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Published Daily and Semi-Weekly at Pendleton, Oregon, by the
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
Daily, one year, by mail \$5.00
Daily, six months, by mail 2.50
Daily, three months, by mail 1.25
Daily, one month, by mail50
Daily, one year, by carrier 7.50
Daily, six months, by carrier 3.75
Daily, three months, by carrier 1.95
Daily, one month, by carrier65
Semi-Weekly, one year, by mail 1.50
Semi-Weekly, six months, by mail75
Semi-Weekly, four months, by mail50
Member United Press Association.
The Daily East Oregonian is kept on sale at the Oregon News Co., 329 Morrison street, Portland, Oregon.
Northwest News Co., Portland, Oregon.
Chicago Bureau, 909 Security Building, Washington, D. C., Bureau, 501 Fourteenth street, N. W.
Entered at the postoffice at Pendleton, Oregon, as second-class mail matter.
Telephone Main 1
Official City and County Paper.

Pendleton wants for its municipal needs.
Having done this much it is squarely up to Mr. McCourt to go through with the deal. If he is going to apply the treaty rights to the city of Pendleton how can he escape applying that treaty to others, such as for instance, his former client, the Byers milling company?
Since he has ruled Indians may use water when they farm their allotments in person how can he escape ruling that Indians are also entitled to water when they rent their allotments to white men? Surely the United States government is not going to discriminate against the old men, the squaws and the children who cannot work their allotments in person. It will be a strange sort of guardian if it does.

The establishment of the reservation water rights is a thing of the utmost importance to Pendleton as well as to the Indians. If the Indian rights are fully established it will mean that thousands of acres of land immediately adjoining Pendleton may be irrigated and brought under actual settlement. It will mean everything to Pendleton. Furthermore if the matter is handled aright and reservoirs constructed to store flood waters the reservation can be irrigated without injury to anyone farther down the stream. On the other hand it will mean benefit to all concerned, including the local mills, because when the flood waters are stored the summer flow of the river is increased.

The Commercial club is the representative organization of the business interests of this city and the managing board is clearly right in taking the action it did. The Commercial club and local people in general should watch this matter closely and see that the proper officials do their duty. The case is one wherein the rights of the Indians and the welfare of Pendleton go hand in hand. We should see that the reservation rights are fully established or know the reason why.

WILL THEY REMOVE THEM?
At this time the street lights in the business section of Pendleton make a strange showing. In places there are cluster light poles at close intervals. Elsewhere there are none. The job looks unfinished and it is, strangers within the gates often ask what is the matter and it is natural they should make such inquiries. The street looks like someone had started to do something but was taken sick or called away.

The trouble, as everybody knows, arises from the fact that electric and telephone poles are in the way. They spoil the effect of the cluster lights and they take up good space on the sidewalks. It will be impossible to illuminate our business streets properly until those poles and the overhead wires are removed.

It will be within the power of the new mayor and council to remedy this defect and render a good service to Pendleton. Do those who are running for office plan to bring about this improvement or are they afraid of hurting the electric trust and the telephone trust, both of which concerns take enormous sums of money out of Pendleton every year and give just as little as possible in return.
Where do the candidates stand?

WATER IS WANTED.
In another communication today James Johns intimates he has a scheme for a municipal power plant and it does not involve the purchase of the Byers mill which Mr. Johns

suggested not long since to the East Oregonian and did not speak in confidence either.
As Mr. Johns does not deign to give any information regarding his new plan it would be out of place to comment upon his enterprise. The East Oregonian will hope however for the sake of the city as well as for Mr. Johns, that the scheme is indeed more savory than the plan to purchase the Byers mill and its uncertain water right in order to obtain a water supply for the city.
The city is looking for water, not a gold brick.

The proposed organization of the Indians of the west might accomplish some good by demanding that the United States government, guardian of the local redmen, proceed with the establishment of the Umatilla reservation water rights.

Reactionaries are alright as ballast but it does not do to let them run the ship.

MORE FROM JAMES JOHNS.

Pendleton, Ore., Nov. 21, 1911.
Editor East Oregonian:
I notice in your paper of the 20th inst. "More About James Johns," that you refer to a conversation you had with me sometime since. I did not know I was talking for publication at the time, but since you have seen fit to refer to it, let us go into it further.

The subject of our conversation was then as it is now "The Troubles of the Pendleton Water Question." When I suggested that it was too bad the city of Pendleton did not accept Mr. Byers proposition to furnish the city with water when he offered to do so, and at the same time develop a power sufficient to run his mill, light the city and have other power to furnish other industries, I also said it was not too late, as I understood the owners of that property wanted to sell. I did suggest that if the city charter permitted that it might be a way out of the difficulty, as I believe you and I both agree that the Byers people had some rights on the river that might terminate in costly litigation. I also remember that we both agreed that if the Byers people had the rights they claimed, they had a very valuable asset. We also agreed as I remember, that it would not be feasible for the city at that time to go into the milling business.

Now I suppose, Mr. Editor, that is the reason I am a "benchman," a servant, a follower, and employee of the Byers Milling Co." I will say, however, I think an investment in the Byers mill property, at a reasonable figure would be considered by business men, a better purchase than 26 acres of land at Thorn Hollow at \$4,000.

You say the Byers mill has no water rights. John McCourt, United

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States district attorney, says the 26 acres has no water rights. The Byers' still have a mill which can be run by steam or power from the Pacific Power & Light Co., or unless the E. O. gets too busy smashing water powers, we might be enabled to furnish them power from the municipal power and light plant which I propose.

Considering your activities in slugging industrial enterprises run by water power, I shall have to decline to give you any data at this time on my scheme, lest in your desire to rule or ruin, you may smash the municipal power and light scheme. I take pleasure in saying to you however, I have the surveys all complete and it is happily so located that it does not interfere in any way with the Indian rights, the Byers milling rights or any other rights, but we hope to have municipal electric lights.

I will have something to say to you about the filtration system later on, for I like to correspond with you even if you do refuse to publish my letters.
Yours very truly,
JAMES JOHNS.

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