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**LET GEORGE DO IT**  
 Despite the importance of the matter to be voted upon—not only to the present but to the future of this city—only about one-third of the qualified voters turned out at the special water election held Saturday.

About 25 per cent of the qualified voters of Ashland voted in favor of the proposition for building a dam up Ashland creek for conservation of water, considerably less than a majority of those affected by the bonding proposal. But as only about 5 per cent took enough interest in the matter to turn out and vote against the project, the 25 per cent favoring it decided that the city shall go ahead with the proposal.

This, unfortunately, seems to be the usual spirit in Ashland. No matter how deeply the welfare of the city may be involved, only a small proportion of the people affected take enough interest in the matter to get out and DO SOMETHING. The balance of them simply sit back and "Let George do it." But they are quick enough to complain if things are not done to suit them.

It has been decided, by those of the electorate who had the welfare of the city enough at heart to DO SOMETHING that \$100,000 shall be expended for the building of a dam up Ashland creek and betterment of the present water supply.

While it is sincerely to be hoped that this will prove to be well worth the money to be expended, that it will prove all, and even more than has been claimed for it, in case it should not turn out to be the right solution of our water problem, who is to blame?

Not the city officials, for their responsibility in the matter ended when the proposition went before the voters. Not the 25 per cent who voted favorably on the proposal, for there can be no doubt that they earnestly desired what was best for all concerned and voted for what they believed the right thing. Certainly not the 5 per cent who voted against the proposition.

Who then will be to blame in case the Ashland creek plan proves a "blunder"?

If such should prove the case, the fault will rest fairly and squarely with the 70 per cent of the voters who stayed at home on election day—the 7 out of every 10 electors of this city who calmly sat back with so important a matter to be decided, and "Let George do it."

They, and no others are to blame if the city fails to get adequate relief from the Ashland creek dam—and if there is any "cussing" to be done on the subject they should "cuss" themselves and nobody else.

**THE QUESTION NOW**

The decision at the polls Saturday to adopt the Ashland creek water proposition, does not do away with the necessity of voting upon the Buck lake plan next Thursday, it simply changes the question before the voters.

Until Saturday the matter to be decided was which, if either, of the two plans should be adopted. Having decided to build up Ashland creek's water supply, the question now is, "Shall the city purchase the Buck lake property as a source of additional supply when the Ashland creek supply shall prove inadequate?" In other words, it is now up to

the taxpayers to decide whether they will depend upon the supply to be obtained from the bond issue voted Saturday and make no arrangements for additional water until this supply proves inadequate, or shall they procure that additional supply now in anticipation of the future.

As to the merits of the proposal, that is a question to be determined solely by the interested taxpayers—and it is to be hoped that more than 30 per cent will be interested enough to turn out and vote.

But whether it is desired to secure this additional supply now or later, it will be necessary for the voters to cast their ballots on the subject next Thursday. As matters stand at present, the city may well be pledged to both propositions.

So don't sit back and let the other fellow do it. Get out to the polls and express your own opinion in the matter, whether for or against, then you will have a legitimate right to "kick" if things don't go to suit you.

If you don't vote, however, you certainly have no cause for complaint, no matter what is done.

### The Water Question

In this column will be published signed articles regarding the water question—providing they are held strictly to facts and figures. It is not what you THINK about the proposition that the public wants—it's what you KNOW.

### WOULD BUCK LAKE WATERS BE POLLUTED?

Buck lake is a mountain meadow, nearly circular in shape, about two miles in diameter, surrounded by low, rounded timbered hills. At the eastern side a narrow gash in the hills lets the waters which drain this natural reservoir site discharge into Spencer creek, eventually finding their way into Klamath river. In the dry season the meadow is used to pasture several hundred head of cattle.

The springs which gush from the western edge of the meadow form a stream flowing easterly, losing itself before reaching the outlet in a swampy marshy condition. We visited the place on September 6 of this year. Some of the cattle were wallowing in this marsh and stirring up the sediment so that the water emerging into Spencer creek had a murky uninviting appearance. You can take a stick and stir up the purest spring in the world and cause the same effect.

It is this marsh which is the basis for such extravagant statements as that if converted into a reservoir the waters of Buck lake would not be fit for human consumption. As a matter of fact the area of tule land as compared to that of the meadow is very small. One of the present city council, in arguing how little water traversed this meadow, stated that he drove a heavily loaded automobile across the above-mentioned stream. If that condition of bog and mire prevails which Mr. R. P. Neil and others publicly declared, we fail to see how the car could pull through. These gentlemen have strenuously endeavored to convey the impression that Buck lake as a reservoir would be a perpetual swamp, polluting the waters in exactly the same way that the pure streams flowing into Upper Klamath lake become polluted, rendering them filthy and dangerous for domestic use.

