

METERS ARE URGED

Mr. Brewster Explains Why He Favors Daly Scheme.

CURBING WASTE IS URGED

Problem Is Called Chiefly One of Cost of Keeping Up Water Supply in All Parts of City and Figures Are Quoted.

PORTLAND, March 12.—(To the Editor.)—I ask consideration of the following discussion of water meters and particularly by those persons who are thinking of signing the petition for a referendum on this question to the voters.

The ordinance which the Council has passed provides for the purchase of 5000 meters. It also has been proposed to frame a notice calling for bids so that the city will have the option of obtaining 5000 more meters at the same price. Deliveries to be made at the rate of not more than 1000 a month. Additional authority would, of course, have to be obtained from the Council, by ordinance, to appropriate money for the purchase of the second lot of 5000.

There is only one question, therefore, before the public: Has the City Council used good sense in authorizing the purchase of 5000 meters at a cost, including installation, of not more than \$60,000? Among the questions not involved are the metering of the whole city, the fixing of rates and saving water at the reservoirs. Upon present information I am ready, when the time comes, to vote for the second lot of 5000 meters; and in this discussion I am not at all increasing the number depends, so far as I am concerned, on the results obtained from the meters which it is proposed to install and upon the necessity of metering in order to obtain more equitable rates. I can see little, if any, connection between even 10,000 meters and rates. The rate question must rest until the regulation of distribution is settled.

Information Is Cited. The information which has led me to favor the installation of meters up to the number of 10,000 has been obtained from statements made by 77 of the largest cities in the United States, from engineering magazines, from engineers and from Mr. Barker, of Portland, and Mr. Kester, of our water office. In the first place, there has been no shortage of water in the reservoirs, the direct source of supply, nor is there any prospect of any such shortage. The difficulty is that certain districts are insufficiently supplied because the water is consumed before it reaches the ends of mains or the higher levels in those districts. The mains start out from the reservoirs filled to their capacity, but a great deal of excessive use during the sprinkling season by the consumers on the lower levels and at intermediate points, there is a shortage for those above and beyond.

In the districts of Kenton, Portsmouth, Woodlawn, Vernon and Highland there are about 3500 houses, more or less subject to shortage, of which 2542 are not metered. Similar conditions exist in the district bounded by Maryland, Felling, East Fourteenth and Fremont streets, and in the North Mount Tabor, East Irvington, Waverleigh Heights, South Portland and Woodmere-Woodstock districts, which contain about 7515 houses, of which 6892 are not metered. There are also 299 meters required in "Goose Hollow" and the high levels south of Jefferson street, where a pumping station is required. Finally, about 600 meters should be placed in barber shops, restaurants and other business premises of like nature using the same water.

Laying Mains Is Tried. Before the second lot of 5000 meters was laid in 1911 there was distress in different parts of the city from lack of water, although even then the supply in reservoirs was sufficient. Regarding the defects in the distribution system, the attempt was made to overcome them by laying mains. In 1911, 1912 and 10 months of 1913 there were laid 120.33 miles of cast-iron mains at a cost of \$1,852,000. I quote from a report by Mr. Clarke:

"Of these mains 56.7 miles were put down in place of small-size mains, which would no longer furnish an adequate supply. The sum expended for this purpose amounts to approximately \$1,512,000. Included in the mains laid since 1911, as above, were several goodly-sized mains, put in to reinforce the district supply. But the larger proportion are what may be called 'service mains,' being laid in the streets upon which the individual lots front."

"This work must be continued in order to keep up with the needs of the growing city, but there are many places where the small pipes originally laid will continue to serve a useful purpose if waste is restricted and the use of water distributed over the entire day for all purposes, instead of confining the sprinkling service to a short period during the early morning and evening hours."

"It is this very purpose which the general use of meters is expected to serve." A more recent difficulty has arisen in the Woodmere-Woodstock district, extending south from Division street and easterly from Fortieth street to the city limits, where private water systems with small mains have been purchased by the city.

Report Quoted Again. Again, quoting from Mr. Clarke's report:

"It appears that the ultimate cost of a system of mains adequate to supply the district for a long term of years (or, say four or five times the present population) would be approximately \$1,575,000.00, and call for the laying of 12 miles of reinforcing mains, and 163 miles of service mains, six inches to eight inches in diameter."

"This estimate, of course, covers a long look into the future, just how long, no one can safely tell."

"At the time this report was prepared (a report made in 1911), the problem was to provide for the immediate needs of the district. Every residence in the district was reached by a pipe of some size or other, mostly too small for efficient service. It was hoped that by laying a number of reinforcing mains, intersecting the small pipes at frequent intervals, that the major part of the small pipes purchased could be made to serve for a considerable period. It has been found, however, that complaints of insufficient supply have been made at intervals up to the present time, notwithstanding 22 miles of large mains, costing approximately \$174,900, have been laid since the purchase (17 1/2 miles replacing small pipes, and four and a half miles entirely new mains)."

