

INSPECTOR HEY DEFENDS OFFICE

Answers Six Questions Concerning His Position With City.

William Hey, city plumbing inspector, answers a series of questions asked of him by C. D. Tolson, regarding the conduct of his office and the enforcement of the city plumbing ordinance. Several days ago Mr. Tolson wrote a letter to The Journal in which a number of questions were given for submission to Mr. Hey.

The following letter is the result of the submission of these questions to the plumbing inspector:

"Referring to communication of the 12th inst., from C. D. Tolson addressed to you, I beg to submit the following answers:

"1. Why is plumbing work that don't comply with the city plumbing laws passed for some people and not for others?"

"To my knowledge there is no work passed by this office that does not comply with the plumbing ordinance.

"2. Why did the journeymen plumbers in October of this year appoint a committee to investigate plumbing work claimed to be unsanitary and accepted and passed by your office?"

"I do not know of any investigation of plumbing work in last October. There was a controversy raised January 15, 1909, but this was in reference to the location of vent pipes and no question has ever come up regarding the sanitary points of plumbing work passed by this office.

"3. Why was plumbing work accepted on First street near Caruthers, and when brought to your attention you stated that under the present plumbing laws you were unable to make the plumber doing said work change it or remove it?"

"I fail to know of any trouble on job at First and Caruthers streets, but there was a controversy between the journeymen and master plumbers regarding work at First and Sheridan streets in reference to plumbing work. This was due to the owner of premises asking for an extension of time in order to vacate the building and have work done properly, which has been done since that time. They are still working on a barn in the rear of this building.

"4. Why is it you have some places where you can enforce the plumbing laws and not others?"

"All work inspected through this office is required to conform with the plumbing ordinance and same is enforced without exception.

"5. Why is it yourself and deputies can hover around your office until 10 or 11 a. m. every day, putting in about three hours of actual work and are still clamoring for more assistance?"

"Section 27 of ordinance No. 14110 requires the plumbing inspector or his deputy to be in attendance at the office for two hours each day. Fully this time is required to make out reports and records of the work accomplished the preceding day, as well as to take care of complaints and telephone calls that come to the office regarding notices, defective work, etc. There have been many complaints because there is no one in attendance at the office during the entire day to take care of inquiries and information, but this is impossible with the present force and the large territory to be covered.

"6. Is it not a fact that certain master plumbers use your office as a means of getting work by having you serve 10 day notices on their customers, requiring them to replace the plumbing work?"

"Many complaints come to this office regarding lack of plumbing and defective work, and these are given immediate attention. I find that many of these complaints arise from personal differences and are passed up, while notices are served on owners of property found to be in an unsanitary condition. These notices are between the owner of property and this office, and have nothing whatever to do with the master plumbers. Copies of all notices are kept in this office for the use of the general public and while I know of no master plumber taking advantage of these records, it is his privilege to use same if he so desires.

"In conclusion I will state that while the present city ordinance is not satisfactory and does not meet the requirements of a city the size of Portland, I have been endeavoring to have the same revised for some time. Very truly yours,

"WILLIAM HEY,
"Plumbing Inspector."

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WILL CUT DOWN PORTLAND HILL

Terraces and Streets Will Cross Property When Work Completed.

Landscape Architect J. C. Olmstead told a Journal representative yesterday how he proposes to cut the hills above St. Vincent's hospital into terraces and streets. Mr. Olmstead is in the city in the interests of Lewis & Wiley, the Seattle syndicate, which is plating an addition of 66 acres on Portland Heights.

"In other instances I have been told that the owners of steep hillside property have preferred to sell lots and leave the grading problem to the buyer," said Mr. Olmstead today. "My clients are going to terrace their property by cutting the entire hill down. More than 1,500,000 cubic feet of earth will be removed. According to my idea the planing of the hilltop will give room enough not only for residence lots, but for the extension of streets as well.

"The earth scooped out of the hill will be hauled to the north end of the tract at its junction with the Cornell road, and from there it will be sluiced down to the company's 40-acre tract at Guild's lake. It is the intention of the syndicate to fill in this acreage and put it on the market for factory and warehouse sites. In order to carry out the plans for sluicing a permit will have to be obtained from the city council for the building of a flume and the laying of water pipes underground from the river to the hilltop tract.

"Water for sluicing will have to be pumped out of the river and up the hill and then put under pressure to carry the earth down to the lowlands. Electric power will probably be used for the pumping plant. Estimating the cost of excavation and sluicing at 25 cents a yard, the minimum cost of this much of the improvement will be \$375,000. It is quite probable that the company's operations will entail an expenditure of \$500,000 before its projects have been completed."

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(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
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Ezra Kendall at the Bungalow. Favorite comedian began a three nights' engagement in "The Vinegar Buyer" last night.

Notarial Commissions.
(Salem Bureau of The Journal.)
Salem, Or., Dec. 17.—Notarial commissions were issued today to C. D. Christensen and S. C. Priestly, Portland; Cyril G. Brownell, Umatilla; Ruby Hillis McCall, Klamath Falls; J. F. Standish, North Bend.

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FLOYD AVERY FREED BY JURY

Not Guilty of Counterfeiting Ten Dollar Gold Piece.

Floyd W. Avery, the Marshfield, Or., carpenter who was indicted by the federal grand jury on a charge of counterfeiting, was found not guilty by a jury in United States district court yesterday.

Avery, on an order issued by Federal Judge C. E. Wolverton, was immediately released from custody.

John F. Wilson, a porter in one of the Marshfield, Or., hotels, was the principal witness against Avery. He had known the man a year when, according to his testimony, Avery showed him a counterfeit \$10 gold coin.

"I have a cousin in Idaho who can make these by the carload," Avery told me," said Wilson.

Then Avery, following out the line of Wilson's testimony, made the proposal that they hatch a scheme to pass the counterfeit coins. Wilson alleged that Avery promised to supply him with the bogus money to pass if he would agree to divide the silver received therefrom. Wilson obtained possession of the coin and took it to Marshal Carter of Marshfield. Secret service operatives investigated the case, and Avery was arrested while leaving the steamer at Portland.

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