

The Bend Bulletin DAILY EDITION

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1925

Restore the erring—Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Galatians 6:1.

GOITRE

We cannot let pass the assertion made in this water discussion that glacial water causes goitre. This is absolutely not the fact and there is no reason for not taking water from the main Tumalo creek while Crater creek is running in it because of fear of goitre.

Goitre is caused by the absence of certain elements in the diet. Take in these elements and you can drink all the glacial water flowing in the Cascades and you will not have goitre.

If your diet does not include these elements you will get goitre just as soon by drinking water from the South Fork of the Tumalo as that from the main stream. If it does it makes no difference which you drink so far as the development of goitre is concerned.

Ask your physician.

Portland police found a decapitated body in the river the other day and are stuck to know what happened. It's easy. Guy went down on a wharf, lost his head and fell in.

A couple from the Portland jail will sing at a movie theatre to secure funds to pay for what put them in. Next they will be changing the jail name to Sing Sing.

Oregon poets plan a retreat for writers on the coast. If their stuff is that bad why don't they quit instead of trying a retreat?

COMMUNICATIONS

MORE ON THE BONDS

To the Editor: The people of Bend are called upon to vote tomorrow upon the important question of voting to authorize the issuance of \$600,000 of bonds or such part of that as may be found necessary for the acquiring of a municipal water system with a pure water supply.

The people should have the facts in the case in order to vote intelligently and in summing up the whole situation, the principal points are these:

1. Our present water supply is full of filth and sewage while Tumalo water is pure without all the drugs and dope which are in themselves injurious.

2. Regardless of guesses of an incompetent person to the contrary, competent engineers have taken measurements and have found the proposed supply more than ample.

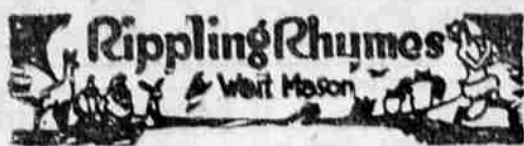
3. There is no danger of a law suit with the irrigation district because the Tumalo water to be furnished Bend belongs unreservedly to the state and the district has nothing to say about it.

4. The water company wants \$264,195 for the plant that its officers swore was only worth \$177,391.12 last year, this figure being shown in a certified audit of reports filed with the state tax commission. However, the price cannot be definitely known until decided by a condemnation proceeding which cannot be had until the bonds are voted and we are in a position to take the plant over.

5. The revenues of the Bend Water, Light & Power Co. from water alone were \$33,518.16 in 1922; \$41,102.12 in 1923, and \$58,753.83 in 1924, so with the growth this year greater than any year in the history of Bend, it is certainly not unreasonable to assume that the revenues will be over \$65,000 in 1925, while the interest on the whole issue will be only \$33,000 and that interest reduced each year as bonds are paid.

6. Even though the bonds be voted in this time, none of them will be delivered and no interest paid until the cost of the present system is settled and that much of the money needed, and then no more will be delivered until the proposed extensions and improvements are made under the direction of a water board to consist of eight citizens outside of the city council.

7. Competent engineers have made a careful study of this question and their estimate of the maximum cost of the system and the new supply is \$600,000 and figures given by persons personally interested in the defeat of this issue are false and mis-



DENOUNCED

Jasper Jinx has few defenders, he's the loneliest of birds; mind and body and suspenders, he's denounced, in burning words. People say he has no morals, to no church does he belong, and he's always mixed in quarrels, and he's always in the wrong. T'other evening we were sitting, village gossips, on the square, when we saw this Jasper flitting, with his furtive, guilty air. "Now," said one, "that darkness thickens, Jasper goes his silent way, and some man will lose his chickens ere the breaking of the day." "Or some widow's pig will vanish," said another, with a frown; "justice should arise and banish that base varlet from the town." Of good sense I've never boasted, I have lacked it all my days, but when absent men are roasted, I say something in their praise. "Jasper's soul may be the dearest," I remarked, "the seas between, but his whiskers are the reddest and the finest I have seen. Though his course may need defending, though his conduct makes men cross, with such whiskers, I'm contending, no one is a total loss." On the morrow to my dwelling came old Jasper, single file, and he said, "I heard you telling that I'm not entirely vile, Oh, it made my life blood quicken! Words of praise are few and sweet; so I've brought a nice young chicken which I hope will prove a treat." Where he got it is a question that I did not think to spring, but I've had no indigestion since I ate it, neck and wing.

leading, whether so intended or not, almost all of the items given in the effort to show where there will be a shortage are already included in the estimate.

