

## THE HOOD RIVER NEWS

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## Is It Advisable?

Since the \$90,000 bond issue for the construction of a new water system was again rejected by attorneys for the prospective purchasers on account of alleged technical discrepancies, and construction of the system has been delayed, there have been a number of people who have suggested that it might be well to reconsider the matter of the source from which the city's permanent water supply shall be secured in order to be assured that no mistake is made in this important matter.

Those who are proposing that the matter be reconsidered state that conditions have changed since the decision was made and that the question might be profitably thrown open for debate.

Events during the past week have done something towards bringing these sentiments to a head. The burning of a business block on the Heights on account of a deficient water pressure demonstrated anew the need of a strong pressure in that section in order to protect property. Some are doubtful whether such pressure could be obtained from Tucker's, engineers having disagreed as to this point. Again, hundreds of persons who gathered at Woodworth Park during the Chautauqua drank the cold, sparkling water from the Lava Springs and were wishful that Hood River might secure such a supply, abundant in quantity and free from any possibility of contamination.

Several years ago, when the matter was yet under consideration, a commission was appointed to investigate the available sources of supply and to make their recommendations. The majority of these recommendations the city council at that time did not see fit to adopt. Among these recommendations were the following: That the private water system be purchased by the city; that a filtration plant be installed, and that the supply be taken from the Lava or West Fork Springs. Since that time the wisdom of the two former recommendations has been admitted by subsequent city councils. The private water system was purchased this summer and the present season has also seen the filtration plant installed.

Residents in the valley are interested to an equal extent with those living in the city in this important matter for it is pointed out that with such a supply piped from that altitude the service might be extended to residents in the valley and the city's revenue therefrom materially increased. While admitting that the initial cost might be greater they question whether it would not be cheaper in the end.

A still larger question is contained in this one and that concerns the duty which the city owes to the valley in co-operating to secure a water supply for the rapidly increasing population of the lower valley. Could this not be done, is the question now being asked, if some means of co-operation were devised between city and county, and will it not become imperative within the next few years that the valley obtain some such supply of pure water in order to preserve health?

The city has enjoyed a substantial growth since the supply at Tucker's was declared adequate and it is questioned whether it would be long sufficient with the constantly increasing needs.

On the other hand there are those who doubt whether the city could secure the supply

from either the Lava or West Fork Springs without long delay and many legal complications. This, too, is a matter which should enter into consideration.

Unless the bonds have to be revoked, final decision of the matter rests with the city council. It is a question of such great and lasting importance to city and valley that if there is any doubt as to the adequacy of Tucker's Spring under the conditions now existing, it is a debatable question whether a careful investigation might not well be made before final action is taken.

## Cows and a Creamery

It was a coincidence that Dr. Withycomb, director of the Oregon Experiment Station, should advise local orchardists to keep cows for the sake of the fertilizer just at the same time that the Commercial Club is investigating the opportunities for a creamery here. As noted in another column, Dr. Withycomb says the cows would pay if only for the sake of returning the fertilizer to the orchards, which would otherwise become impoverished in time. The club, on the other hand, has learned that between 2000 and 3000 pounds of butter is being shipped into the valley every month. The latter information was obtained on the solicitation of parties who might start a creamery here.

Dr. Withycomb's advice is worth remembering and no doubt as time goes on many orchardists will see the wisdom of it and put it into practice. By putting two and two together, or in other words by working the dairy plan and creamery in conjunction, the matter might be worked out most advantageously.

The dairies would not only be enriching the soils of the valley and furnishing another industry for Hood River City, but they would constitute a luxury which every housewife and every family in the valley would appreciate. Fresh, wholesome milk and rich cream are worth their weight in gold, especially where there are growing youngsters.

Dr. Withycomb's advice to the rancher to love his wife first and his Guernsey cow next may be well worth remembering for it was earnestly spoken by a man who does not give advice lightly.

## The Chautauqua's Success

Extremely gratifying to those who so ably planned and carried out Hood River's first horticultural Chautauqua was the splendid success which the event held last week achieved. Held under ideal conditions, the Chautauqua was most auspiciously launched and a permanent organization having been formed it promises to be a popular annual event. And it is well that it should for it brings all sections of the valley together and tends to create a co-operative spirit which knows no local jealousies. It instructs local orchardists in the industry upon which they depend for a livelihood and does so under the most favorable conditions. At the same time it provides an opportunity for all to enjoy camp life in one of the valley's most beautiful spots. The social pleasures attendant upon the Chautauqua were one of its most delightful features.

