

## DECISION UP TO PEOPLE

### PURCHASE OF WATER PLANT BY CITY TO BE SUBMITTED.

#### Mayor Van Orsdel Enthusiastically Favors Municipality Taking Over Mr. Gates' Equity.

The mayor, at a regular meeting of the council last night, discussed the water situation with surprising eloquence, after having frankly admitted that at the mass meeting Toozee had got him so rattled that he did not know whether his name was Van Orsdel or Jack London. Whether as a result of hizzoner's forceful and logical remarks or not, the council decided to initiate the matter of issuing bonds in the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of purchasing the water plant, the question to be submitted to a vote of the people at a special election to be held following the regular April election.

Mayor Van Orsdel told the council, as he had intended to tell the mass gathering, that he had spent the greater portion of one day with the railroad commissioners at Salem, and together they had gone into the details of the matter, resulting in the joint opinion that the plant is a good thing for the city to own. Mr. Miller, the technical man of the commission—a man who has himself built one or two water works, and who thoroughly understands the business—thinks the city should buy the plant, according to the mayor, and would deem it a mistake should it fail to do so. Mr. Miller had worked out from Engineer Green's notes the cost of the water system, and had figured the cost to Gates at a little over \$65,000 as it stands today. Taking off a liberal amount for depreciation this would leave to Gates a little more than \$50,000. When these facts were made known to Mr. Gates, said the mayor, he complained, saying it had cost him between \$75,000 and \$80,000.

Continuing his argument in favor of the purchase of the plant, the mayor said that nine years from now the city would have to undertake to terminate the present lease, and the earnings during that period will have amounted to between \$90,000 and \$100,000, according to Mr. Gates' statement. Nine years from now when the city would become the purchaser the value of the plant will have increased to \$75,000 or \$80,000, with pipes in poorer condition. The mayor's idea of the method of handling the purchase is to float the necessary bonds to sell them at 5 per cent with possibly 1 per cent for brokerage, and then retire one-twenty-fifth of them each year, his idea being that a sinking fund is a dangerous proposition to meddle with. The mayor had submitted this mode of procedure, he said, to the Railroad commission and it had pronounced the theory good, but the city attorney doubted the sale of bonds without a sinking fund for the protection of the bondholders.

The commission had told the mayor that of all the water systems in the state over which it has jurisdiction, the Dallas plant is the most economically operated of any, but this can be considered only as a point reflecting great credit upon the management of Mr. Gates. Mayor Van Orsdel thought Mr. Gates had afforded the city a great opportunity, and said the council owes it to the city and to themselves to give the people a chance to vote upon the question.

Alderman Westover moved that when the council adjourn it be to next Monday night, and that in the meantime the necessary steps be taken to place the purchase question to a vote of the people. The ayes were unanimous, all aldermen being present.

#### May Make Cheese.

The Monmouth Creamery company management is planning to commence the production of cheese in the near future. In case the project goes ahead the company will put up another building about 24 by 32 feet in which to install the machinery necessary to the new production—Monmouth Herald.

#### Farewell Reception.

The young people of the Baptist church gave a farewell gathering at the home of Mrs. T. A. Odum, Saturday evening, in honor of Peter B. Friesen, who left Monday morning on a visit to Portland, Idaho and Nebraska. The evening was spent in playing games and singing. Refreshments were served and all spent a very enjoyable evening. Those present were Rev. Tapscott, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Hiatt and son, Mrs. W. J. Trent, Mrs. T. A. Odum, Mrs. Fay Shaw, the Misses May Tapscott, Maribel Hayes, Dovie Odum, Esther Gates,

Mattie Crook, Emma Klassen, Alfreda Garner, Winifred Forrette, Rhoda Muir, Charlotte Phillips, Maggie Odum, Messrs. Samuel Peacock, Dewey Alfred, Clary Carpenter, Dolan Hatfield, Peter Friesen, Maurice Hayes, Clarence Nelson, Charlie McCune, Carson Odum, Carl Odum and Everett Nelson.

On Sunday, Dr. and Mrs. A. G. Rempel gave a farewell dinner to Mr. Peter B. Friesen. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Friesen and children, Abraham, Sarah and Henry; Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Rempel and children, Katherine, Ruth, Helen and Earl; and Dr. and Mrs. D. G. Rempel and son, Gerhard.

