



AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

Published Daily and Semi-Weekly at Pendleton, Oregon, by the

EAST OREGONIAN PUBLISHING CO.

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 mail .50
Daily, one year, by carrier 3.50
Daily, six months, by carrier 1.75
Daily, three months, by carrier .85
Daily, one month, by carrier .35
Semi-Weekly, one year, by mail 1.50
Semi-Weekly, six months, by mail .75
Semi-Weekly, four months, by mail .50

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, 509 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.

LEADERSHIP.

How little preaching there would be
If no man ever dared to preach
Are he could say to all and each:
'My soul is stainless, follow me.'
How little progress would be won
If no man dared to show the way
Ere he possessed the right to say:
'Do but the thing that I have done.'
How little wisdom would be shown
If each man ever dared to teach
Ere he could say to all and each:
'I know all things that may be known.'
S. E. Kiser.

ADOPT THE NEW CHARTER.

The commission government charter which will be voted upon by the people of Pendleton Monday was drafted in a sincere attempt to better the system of government in this city. It was not devised to serve any particular class or interests nor to affect any local issue of any nature whatever.

Fear has been expressed by some that the move is antagonistic to a gravity water system because the new charter if adopted will abolish the water commission. But there are better reasons for believing the adoption of the commission charter will hasten a gravity system. The charter provides for centering authority and responsibility upon one body of men, a paid commission of three. A majority of this board will be elected by the people every two years. Consequently the people will have direct control of the board and will be able to make the officials carry out the popular will. If the people want a gravity system they will be able to get it more easily under commission government than under the present style of government. At this time we have a water board composed of five men and the members of that board do not work well together, which is a regrettable fact. But the authority to sell the \$200,000 bond issue voted last spring rests with the city council. How the council stands no one knows. It is a badly muddled situation and such a state of affairs means delay. To adopt the commission charter and place all authority and responsibility in a single board should improve matters greatly.

Nor is the commission charter intended to have any effect on any other local issue. It is a move to simplify the form of government and does not attempt to decide what the government shall do or shall not do with reference to the problems that come before it. It is safe to say that the will of the people will govern with reference to such problems. Under the commission plan the will of the people will govern more completely than it does now. Our present style of government may be likened to a jerk line team. There are many officials and they work at cross purposes. Some try to travel one way and some another. The people cannot control them. They get jumbled up and do nothing. The commission plan calls for doing away with this jerk line system and for supplanting it with a system under which full authority and responsibility will be centered in three men working directly under the eyes of the people.

The commission charter if adopted will simplify local politics and will give the people better control over their municipal government. It will bring about greater efficiency because authority and responsibility will be centered upon fewer men. It will bring better men into office because the officials will be paid something for their work and because they will be able to work under more satisfactory conditions than at present. In adopting commission government local people will have all to gain and nothing to lose. It is the

modern form of city government and that it is superior to the old form is shown by the experience of the scores of cities, small and large, that now use it.

Get out Monday and vote for the commission charter and uphold Pendleton's reputation as being a progressive town and the largest place of its size in the west.

A TEST VOTE.

Should the people adopt the commission charter Monday the water commission will go out of existence in February and the outcome of the race between Will Moore and James Johns will be of importance only as it will show the state of the public mind with reference to the sort of a water system wanted.

If the people of Pendleton want a gravity water system they should vote for Will Moore. He is the gravity water candidate and his sincerity cannot be questioned. It is because he has been zealous for mountain water that he is so bitterly opposed by certain parties.

Much about Thorn Hollow has been written by those opposing Mr. Moore. It is inspired by people who not only oppose the Thorn Hollow project but any other scheme for a mountain water system for Pendleton. Were any other project under consideration they would have criticisms to make just the same. They lay great stress upon the fact the Indian rights constitute a cloud upon the title to the Thorn Hollow water. But the same cloud rests upon Cayuse springs and upon all the water that comes across the reservation. Indian rights will have to be reckoned with no matter where Pendleton goes to obtain water. Even if a filtration plant should be installed the city's right to the water would be secondary to the rights of the Indians, according to John McCourt's ruling. Why don't the ants mention this fact?