There may be a few deep places in Upper Klamath lake but it is in effect a very thin sheet of water. This lake is bordered, not by a few acres, but by many hundreds of acres, of tule or swamp. Here the waters lie and stagnate, and the waters which discharge

through Link river owe their filthy condition solely to this widespread stagnation and the consequent vegetable and animal decay. We are asked to apply the same rule to the waters to be drawn from Buck lake reservoir.

One year ago this very time we caught rainbow trout in Klamath river near Keno. They were prepared for the table but had to be thrown out on account of their muddy taste. On September 6 of this year we caught a mess of trout in Spencer creek just below Buck lake outlet. They were delicious. The hunting season had just opened and within the mile below the lake at least five swamps were established. The campers were all using this water. Mr. Briggs stated from the Chautauqua platform that Spencer creek trout at this time of the year are too muddy to eat. He also told of the Government Fish hatchery further down on the creek. Why has the government placed a hatchery where the fish raised will be unfit to eat because of the filthy water they must grow in?

Such marsh as exists in Buck lake owes its existence entirely to the flatness of the meadow and the shallowness of the water in summer. With the construction of a dam bottling up the outlet this marsh will be obliterated. At maximum high water this portion will be buried under twenty-two feet of water and at low stage under at least five. The shores of the lake thus created will be everywhere on sloping ground. When the time comes, as come it will eventually, for undertaking the project of bringing this water into the valley, if a careful study of the ground of this phase of the matter should dictate the necessity thereof, which is highly improbable, the present marsh can

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**HON. SELDEN SPENCER**  
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be destroyed and a recurrence of marshy condition obviated by a little surface excavation or other construction which can be calculated and added to the estimate. The waters of the reservoir will be in constant motion, by overflow discharge at the dam or outflow toward the valley.

The purity of the water which percolates from the Buck lake drainage area is too well known to permit of any adverse argument on this score.

Just a word about the amount of water available. The quantity being discharged during the dry season has little or no bearing on the subject. It is the total average yearly amount which can be caught and stored which counts and this has already been stated to be about 25,000 acre feet. If anyone wants the figure in gallons there are 325,851 gallons in one acre foot. But we repeat that the dry season discharge from Buck lake is more than two, possibly four, times that of Ashland creek. Flowing water can be, and is, measured with the same certainty as wheat, sugar or gasoline. We made a careful measurement of the Buck lake discharge on September 6 of this year and obtained a result of sixteen cubic sec-

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ond feet. This result is lower than any dry period measurement yet taken including those by Engineer Dillard in 1918.

State Engineer Cupper says that the waters of Buck lake were withdrawn pending the investigation for the possibility of their use in the valley. They are now open for filing and that adjudication of their use, he says, will be made which will best conserve public interests. Two hundred acre feet would more than serve the hundred odd acres near the mouth of Spencer creek, and possibly the hatchery, if it is still in use, would demand as much more, though I am reliably informed it is not now running.

STUART MCKISSICK.

### Weds Man Who Cut Her Throat

GETTYSBURG, Pa.—From the edge of the grave to the altar, and from the role of a murderer to the bridegroom part in a nuptial event, is a long jump, but Arthur Cunningham and Catherine Eckenrode, both of Gettysburg, made it.

Two years ago the young couple were lovers and through jealousy and resentment young Cunningham made a murderous assault upon the young woman with a knife, inflicting a deep and dangerous gash in her throat, from which she nearly lost her life. Cunningham served two years in the Huntington reformatory and then returned to Gettysburg, where he at once renewed his suit for the hand of the girl he had tried to kill. He won the suit. The young couple procured a marriage license and were married. Prior to her marriage the bride had been employed as a stenographer and typist in a lawyer's office.

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### Hon. W.C. Hawley Will Visit City

As has been the custom when congress is not in session, Representative W. C. Hawley is now engaged in making a tour of the 1st congressional district of Oregon, investigating the needs of various localities and conferring with his constituents, relative to their opinions concerning matters of public interest. During the past week, he has been in various sections of Linn and Lane counties, and returned home Friday to be present at the exercises in the Salem Armory, Friday night, in commemoration of the adoption of the federal constitution.

Congressman Hawley will visit Northern Oregon this week and will be in Ashland Wednesday afternoon from 12:45 to 6:45.

### HUNDRED ACCOUNTANTS NEEDED BY I. C. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 20.—The United States Civil Service Commission states that there are more than 100 vacancies in high-

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