#### Visit State Legislature.

The pupils and teachers of Bethel High school visited a session at the legislature last Wednesday. The trip was the source of much profitable information to the visitors. Both the senate and house were visited. The pupils were impressed by the discussions heard, and they carried away a more definite idea of the lawmaking of the state.

#### Teachers' Short Course.

President Ackerman of the Normal school has announced a special short course for Oregon teachers to commence on April 5. Courses may be taken during the short period and continued during the summer session with a view toward graduation.

## ANOTHER PLAY HOUSE

### GROUND BROKEN FOR NEW TEN THOUSAND STRUCTURE.

#### Will Have Seating Capacity of One Thousand and Will Be Ready By May 1.

Mr. D. J. Riley broke ground this morning for a structure on Main street, south of Court, the cost of which when completed will be approximately \$10,000. The building will occupy a space of 50x130 feet, and will be of reinforced concrete. It will be built especially for a moving picture house, and has been leased to Mr. O. C. Smith for a term of years. The building—occupied by the Star theater, now on part of the site, will be built around unless Mr. Ayers can be induced to surrender his lease, which runs until next November. After the expiration of the lease the structure will be fully completed, but the picture house will be ready to open for business by May 1 under any circumstances.

The new theater will be modern in every particular, and will have a seating capacity of 1000, the galleries providing for about 400 of these. There will be a stage 24x50 feet, affording opportunity for the presentation of plays other than those projected upon the screen. The ceiling will have a height of twenty feet and the entire interior will be finished in artistic fashion.

#### DEATH OF MRS. FISHER.

### Well Known Monmouth Woman Passes to Her Final Reward.

Mrs. Lavina Y. Fisher passed away at her home in Monmouth last Friday, and the funeral was held at that place on Sunday, conducted by the Rev. Pluffs. The remains were followed to the last resting place by a large concourse of sympathizing friends and acquaintances.

The deceased was a native of Missouri, having been born in Taney county in 1829. In 1856 she was united in marriage to W. P. Fisher, and to this union ten children were born, six of whom preceded their mother to the grave, leaving a family consisting of husband and four offsprings to mourn her departure. She was a charter member of the Evangelical church, from which edifice the funeral was held. Mrs. Fisher had a large circle of warm personal friends, all of whom extend to the sorrowing family their condolence in this their hour of grief.

#### Response Is Liberal.

Envoy Castner of the Salvation Army of Portland, departed for Newberg on Friday, after having spent several days in Dallas soliciting funds and clothing for the unfortunates of the metropolis. He received \$23.10 in cash contributions and 940 pounds of clothing.

#### Receives Sad News.

Thos. Catherwood, on Saturday, received the sad intelligence that his only sister, Mrs. George Campbell, had passed away at her home in Scott, Sask., Canada.

Mr. C. J. Shreeve, representing the Studebaker corporation, has moved his family here from Salem.

## FAILS TO GIVE DESIRED RESULT

### Mass Meeting to Discuss Proposed Purchase of Plant Monopolized.

#### Comparatively Few New Features of Interest to Taxpayers Are Brought Out During the Discussion, the Railroad Commission's Figure Being Employed as Basis for Calculations.

"If I win my suit to determine the ownership of the plant this town can't buy the water works," said H. V. Gates at the mass meeting held Friday night last upon call of the mayor to consider the advisability of bonding for the purchase of this utility. And then, addressing a reporter for The Observer, he added sarcastically, "Have you got that down, Mr. Observer man?" Mr. Gates' contention is that he would rid himself of the plant because there is too much railroad commission, yet during the meeting he stated that the commission had allowed him 12 per cent earnings on its valuation of the plant, besides a further consideration of \$1,200 as manager. He held throughout that the plant is the property of the city of Dallas and that he is simply the lessee, and hence the railroad commission had no jurisdiction over it.