"It is now contended that if meters had been provided for this district, the laying of some of these mains could have been deferred, and the laying of

Free Lessons in Knitting and Crocheting 1 to 5 Daily—Children's Free Classes Saturdays 9:30 to 12—Expert Instruction—Art Dept., Second Floor
Exclusive Portland Agents for Luther Burbank's Original Garden and Flower Seeds—Free Booklet on "Flower Culture" With Every \$1 Purchase

New Ruchings

35c to \$1.00 a Yard

Main Floor—We have just received a large shipment of new Chiffon Net and Shadow Lace Ruchings in all the new Spring shades and styles.



Olds, Wortman & King

Reliable Merchandise—Reliable Methods

Store Hours—9 A. M. to 6 P. M. Every Business Day—Saturday Included



Double Stamps

Will be given today with all cash purchases made in the Main Floor Shoe Department. See special shoe BARGAINS elsewhere in this ad.

All Women's Ready-to-Wear Apparel Reduced

New Spring Suits, Coats, Gowns, Dresses, Skirts, Waists, Sweaters, Petticoats, Etc., Etc., Included

MANIFESTLY Portland women keenly appreciate this unusual offering, for our garment salons on the second floor are visited by great crowds daily. The exclusiveness of the styles—the superior tailoring and fit of "O. W. K." garments put them in a class by themselves. You are always sure when buying a suit, coat or dress here of getting absolutely the best that is produced at the price. Decided reductions are now in force on all Women's Ready-to-Wear Apparel. Select Spring wearables now.

Spring Styles "Clara Barton" Dresses

Ideal for Home Wear

Special Demonstration in the Garment Department on Second Floor

Garment Department, Second Floor—We are Portland agents for these attractive dresses, and show them in a great variety of styles and materials—two popular models here illustrated. Note the reversible front and the simplicity of the styles. Made from best quality Gingham, Chambray, Rippelette, Galatea and Indian Head in neat stripes and checks or plain colors. Cut in perfect sizes, easily adjusted to fit any figure. The best recommendation we can offer in favor of "Clara Barton" Dresses is the fact that women who once wear them will have no other. Stylish, dressy; but above all—serviceable. Regular sizes at \$1.75, \$2.25, \$2.50 and \$2.75. Extra sizes in Clara Barton Dresses \$2.75 and \$3.50.



Sale Dainty Spring Waists

Special \$1.68

Department, Second Floor—Worth very much more than this price. Fine Sheer Lingerie Marquisettes and Allover Embroidery—styled with high and low necks, long and short sleeves; some with net vests and all—plaitings. All sizes. Today's special at \$1.68.

Women's Silk Petticoats \$3.29

Department, Second Floor—Shown in full assortment of the newest Spring shades in plain and floral effects. Extra grade messaline or silk Jersey tops, \$3.29 with accordion plaited flounces. Friday at \$3.29.

"Salmon Day" Today

Reduce the high cost of living and boost one of the most important industries in the entire Northwest. Columbia River Chinook Salmon, \$1.15 doz; 1/2-lb. can, Royal Club Sockeye Salmon, 20c doz, \$2.20, 1-lb. flats at Monopole Can Salmon, doz, \$1.65, 1/2-lb. cans, ea. Monopole Can Salmon, 25c doz, \$2.65, ea. Columbia River Salmon Cuts, large oval cans, priced \$3.00.

Choice Hams 21c Lb.

Fourth Floor—Nice Light Hams of 10 to 12 lbs.; choice Eastern Sugar cured; "Westphalian Style," 21c. Special for Friday, a pound, 21c. Glenwood Butter, the square, 65c. "O. W. K." Butter, the square, 55c.