8. Municipal ownership of water has been proven to be practicable and in every way a success and there is not one single sound argument against this issue.

9. Even if this election fails, the water question for Bend will not have been settled: Ninety-five per cent of the cities and towns of the United States have had water problems more or less similar to ours and have come to municipal ownership, and the people of Bend will not be satisfied until they get it. It will cost less now than later. The problem will be more easily solved now than at some future time. Think this over in a careful and business like way and vote accordingly.

LOUIS BENNETT, Recorder.

Ordinary comment on matter contained in a communication would be made on the day following or in the editorial column. Since, however, the preceding relates to tomorrow's election comment is made now and, better to associate the comment and the communication, here. To make reference more readily we have taken the liberty of numbering Mr. Bennett's paragraphs, and comment as follows:

(1) The Deschutes is contaminated but the fact that the water is not fit and sewage is clearly shown by the health records of the various sections taking water from the Deschutes without filtration or chlorination.

(2) "Incompetent person" presumably refers to the editor of The Bulletin since he is the only one who has raised the question of the insufficiency of the flow in the South Fork of the Tumalo. Grant that said editor is incompetent, irrelevant and immaterial and further that he is splay footed, white headed, getting bald and that his feet do not track. That has nothing to do with the matter. The question is—"How much water flows in the South Fork of the Tumalo at various times of the year?" If measurements have been taken what times do these measurements cover and what do they show—in figures? How much water was running in the South Fork in the latter part of December, 1924, or in any other part of the month? Without information covering stream flow in every month of the year and under the most unusual conditions that can occur it is not safe to look to any stream for a water supply. Why not publish the record?

(3) There has been no sworn plant valuation of \$177,391.12 filed with the tax commission. So far as we can discover no sworn valuation of the plant has ever been filed. In 1924 the company, according to public records, filed a sworn statement that on March 1, 1924, the value of its equipment, material and supplies in use or on hand was \$177,391.12. Mr. Bennett knows that this figure applies to "equipment, material and supplies" and not to plant as a whole. In the same report the cost of the plant at December 31, 1923, is given as \$190,556.28. In the report filed this year it is sworn that the value of equipment, material and supplies in use or on hand March 1, 1925, is \$269,127.99 and that the cost of the whole works at December 31, 1924, is \$394,545.72. This is all unimportant except that there should be no attempt to mislead by using old and incomplete figures.

(4) What of it. Figures of receipts and interest and payments on principal mean nothing unless you know what the whole thing is going to cost. No one knows.

(5) The city council has sold these bonds by a contract made last spring. The purchasers expect delivery. Maybe the city can get out of the contract. If it can then Mr. Bennett is right.

(6) Forget all figures heretofore published. Now then—the proposition that the whole cost of what is

proposed can be met by a \$600,000 bond issue involves proof of what you are going to pay the company for its system, what you are going to spend for your new line to Tumalo, what, if anything, to pay the Tumalo district and what you are going to get for your bonds. Mr. Bennett gives none of these figures. What are the items that have not been included in the estimate? Since all figures have been advanced by the editor of The Bulletin he assumes that the reference to a personal interest is to him. He has the same personal interest that every other taxpayer and citizen has and no other. If Mr. Bennett implies that he has any other interest he implies that which is not so.

(7) This issue is not one of municipal ownership of water alone. There is involved also the question of a heavy expenditure for new work. Until the two questions can be voted on separately this should be voted down.

