

WATER BOARD AND CITIZENS CONFERENCE

Policies That Would Completely Revolutionize System Discussed.

ALL LEFT TO THE PEOPLE

Resolutions Which Favor Radical Changes in Charter Passed at Meeting of City Officials and Improvement Club.

ENDORSED BY JOINT COMMITTEE AND BOARD.

That vote be taken upon issuing bonds to extend water system, bonds to be met by taxation of property adjacent to mains.

That vote be taken upon issuing bonds of \$2,500,000 for construction of second Bull Run pipeline.

That referendum vote be taken upon compelling city to pay for water used for municipal purposes.

That referendum vote be taken upon taxing property not to exceed \$5 for each fire hydrant in city.

That Water Board proceed immediately to put in meters throughout city and charge a flat meter rate.

Policies which, if adopted, would completely revolutionize the water system of Portland were suggested yesterday afternoon at the joint meeting of the water board and representatives of the various improvement clubs of the city, held at the City Hall. The changes were for the most part recommended in resolutions that proposed amendments to the charter be submitted to the people at the city election next June. There was a large attendance and a majority of the resolutions were adopted by unanimous vote.

The most important recommendation was that the charter be amended so as to throw the cost of extending the water system directly upon property owners, instead of upon the city, as at the present time. According to the amendment proposed, no property would be assessed for the laying of mains, except holdings that have water service available, but all property, whether vacant or improved, having such facilities, would have to pay the tax. Where adjacent to mains, vacant property would have to pay an annual tax, and in cases of improved property the tax would be paid together with the regular water rate. This assessment would be so apportioned as, in the aggregate, to meet the expense of extending the system. The actual cost of distribution would remain, as at present, upon the consumer.

Of more immediate interest, however, is the policy endorsed of installing meters throughout the city and charging consumers a flat rate for water. It was recommended that the board proceed at once to carry out this policy, as no charter amendment is necessary, as in the case of the other changes brought up. It was left with the board to devise methods of raising the \$300,000 necessary for the installation of meters.

Compel City to Pay.

In line with the scheme to place a portion of the tax for the water system upon property was the charter amendment proposed that the city be compelled to pay for water used for municipal purposes. There is now a charter provision giving the water board authority to charge the city, but the Council has constantly refused to vote the appropriation. The effect of forcing the payment of this charge, which amounts to about \$60,000 a year, would be to raise that proportion of the cost of maintenance by a general tax.

It was also voted to introduce an amendment to tax property directly to raise not to exceed \$5 for each fire hydrant in the city. This would shift the cost of water for fire protection, to a certain extent, from consumers to property owners.

The proposal to build a new pipeline to Bull Run was brought up. It was the general opinion that plans should be laid now for such an extension, leaving to the discretion of the Water Board the exact time when such line should be built. A resolution was adopted, however, favoring a vote upon the question at the election next June. The new line is estimated to cost \$2,500,000, and it would be necessary to bond the city to that extent.

Mayor Lane presided, and set forth briefly the purposes of the meeting. He declared that under the present system of charging consumers, it would be impossible to extend the system as it should be at the present rates. He also called attention to what he termed the injustice of the system in that owners of vacant property get the benefits of main extensions without paying any portion of the cost. He also asserted that the most urgent need is a check upon the waste as at present from 22,000,000 to 27,000,000 gallons of water are daily brought into the city, sufficient if properly used to meet the requirements of twice the present population.

Plans to Check Waste.

In accordance with the suggestions of the Mayor, the first matter taken up was the checking of the present waste. It was the unanimous opinion that the remedy lay in the meter system and it was voted that the board be advised to purchase and install meters for all consumers. It was estimated that 25,000 meters would be required, of which 3000 are now in use. This would mean an expense of \$300,000, and to raise this amount it was suggested that each consumer be required to deposit an amount equal to the cost of his meter. No action was taken upon this suggestion, but the following resolution, introduced by Frank J. Perkins, was passed:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that it is advisable for the Water Board to immediately proceed to meter the city and charge therefor a flat rate of say 50 cents per month for service of 3000 gallons per month for a family of five persons, and over that amount, but consumer be required to pay for water at a certain rate per 1000 gallons, to be fixed by the Water Board.

The greatest diversity of opinion was expressed on the question of assessing the cost for the extension of mains. R. B. Lamson outlined the system of a frontage tax, which embodies in substance the recommendation subsequently made. Under this system all property adjacent to a water main is required to pay a tax for the extension of mains. Upon vacant and improved property this tax is uniform, but consumer be required to pay for water at amount equal to the actual cost of distribution.

The suggestion was opposed by Dr. C.

H. Raffety, who offered as a substitute a system that he advocates. Under it the receipts from consumers would be used, as they now are, to pay for the laying of mains less than 10 inches in diameter, known as laterals. For larger pipes, known as reinforcing mains, he would pay the cost by district assessments of all property benefited. The original suggestion was, however, adopted in the form of the following resolution introduced by W. O. Harris:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that an amendment be prepared, to be submitted to the people at the next general election, authorizing the Water Board to issue bonds for all extensions of mains, providing for interest and sinking fund by levying a front-foot assessment on all real property served by mains within the city limits, such assessment to be included with the regular water rate where such real property is served with water.