Dependable Underwear and Hosiery

Supply Your Spring Needs From Our Splendid Stocks

We are exclusive Portland agents for "Merode" Hand-Finished Underwear for Women; also for the famous "Carter" make. Exclusive agents for "Honest Dollar" Silk Hosiery and many other dependable lines. "S. & H." Green Trading Stamps given with purchases of 10 cents or over. 65c Silk Boot Hose 49c—Special line Women's Fine Silk Boot Hose in black, white and tan, with lisle sole and top. An excellent 65c 49c quality today, pair, 50c. Lisle Hose 39c—Women's Outside Silk Lisle Hose with double heel and toe and double garter top. Specially 39c priced for today at 39c. \$1.50 Silk Hose \$1.00—Broken Lines Women's Thread Silk Hose in several good standard makes. While they, pair, \$1.00. 25c Vests and Pants 19c—Children's Spring-Weight Cotton Vests and Pants, in high neck with long or short sleeves. Pants ankle length. Regular 19c 25c grade, the garment, 50c Lisle Vests 35c—Several attractive styles to choose from. Fine grade of Lisle with hand-crocheted tops. Special 35c. Sleeveless Vests 50c—Showing a splendid line of new Spring styles with hand-crocheted fancy yokes. All sizes, 50c. Priced at the garment, 50c. 65c Lisle Vests 49c—Women's Extra Quality Lisle Vests in low neck, sleeveless style, with fancy lace trimmed yoke. Regular 65c grade. Special 49c price at the garment, \$2.25. Silk Vests \$1.69—"Kaysers'" Venetian Silk Vests in low-neck sleeveless style. White only. Broken line \$1.69 of sizes. Garm't, \$3.50. Knickerbockers \$2.69—Very fine grade Italian Silk in colors only. This is a broken line of sizes. Reg. \$2.69 \$3.50 grade now \$2.69.

Smart New Spring Suits At \$14.95

Second Floor—In this special group of Suits are some of the smartest models we have received this season. Popular short coat styles with fancy collars and cuffs. Skirts peg top, tier or tunic effects. All popular weaves. Your choice at only \$14.95.

Women's Spring Coats \$11.89

Second Floor—Stylish cutaway models, belted effects or new English styles with convertible collar and raglan sleeves. Good assortment of materials in bright new Spring shades and patterns. Women's New Coats. Specially priced for this sale \$11.89.



Great Underprice Sale Children's White Dresses

Department, Second Floor—Two special lots Children's High-Grade White Dresses—odd garments that have become slightly spoiled and mused from being used for display purposes. Plain Piques, Repps, Lians, Lawns, etc., in "Buster" and fancy waist effects. Only one or two of a style and size. Ages 2 to 14. 98c. For immediate disposal—Dresses worth to \$15 at \$1.98, Dresses worth to \$8.00, choice 98c.

Sale of Wash Dresses for Little Tots

Department, Second Floor—Three special lines of Children's Spring Wash Dresses at big reductions. Great variety of styles and patterns in Chambray, Gingham, etc. Ages 2 to 6 years. 75c Dresses at 59c, \$1.00 Dresses at 69c and \$1.25 Dresses at 89c. Our new Spring lines Children's Coats and Dresses comprise the smartest assortment of styles and materials ever shown in Portland. Mothers will find here garments that are distinctive, and the prices are most reasonable. —Department, Second Floor.

36-Inch Percalé 10c Yard
Main Floor—New line just received. Splendid quality, shown in a vast assortment of patterns. Special, yard 10c.

Embroidery Flouncings, Worth to 50c
Center Circle, Main Floor—Hundreds of yards Dainty Embroidery Flouncings in widths from 12 to 18 inches. Also Bands and Galloons in widths 1 to 5 inches. Great assortment of patterns. Regular 50c grades at, yard, 19c.

Women's \$1.50 Kid Gloves \$1.19
Main Floor—Splendid grade of French Kid in two-class Over-seam and one-class Pique-stitch, colors blk., white and tan only. \$1.50 Kid Gloves, \$1.19 special at, a pair.

St. Patrick's Day Novelties
Main Floor—Headquarters for Post-Cards, Greetings, Sham-rocks, Flags and other novelties appropriate for the occasion. Free Classes
Every Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 A. M. to 12 in making of Dennison Paper Flowers, Favors, etc. Art Dep't, 2d Floor.

Sale of Famous J. B. Stetson Hats



Regular \$4.00 and \$5 Grades Price, Special for Friday at \$2.45

See Special Window Display!—Genuine "J. B. Stetson" Hats at a sensation-ally low price. Stiff styles in black only. Soft styles in grays, tans, browns and black. Full line of all sizes in the assortment. A Hat bargain you'll not meet with again. Regular \$4 and \$5 Hats, special \$2.45.

Great Shoe Sale Continues Friday



Double Stamps on All Cash Purchases
Main Floor—Hundreds of pairs Men's and Women's High-Grade Shoes offered at about regular factory cost. Latest Spring lasts. All widths and all sizes. Women's \$5.00 Shoes and Slippers Special \$2.89 Pair
Women's High Boots in all popular leathers and styles. Also Evening and Party Slippers in doz. or more styles. Reg. \$4, \$5 grades \$2.89.

Men's \$4, \$5 Shoes \$2.89
Double Stamps With All Cash Purchases
Gunmetal, Patent, Calf, Vici Kid, etc.—strictly high-grade Shoes on newest Spring lasts. Blacks or tans in button and lace styles. Complete line of all widths and all sizes in this lot, \$4.00 and \$5.00. Shoes are included in this special Friday offering. Pair, \$2.89.