Local people should pay scant attention to criticisms of the water commission, for while there is some honest criticism most of it comes from suspicious sources. If the people of Pendleton want a gravity water system they should say so by voting for Will Moore and for the gravity water contingent of the water board.

As for James Johns there are more reasons than one why he should be defeated. Mr. Johns has openly stated he prefers a filtration system and that should be sufficient reason for people to vote against him if they want a gravity system. But Mr. Johns' candidacy is objectionable on another score. Not many weeks ago he was urging that the city should buy out the Byers-milling company in order to obtain water. To carry out that suggestion would mean to shamefully "gold brick" the city for the Byers company has no right but merely a permit to use the water at the pleasure of the interior department. The scheme did not "look good" to the East Oregonian and it looks even worse now in view of the government's avowed intention of establishing the reservation water rights. Because of his connection with that affair the East Oregonian looks with suspicion upon Mr. John's candidacy and advises his defeat.

A GROUNDLESS FEAR.

In a communication to this paper today James Johns again criss-crosses himself. He denies opposing a gravity water system and then proceeds to make an argument against the bringing of mountain water from the north fork of the Umatilla. He says the water of the north fork is contaminated by the stock that graze on the adjoining hills. But there is nothing to his objection. Only a few days ago the secretary of agriculture announced that whenever cities ask for it stockgrazing of all kinds will be prohibited on reserves adjoining the sources of municipal water supply. Should the city take water from the north fork the range land adjoining, which is in the Wenaha reserve, would all be barred to stockmen. Mr. Johns' fears upon this score are groundless and are based on his antipathy to a gravity water system.

FROM JAMES JOHNS.

December 1, 1911.
Editor East Oregonian:
Pendleton, Ore.

Dear Sir: As you have been misstating my position in relation to a gravity water system for Pendleton, and have been in various ways trying to disqualify me for the position of water commissioner, and championing the cause of my opponent, kindly permit me to put you right on a few of these questions.

As all of the problems of the present water commission of the city of Pendleton seem to be left to you for solution, without a word in print from the commission itself as to its position on these matters, I would like to make a few suggestions to you. It would seem to me from your editorial utterances that you have abandoned the expensive and farcical wooden pipe line, and have admitted that the spring at Thorn Hollow is totally inadequate for the needs of the city. If this is so let us analyze your North Fork proposition. Iron pipe sufficient to convey an adequate supply of water from North Fork, a distance

of approximately 32 miles, to Pendleton, will cost, according to competent engineers, about \$540,000, and if this line were constructed, we would have plenty of fresh, pure mountain water for about eight months of the year. The balance of the year we will be getting water from a sheep and cattle range, as everyone who is at all familiar with the situation knows that during the heated period, stock of all kinds go to water and stand in it and pass the heated part of the day there, and if the experience of other places is to be depended on, we will be getting this polluted water direct to our city in iron pipes, to carry disease and death to our people. This was the experience of Eugene. They went away up to the headwaters of the Mackenzie river, and piped in a supply of water at an enormous expense and then they found they were drawing water from a stock pasture, and with the result that they had one of the worst epidemics of typhoid fever in the history of our state. People died by the hundreds. The health authorities threatened to close the state university. Then the people got busy and a filtration plant was installed with the result that the city has pure water and no typhoid.

In the light of these facts I cannot endorse your North Fork proposition. I am not opposed to a gravity system, any statements you may make to the contrary notwithstanding, and if the people of Pendleton want a gravity system, why not go only nine miles from Pendleton where there is a spring which can be piped to our city which I believe will furnish water enough for us and it can be brought here by gravity in iron pipes and will only cost \$180,000. Further, this spring is not a mudhole or seepage water from the river, but is a real spring which in September 1st, last, was flowing 2,500,000 gallons of water per day. This spring is situated above the level of the river and appears to be bubbling right out of the ground. The water from this spring can be delivered to a reservoir 50 feet above the present reservoir, which in my opinion is high enough for our city for a great many years. This water seems to be within our reach, and I believe it is the only available water feasible for a gravity system for our city.

You say in a recent editorial that I am disqualified for water commissioner for the reason that I suggested a municipal power plant for the city. I take pleasure in informing you and

(Continued on page eight.)

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