To those who conceived and carried out the plans for the event this year is extended the thanks of all who enjoyed so thoroughly the three days' round of pleasure and profit. It is another tribute to the progressive spirit of the valley that the Chautauqua met with such an instantaneous success and it is the same spirit which will insure its continued success in the future. It is an institution worthy of every encouragement.

## Useless Riches

"I have been busy all my life amassing a fortune, but I have lost my health." This was the explanation given by John W. Kennedy, a millionaire from Des Moines, Ia., when he sent a bullet through his brain at Santa

Barbara, Cal., the last of the week.

Kennedy's experience was similar to that of thousands of other men, who, unlike him, have preferred to learn the bitter truth in silence rather than to seek the solace of a suicidal death. It is the old, old story of the man blinded by riches so that he does not see the vanity of it all until it is too late. It has been proverbial almost from the beginning of time and yet it seems that it is a truth which each man has to learn for himself, that riches are indeed vain unless there goes with them the more precious things of life—a quiet mind, a sound body and a clear conscience. Without them or any one of them all the riches in the world are as nothing. The poor man who has these latter treasures possesses that for which the rich man would give his wealth and give it gladly, for he has learned the vanity of riches and the bitterness of a life which is sacrificed in the endeavor to reach a fruitless goal.

## DON'T PRUNE TOO SOON, SAYS EXPERT

"At this season of the year there is a great deal of interest in summer pruning," says Professor C. I. Lewis of the division of horticulture of the Oregon Agricultural College, who is receiving many inquiries on this subject.

"We are experimenting at the present time at the college and in various orchards throughout the state, but we need to carry on such investigations over a period of several years before publishing our results. From what work we have done, however, we feel that where summer pruning is being conducted with the idea of getting fruit to form, it is better not to prune until after the terminal buds have formed. The grower can determine easily when these buds have formed by looking at the ends of the twigs. He will note a plump bud and will also notice that the leaves near the ends of the shoots which heretofore have been rather small, are now assuming normal size.

"I believe that it is the best time to summer prune after these buds have formed and been allowed to harden slightly, allowing a week or ten days. This time will vary all the way from the middle of June to September.

"In pruning for the fruit I would suggest that the grower does not cut down lower than this year's wood. We feel that better results are secured by moderate pruning, cutting back from one-third to one-half of this year's growth, but not cutting back into previous seasons' growth. This cutting back in the way indicated seems to have a tendency to thicken the branches materially and cause an accumulation of shoots which lead to the formation of fruit spurs. While results may not be noticed this year, in all probability it will have the same bearing on succeeding crops.

"Some people felt that they could prune at any time during the summer and that they do not get the re-active growth that they do when the trees are pruned when dormant, in the winter or spring. This is not true. If heavy pruning is done while the trees are still in a vigorous, active condition, reaction will take place and many of the buds will be formed into shoots, and more injury than good can be done in influencing the fruitfulness, as this pruning might force out into shoots what would otherwise be fruit spurs."

## MYSTERIOUS DEATH AT STEVENSON PROBED

Two months ago John Frederickson of Stevenson picked up on the Skamania county shore of the Columbia river a set of upper false teeth, complete except for one tooth. Yesterday the steamer J. N. Teal found in the river a body and dragged it ashore and tied it up. The coroner found the upper teeth all gone except one.

The body of this man, in whose case such a curious coincidence happened, had been in the water several months. The face was unrecognizable. His trousers were dark and he had on a leather belt and a blue shirt. In life he was six feet two inches tall.—Portland Journal.

## Christian Science Services

Christian Science services are held in the Commercial Club rooms Sundays at 11 a. m. Subject, "Christ Jesus." Sunday school at same hour in Room 2, Davidson Bldg. Wednesday meetings in same room 8 p. m. Reading room open daily, 2 to 5 p. m.

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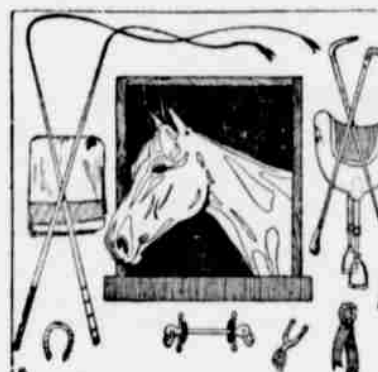
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