W. D. Hart, the newly appointed member of the Board, who was present for the first time, was strong in his opposition to the resolution. He declared that it was hardly less unjust than the present system.

"I cannot support a motion to tax all property equally for the extension of mains," he said. "Under this system a lot in the suburbs worth \$1000 would pay as much as a lot on Washington street with its improvements worth nearly a half million dollars. There is no justice in that, for surely the benefit to the valuable property is the greater."

Overcomes His Objections.

The objections of Mr. Hart were in part overcome by resolutions subsequently adopted aiming to throw additional cost of water for municipal purposes upon property according to its actual value. The first of these resolutions, aimed to force the city to pay for the water used so that this cost would be met by general tax, follows:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that an amendment to the charter be prepared forcing the City Council to pay to the Water Department the regular charges which the charter authorizes the Water Department to charge the city.

A second resolution of the same character was then introduced, its purpose being to have property pay for water for fire protection, proportionate to the value of the holding. It follows:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that an amendment to the charter be prepared to authorize the taxation of all property so as to provide a sum not to exceed \$5 per hydrant for each fire hydrant installed and to be hereafter, such hydrants to be furnished and set in place and controlled by the Water Board.

The resolution to bring to a vote of the people the matter of bonding the city for a second pipeline to Bull Run was passed with little opposition. It follows:

Vote on New Pipe Line.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that the question of a bond issue for \$2,500,000 be submitted to the people at the next general election to provide for a new Bull Run pipeline and the necessary reservoirs, such line to be completed at the discretion of the Water Board; whatever portion may be unused to be used for extending mains.

Throughout the entire session not a voice was raised in behalf of the scheme for "free water," which is to be submitted to the people in June. On the other hand there was decided opposition to any plan of that character. That the measure embodied in the resolutions would permit of a considerable reduction in the water rate and thus end all agitation for free water appeared to be the opinion of those present.

The meeting adjourned to convene again at a date not set, for further consideration of the questions brought up. To draft the resolutions in legal form and present them to the Water Board the following committee was appointed: W. O. Harris, C. Ben Riesland, Thomas G. Greene, George E. Crump and Councilman Vaughn.

Among those present besides members of the Water Board were the following delegates: C. H. Tavak, Midway Improvement Association; George E. Crump, Northeast Improvement Club; J. H. Nolta, North Albina Club; M. H. Carter, University Park Board of Trade; W. M. Deveny, Montville Board of Trade; Cameron Groat, Central Addition Improvement Association; Frank J. Perkins, Mount Tabor Improvement Association; Thomas G. Greene and A. A. Andrews, Woodlawn Push Club; W. O. Haines, Holladay Park Improvement Association; L. M. Davis, Multnomah Improvement Association; J. W. Campbell, Sellwood Board of Trade.

STREETCAR WRECKS AUTOS

Two Passengers in the Machine Are Slightly Injured.

A large automobile, owned by J. B. Kelly and driven by Chris Dundee, was nearly demolished in a collision with a streetcar at the corner of Sixth and Washington streets about 10 o'clock last night. Two men, who occupied the rear seat in the auto, were shaken up and bruised, but not seriously. They were taken to a drug store on the corner, where they were attended by Dr. Swenson. Later they went to the Portland Hotel, where they are stopping.

The driver of the machine did not know the names of his fares.

The motorman's face was cut by flying glass, but nobody else in the car was injured. The automobile was nearly ruined, the tonneau was smashed, a rear wheel broken and the entire front splintered.

The streetcar which caused the accident was in charge of Motorman G. W. Colson, and was west bound at the time. The automobile was coming down Sixth street, headed north. The auto had all but passed over the track safety, when the car caught it and the wheel of the machine. This caused the auto to swerve completely around, and the hood of the machine struck the car.

The motorman did not ring his bell at the crossing, though when he struck the auto the car was running 15 miles an hour.

MISSION GETS GOLD FIND

Judgment Given for \$260,000 Against Fortunate Missionary.

ABLENE, Kan., Feb. 2.—Judgment was given today for \$260,000 in the District Court here by transcript from the Illinois courts against Peter Anderson, of Chicago, the Klondike millionaire, in favor of Nelt Halberg, representing the Swedish Mission Society. Anderson was its missionary when he found gold, and the society alleges that it owns the find, and will try to secure \$50,000 worth of land in this county if the Supreme Court affirms the judgment.

FIGHT FIRE FOR FOUR DAYS

Crew of El Alba Have Long, Hard Battle on Atlantic.

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—The Southern Pacific freight steamer El Alba arrived in port tonight from Galveston with fire in her lower hold, with which her crew had been battling for four days. The fire was practically extinguished late tonight. The extent of the damage is not yet known.

Agassiz Expedition Off.

