to be turned over to the city, the federal court has issued an injunction restraining it from having any other use of the plant than simply operating it. This injunction was secured because there is no money with which to redeem the warrants issued by the city in payment for the property. The company's contention is, that as the city's paper is not either redeemable or negotiable, it is getting no benefit whatever from the transaction. The figure which the city has been asked to pay for the water plant has always hovered around \$40,000, and it looks very much as if this is the amount that will be paid, if not more. A good many citizens have commenced to realize this fact. It would be the part of wisdom right now to appropriate whatever additional amount is necessary from the \$42,500 voted to pay for the plant, and end further litigation. There is now and always has been a fixed basis around which the purchase of the water plant revolved, and twisting and turning can't get away from it. In fact the more we twist and turn, the tighter we're wound up. The company that owns the water may have showed bad faith, in its negotiations with the city and also in announcing a reduction in light rates when it really made them higher, but the fact remains that it is still domi-

nating the water situation and will continue to do so until absolute right and title is acquired to the present plant. It is just a question of whether the people want to be forced to pay through the courts or to do so voluntarily. A glance backward at the advice given in these columns on this important controversy ought to be of some value to the citizens of Hood River. The situation they are now placed in was clearly defined two years ago, and every day of delay complicates it. The course so far pursued has no doubt been taken with the approval of the citizens, but the question arises, in what way have we benefited or in what way will we benefit by its continuance. Why not end it?

Fooling Ourselves

Probably no aphorism has found more frequent use by the American people than that of Abraham Lincoln to the effect that "you can fool all the people part of the time; part of the people all the time, but that you can't fool all the people all the time." And the truth of this terse saying is largely unchallenged. Nevertheless it seems that you can fool a good many of the people a good deal of the time and that Hood River people are not excluded.

The most recent example of local hoodwinking was the belief that we were to have a cheaper light service, which failed to materialize. Later we allowed ourselves to be made to believe that we are to have it through competition. According to all authorities on this point, however, we are again doomed to be disillusioned. Now we never stopped to think of it, but the fact is self evident that two public service corporations do not remain in business where one can supply the demand. The Wisconsin Railroad Commission discovered this in making its investigations, and says: "Two distinct and separate corporations are not likely to remain separate very long after it becomes clear that the services rendered by both can be more cheaply and more effectively furnished by only one of them."

Where they have done so, they have been controlled secretly by one head. Or, according to the Board of Gas and Electric Light Commissioners of Massachusetts, if two companies are in the field "The temporary advantage to a portion of the public is reasonably sure to be followed by an undue burden upon the public as a whole, through the larger capital demanding a return. Which, in plainer words, means that sooner or later the public is milked to pay for both. "The whole electric history of New York City," says the Electric World, "points to the futility of competition. In the early days of the industry numerous companies were organized. From time to time they were absorbed, only to be followed by new companies, frequently encouraged by the city, with the idea that competition is the life of trade and that the more competition there was the better would be the conditions. But the same procedure occurred again and again. The new companies were merged or swallowed up, until at present there are but two electric supply companies in the whole of Manhattan Island, and these two companies, although nominally independent, are owned and controlled by the Consolidated Gas Company. The history of New York City has been duplicated in nearly every city in the United States and Europe."

The history of what has occurred elsewhere then, in electricity, will be the history here. Therefore do not let us fool ourselves into believing that it is going to be any different, or let others fool us either. The public service game is a cold-blooded proposition in which people's pocket books are the stakes. If there is any temporary advantage to be gained let us get it, with the idea firmly in mind, however, that the day of reckoning will come. An amelioration of the conditions to which the people are

subjected by public service corporations may come through legalized regulation, but not through competition in a field where economic conditions make possible a monopoly.

Future Fruit Crops

From Oregon Journal
The Oregon apple show is open to the public today. Contemporaneous with it is the annual meeting of the State Horticultural Society. Within a few years the annual fruit output of Oregon is expected to reach a value of \$20,000,000. It is said that the present orchard acreage is sufficient, when it comes into bearing, to yield such a crop. It will then surpass by \$3,000,000 the wheat crop of the present time. The fruit crop of Oregon in 1910 brought a return of nearly \$8,000,000. It was more than four times the value of the hop crop and more than two and one half times the value of the wool. It was double the value of the fruit crop of 1907.

The apple show and the horticultural society, under the auspices of which it is held, are part of the campaign for making the state's fruit crop exceed its wheat yield, a result very certain to sooner or later appear. The apples already represent one half of the annual fruit production. Enormous areas of young orchards set with especially selected trees are to increase the proportion of apples enormously. The apple show and the discussions of the horticultural society are factors in the education for better fruit. In the society wise heads of long experience are spreading information as to methods and processes in fruit growing. They make it clear that more than mere planting of trees and picking the fruit is necessary to success.

The industry is now reduced to an exact science. The inexperienced man unaided can no more succeed than an untrained lawyer or an untrained engineer can succeed. The rules and requirements are technical, and have beaten paths that must be followed from the selection of the orchard site to the packing and the marketing of the crop.

There is a great work for the fruit men to do. Oregon stands at the head of the world's markets, for fruit. To maintain that position by keeping the standard high is the end and aim of the apple show and horticultural society.