(8) All right. Bring on municipal ownership by itself. Do not tie in with it a tremendous additional expense.

EDITOR.

SCORES MAYOR'S STATEMENT

August 5, 1925.

To the Editor: I note that our city administration apparently recognizes the widespread dissatisfaction which exists with regard to its management of municipal affairs, as particularly evidenced by the overwhelming vote by which a \$55,000 proposed bond issue was defeated a few months ago, and seems to feel that unless the voters can be made to believe that the spending of the \$600,000 we are being asked to vote tomorrow will be in other hands than this bond issue will likewise be defeated, so in a last minute effort to carry the election the mayor and four members of the council have now published a signed statement stating in part:

"As soon as the voters have voted to own their own water system we will, in accordance with the charter of the city of Bend, appoint a water board consisting of eight citizens—one from each voting precinct of the city."

This statement could only have been made with the hope that the people would thereby be led to believe that if the bonds were voted the spending of the money would be placed entirely in other hands. It is possible that the mayor and members of the council who signed this statement have never read the provisions of our city charter with reference to water works control so are not familiar with them, but the statement is

unfair in any event as it is misleading as to the true conditions which will exist as to the control of this \$600,000 fund. Sec. 19 of chapter 221 of our charter provides as follows regarding water works control.

"The income of such plant and the operation, maintenance, extension and improvement thereof, after said plant shall be so far completed as to be ready for operation, shall be in the hands of a commission to be known as the Bend water board."

It will thus be seen that the "water board consisting of eight citizens" which the majority of the council have pledged themselves to appoint as soon as the bonds are approved will have authority only to manage the system when completed and will have no control whatever over the same while under construction. Under the charter the construction of the water works system will be under the direct control of the city council. The purpose for which the bonds are asked is to provide a new water supply from Tumalo creek the expense of which is estimated at at least \$600,000 so the money will all be spent before our as yet phantom "water board" gets an opportunity to function at all.

The voters should not be deceived by this last minute ruse for if the bonds are voted the present administration will spend the money and that brings up the interesting question as to why the city council is so actively interested in getting this bond issue approved. Councilmen draw no salary and half page ads in daily newspapers are expensive. Who is furnishing the money for all of the advertising space which is being used by the administration in this campaign and why are they putting up the money? This advertising expense cannot legitimately be charged against the city so we must take it that the necessary funds are coming from private pockets. Whose pockets are they?

In this same signed statement the signers go blandly forward and explain what they will and will not do with reference to the purchase of the plant of the Bend Water, Light & Power Co. and go into detail in showing how they will hogtie this concern and "feed it to the lions" so to speak if it does not knuckle down and meet their terms. This again is only a ruse put forward to get votes for the bonds for if they have read the charter they well know that they have no right to deal with the local company for the purchase of its plant on any terms whatever as conditions now stand.

Section 15 of chapter 21 of our charter provides as follows with reference to purchase of existing water works plants:

"None of said bonds, nor any of the money derived from the sale thereof, shall be used in purchasing any existing water works or portion thereof, unless the said purchasers shall first be approved by a majority vote of the voters of said city voting thereon at a general or special city election at which the proposition of such purchase shall have been submitted."

No proposition for the purchase of the local plant has yet been submitted to a vote and until that has been done and the purchase authorized all threats about what the administration will or will not do to the owners is just "fanning the air" for political effect.

If the voters do not have sufficient confidence in the present administration to intrust them with the spending of \$600,000—and that they are being asked to do without having a definite plan of any kind to show for what the money is to be spent or whether it is or is not sufficient for the purpose—then this bond issue should by all means be defeated regardless of whether or not they feel that a new water supply is desirable. Defeating this bond issue does not mean that we can never have a new water supply. The matter can be brought up again at any time and if the Tumalo is to be the source of the new supply very little of the expense so far incurred has been wasted. When there is an administration in power in which the people have confidence the project can readily be revived and put through to a successful conclusion



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