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—The steam yacht Virginia, carrying the scientific expedition of Professor A. Agassiz, of Cam-



Physician Discovers Regular Epidemic

His Family Took It at a Brother's East-Side Home. Symptoms and Treatment.

"I have discovered and classified a new disease," said a physician to us the other day. "The symptoms are," he continued, "always exactly alike, and the diagnosis is very easy. It affects old and young alike, and all my family are taken with it. The patient betrays an intense desire for music, and there is great warmth and enthusiasm in speech. I have named this disease 'Pianolaplanomia.'"

Our medical friend did not overstate the case. The epidemic was carried to his family through the closest association with a Metrostyle Pianola-Piano in the house of a relative. In such cases there is but one cure—to purchase a Pianola-Piano for oneself. No one who familiarizes himself with this wonderful instrument but wishes to own one.

With the genuine Pianola-Piano any one can play without having knowledge of the keyboard. Through the aid of music rolls and treadsles the non-player can quickly become a satisfactory performer, playing at will classical, popular, dance, vocal, instrumental or any other class of music.

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This instrument is not only a piano for playing by the non-player, but it is also a superb instrument for playing by hand in the usual way. It is really two pianos in one.

We will mail catalogue containing fine halftone pictures of the various styles to any address on request. We can take your present piano in part payment, and can arrange to receive the difference in easy sums month by month.

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DAILY CITY STATISTICS

Births.

BUFFOM—At 204 1/2 First street, Jan. 28, wife of P. E. Buffom, a daughter.

CLAUSEN—At 222 East Thirty-seventh, Jan. 4, wife of Claus Clausen, a daughter.

POWLER—At 48 East Yamhill street, Jan. 25, wife of Elmer E. Fowler, a son.

GREEN—At 373 Victoria street, Jan. 8, wife of James N. Greene, a daughter.

HARDING—At 85 East Third street, North, wife of Jack Harding, a daughter.

Deaths.

CORBETT—At Good Samaritan Hospital, Jan. 20, Michael Corbett, aged 49 years.

KRONER—At Sixteenth and Ford st., Jan. 20, Sebastian J. Kroner, an infant.

MCDANIEL—At 85 Taylor st., Jan. 20, Katie McDaniel, a native of California, aged 46 years, 11 months, 3 days.

Building Permits.

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH—Repair church, Mead st., between First and Second, \$300.

A. L. TIBBETTS—Repair office, Yamhill st., between First and Second, \$100.

J. A. GRAEF—1-story frame dwelling, East Twenty-first st., between Going and Wyatt, \$100.

E. W. MITCH—Repair store, East Burnside st., between Union and Grand, \$150.

F. M. LOFTISS—1-story frame tool house, Almsworth st., between East Tenth and Eleventh, \$50.

OLE WOGBO—1-story frame dwelling, Willamette boulevard and Fremont at Elm.

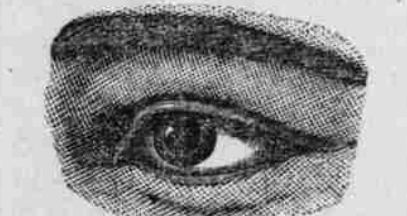
TROY LAUNDRY CO.—Two-story brick laundry, Flanders street, between Eighth and Ninth, \$2,000.

MASON EHRMAN & CO.—Seven-story

brick warehouse, Everett street, between Fourth and Fifth, \$50,000.

E. E. MILLER—2-story frame dwelling, 612 Commercial st., \$1500.

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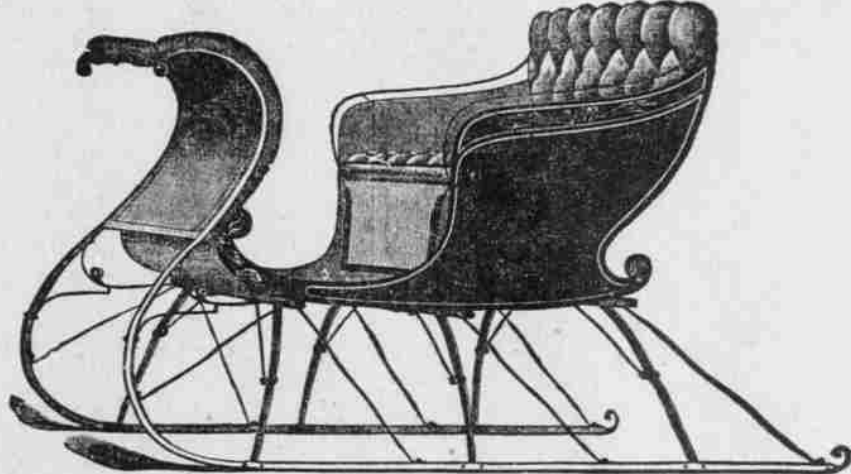
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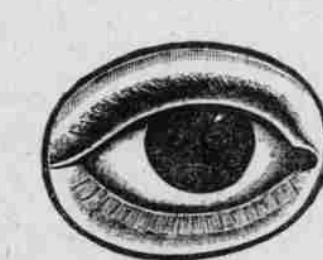
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