Garden Tools and Paints

Third Floor—Special Reduced Prices on Garden Tools, Rakes, Hoes, Diggers, Grass Shears, Spades, etc. Also on Sherwin-Williams Paints.

"Right-Posture"

is the name of our new Health Suit for Boys. They will cure your boy of stoop shoulders and help him to retain robust manhood. Made in beautiful Norfolk and fancy plaits. Ages 6 to 18. Prices \$5.00 to \$15.00.

Boys' \$5 Russian Suits Special \$3.95

Boys' \$8.50 Top Coats Friday Special \$3.95
Main Floor—Special line Boys' Russian Suits to be closed out on account of broken sizes. Blue Serge, Brown, Tan, Gray, Black and White Checks, etc. Ages from 2 1/2 to 7 years. Regular \$8.50 Suits specially priced today at \$3.95.

\$1.00 Blouses at 69c
Main Floor—Celebrated "K. & E." and "Ferguson & McKinney" makes. Extra well made and perfect fitting. Reg. \$1.00 Blouses, now 69c.
Boys' 50c Blouses 39c
Main Floor—Boys' Blouses in several popular makes. New collar-button effects. Drawing or side loops. Sizes 6 to 16. Special price, each, 39c.
Children's Wash Suits
Main Floor—Our splendid new Spring stock is now on display, embracing all the newest ideas for little fellows. Prices \$1.50 to \$5.00.

still others would not be necessary until a more remote period. Condition Called Typical. "Unquestionably this is an extreme case, for in no other district of the city of equal area and population are the pipes of so uniformly small size, but it is typical of a condition which will ultimately prevail in other districts also if no attempt is made to curb waste and regulate excessive use. In the southeast district alone there are still 75.9 miles of small pipes in use. Deducting 2 miles for reinforcement mains already planned for the current year, leaves say 74 miles which must ultimately be replaced with larger sizes. If one-half of this number of miles of mains can be made to answer their purpose for another five-year period, then there will be a saving to offset the cost of meters to accomplish the desired regulation. Referring again to the conditions on the Peninsula, a 24-inch main was laid in 1905 to the Vernon standpipe, and on account of the overload and consequent insufficient supply to certain

portions of the district, a 30-inch main was laid in 1913 to Fremont street, with a 16-inch branch on Fremont street, at a cost of \$136,000. Of this Mr. Clarke says: "This is about one-half of the expense which must ultimately be incurred in the further extension of this reinforcement main, probably within the next year or two. "The installation of meters in the Vernon and Peninsula districts, and along the Highland main, would undoubtedly have postponed the laying of the additional main for several years. "It is to regulate such conditions as are described above that the general use of meters is advocated."

Meters Urged as Remedy. We have then on the Peninsula an example of a district suffering for several years from a shortage of water, which the Water Board attempted to overcome by the installation of mains at a very large expense. The shortage still exists, and apparently the only way to overcome it is either by the installation of meters, or by the laying of further mains. There is the other

problem involved in the southeastern district, where it seems possible to lay a comparatively small number of mains if meters are installed. Undoubtedly mains must be laid from time to time, but the number of them and the consequent expense will, it appears to me, be dependent on the use of meters. The settlement of the meter question is based on engineering experience and technical knowledge of the conditions. For many years past the engineer of the water office has had the confidence of successive Water Boards, and when his opinion on this matter is backed by the experience of other cities and the statements made by other men in his profession, I feel justified in relying largely upon him. This is a question in which the public is vitally interested and upon which it is entitled to express opinions. It does not seem to me that the questions now involved are beyond the understanding of any of us who will take the trouble to study the merits of the meter and get information at first hand. It is not a political or personal question in any way whatever, but it does involve en-

gineering problems and questions of comparative cost. I believe that the cost of maintenance of meters has been grossly exaggerated. One man can read 5000 meters in a month, and it is more than likely that his work will dispense with one inspector's services. Judging from the reports received, the life of a meter is not yet established; but it does seem fairly well settled that a meter can be maintained, where there is no silt in the water and under favorable conditions like our own, at a cost of about 20 cents per annum. WILLIAM L. BREWSTER.

Klamath Taxes Total \$65,000. KLAMATH FALLS, Or., March 12.—(Special.)—A total of more than \$65,000 has been paid in county taxes to date. Of this more than 40 per cent has been paid in county warrants. Will S. Worden, County Judge, and John Hagelstein, one of the commissioners, have come to Portland to attend the session of the United States Court, where the most recent suit for invalidation of the warrants will come up this week.



Yes—it's pure without a doubt, sir, Hops and malt and water, too, All combined by perfect brewing In a beer just right for you.
Ye Olde Colonial Beer
Brewed by Henry Weinhard Brewery. Large or Small Bottles. Phone for a case today. Phone Main 72, A-1172.