Notice of Sheriff's Sale

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for Hood River County, vs. Gust Georgas, Plaintiff, and H. E. Marshall and Geo. W. McCoy, Defendants. By virtue of an execution, decree and order of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Hood River, do hereby direct and order the 6th day of November, 1911, at 10 o'clock a. m. for the foreclosure of a certain laborer's lien and judgment rendered and entered in said Court on the 14th day of June, 1911, in the above entitled cause in favor of plaintiff and against the defendants in the sum of \$265.00, and interest thereon from the 6th day of August, 1910, at the rate of 6 per cent per annum; and for the sum of \$60.00 attorneys fees; and for the sum of \$16.75 costs and disbursements, with interest thereon from the 6th day of August, 1910, at the rate of 6 per cent per annum; and commanding me to make sale of the real property embraced in such decree of foreclosure and judgment as described, I will at the hour of 10 o'clock in the forenoon on the 7th day of November, 1911, at the front door of the County Court House, in Hood River, Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash in hand all the right, title and interest which said Gust Georgas, Plaintiff, had on the 14th day of June, 1911, in the above entitled judgment and order, and which said defendant, George W. Marshall, has since acquired, or now has, in and to the following described real property situated and being in the County of Hood River, State of Oregon, to-wit: The southeast quarter of Section 25, Township 2 North, Range 2 East, W. M., or so much thereof as will satisfy said judgment and execution, to-wit: The sum of \$265.00, and interest thereon from the 6th day of August, 1910, at the rate of 6 per cent per annum; for the sum of \$60.00 attorney's fee, with interest thereon from the 14th day of June, 1911, at the rate of 6 per cent per annum; and for the sum of \$16.75 costs and disbursements, with interest thereon from the 6th day of August, 1910, at the rate of 6 per cent per annum; and against said defendant, George W. McCoy, and against said described real property on the 13th day of June, 1911, in and for the sum of \$20.25, and interest thereon from the 6th day of August, 1910, at the rate of 6 per cent per annum; and for the sum of \$10.00 attorneys fees, with interest thereon from the 13th day of June, 1911, at the rate of 6 per cent per annum. And a judgment made and entered against said defendant, Geo. W. McCoy, and against said described real property on the 21st day of May, 1911, in and for the sum of \$60.00, and interest thereon from the 6th day of August, 1910, at the rate of 6 per cent per annum; for the sum of \$40.00 attorney's fee, with interest thereon from the 21st day of May, 1911, at the rate of 6 per cent per annum; for the sum of \$10.00, costs and disbursements, with interest thereon from the 21st day of May, 1911, at the rate of 6 per cent per annum; and for the further sum of \$21.00 costs and disbursements on said judgment, in the State Court of the County of Hood River, Oregon, and against said defendant, Geo. W. McCoy, and against said described real property last described as prior judgment liens on said land. Said property will be sold subject to confirmation and equity of redemption as by law provided. Dated at Hood River, Oregon, this 6th day of November, 1911. Sheriff of Hood River County, Nov. 5-Dec. 13 State of Oregon.

Summons

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Hood River, vs. F. Howard Isenberg, Plaintiff, and Zelta F. Isenberg, Defendant. To Zelta F. Isenberg, Defendant. You are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint of the plaintiff filed in the above entitled court and cause on or before the 13th day of December, 1911, and if you fail to so appear and answer said complaint, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief prayed for therein, to-wit: For a decree of said court dissolving the marriage contract now existing between the plaintiff and defendant; for a decree of said court adjudging and decreeing plaintiff to be the sole and exclusive owner of Lots Three (3), Four (4) and Five (5), in Block E of Cole's Third Addition to the City of Hood River, Hood River County, Oregon; for a decree of said court adjudging and decreeing plaintiff to be the owner and holder of certain promissory notes owing to plaintiff and defendant jointly, which said promissory notes are set forth and fully described in plaintiff's complaint in the above entitled court and cause; and for such other and further relief as to the court may seem equitable and just. This summons is served upon you by publication thereof in The Hood River News, a paper of general circulation, published once each week in Hood River, Hood River County, Oregon, by virtue of an order of the County Court of Hood River County, Oregon, made and entered on the 30th day of October, 1911. The date of the first publication of this summons in said newspaper is November 1st, 1911. S. W. STARK, Nov. 1-Dec. 13 Attorney for Plaintiff.

Notice of Sheriff's Sale

Notice is hereby given that an execution and order of the Circuit Court of the County of Hood River, on the 27th day of October, 1911, upon a judgment rendered on the 4th day of October, 1911, in favor of plaintiff, Adeline F. Rodgers, and against the defendant, W. R. Winans and Mary Winans, which said execution and order of sale is to the direct and commanding me to sell the property hereinafter described for the purpose of satisfying the judgment of plaintiff in said cause for the sum of Twenty-two hundred and ninety-five and 17/100 (\$2295.17) with interest thereon from said 4th day of October, 1911, at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, and the further sum of One hundred fifty and 00/100 (\$150.00) attorney's fees, and the further sum of Twenty-two and 50/100 cents and the costs incurred upon said writ of execution. Therefore, in compliance with said execution having order of sale, I will on the 1st day of December, 1911, at the hour of 11 o'clock a. m. at the court house door in Hood River County, Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash in hand for the purpose of satisfying the judgment above named, the following described real property, to-wit: The north half of the southeast quarter and the north half of the southwest quarter of section two (2) township one (1) north, range nine (9) east of the Willamette Meridian, containing 100 acres all situated in Hood River County, state of Oregon. Dated this 1st day of November, 1911. THOS. F. JOHNSON, Sheriff of Hood River County, Ore. Nov. 1-29

Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed administrator of the estate of Thomas Edward Lowell, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same, duly and regularly verified to me at the law office of S. W. Stark, in Hood River, Oregon, within six months of the date of this notice. S. G. AMELIO, Administrator of the estate of Thomas Edward Lowell, deceased. Nov. 1-29-11

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