The meeting was not largely attended, the court room being only about half filled, and no great interest was manifested in its deliberations. Mr. Green, the engineer who make the estimate of value for the railroad commission, had been invited by Alderman Westover to be present to give such information as might be desired, and that gentleman, Mr. Toozee, the mayor and Mr. Gates occupied practically the entire time, the discussion bringing out few real facts of value. The arguments, if such they may be called, with the exception of those of Mr. Toozee, placed the proposition of Mr. Gates in a very favorable light, indicating that Dallas' opportunity to pile up the shakels is at hand. After Mayor Van Orsdel had called the meeting to order and stated its purpose, he called upon City Engineer Taylor to present the findings of his investigations, and that gentleman offered the following information:

#### Engineer's Report.

"Judging by the valuation of the water company property and the testimony introduced at the hearing before the commission it is probable that an arbitration board would allow Mr. H. V. Gates approximately \$45,000 for his equity in same at this time. In view of this price it would be well to issue bonds for \$50,000. If the city desires to purchase same, for the following reasons: 1st. Provision must be made in the near future for a larger supply of water, this would probably be obtained from an intake either from the La Creole river several miles above the present intake works or from one of the smaller streams in that vicinity. 2nd. It is customary to provide a sinking fund taken from the earnings of the plant to provide for renewal of worn out equipment, etc., this is in addition to ordinary maintenance repair work, and is ordinarily known as depreciation. According to the Railroad commission's engineer the plant has already depreciated \$17,200, and the annual depreciation is about \$2,530, so that while it is possible to put away out of the annual earnings a larger amount than this the city should have a fund of about \$3000, to provide for contingencies.

"Income and expenses to be anticipated by past gross earnings: 1904, (8 months), \$1782.90; 1905, \$3825.90; 1906, \$5053.98; 1907, \$7083.80; 1908, \$8650.90; 1909, \$9201.45; 1910, \$9454.02; 1911, \$9947.55; 1912, \$10,617.25; 1913, \$11,825.87; 1914 (approx.), \$12,880.00. From the above it would appear that the earnings should be for the year 1915, \$12,200; for 1916, \$13,000; for 1917, \$13,800, etc., or an annual increase of \$800 per year.

"Expenses: Annual running expenses including salaries and all current repairs, maintenance, \$3200.00; interest on \$50,000 bonds 5%, \$2500.00; depreciation, \$3200.00; additions, extensions, etc., \$850.00; making total expenses (annual) of \$9750.00. This leaves a net income with which to redeem the bonds of \$2450.00 per year.

From the above it can be readily seen that, provided the property is managed anywhere near as efficiently as at present, and provided that the

figures given for depreciation are large enough (and I am sure they are ample), at the end of 20 years the bonds could all be retired and the city own outright a plant in first class condition.

In explanation of the above I would say that it is anticipated that a new intake as mentioned above will have to be provided in the course of the from the present intake to the reservoirs will have to be renewed with larger pipe at the end of ten years."

When asked by a member of the audience how he had estimated the depreciation for the ten years, he replied that he had taken the railroad commission's figures largely. Incidentally, he remarked that some of the pipe in the ground was good for forty years.

#### Expert Green Talks.

Mr. Green, when introduced by the mayor, told his hearers that he came to Dallas as an individual and not as a representative of the railroad commission or any one else. He had come hither by request to answer any questions that might be propounded to him concerning the physical condition of the plant, and awaited the pleasure of the audience. A lull followed, and to break the monotony the mayor suggested to Mr. Green that he make a talk, but Mr. Toozee immediately commenced firing questions at the expert, the first being as to where he got the depreciation.

"The depreciated condition of materials of this character are largely a matter of opinion, and difficult to determine," said Mr. Green. "It simply settles itself down to the expected life of the material from which the pipe is made in actual service, which is approximately twenty-five years. The type of plant here is very unusual, and there might be permitted considerable variation of opinion. The valuation put on the plant by the railroad commission was solely for rate-making, and not for purchase."

Mr. Green stated frankly that he did not go deeply into an investigation, the purpose for which the facts were wanted not warranting it. He gave the assumed life of burlap pipe at 33 years and the other pipe at from 20 to 25 years, the larger sizes having the longer life. He gave the amount of burlap pipe in the system in comparison with the other at about 25 per cent.

"This particular case is a new class of construction to me," admitted Mr. Green. "While the pipe is not standard, but re-made pipe, the treatment it has received places it in the lasting class. Nowhere could we find the market value of such pipe in making our estimate, but if standard pipe were used in the construction of the plant its value would be greater than at present."

When asked what he had estimated the plant to be worth in his report to the railroad commission, Mr. Green declined to answer the question, but stated that the railroad commission had increased his figures by some \$10,000 for rate-making. Again when asked if the value would be larger or smaller for purchase, he evaded the question by saying that if Mr. Gates won the suit now pending it might be a whole lot greater. He declared that his estimate was not complete, the raise in valuation coming with the hearing before the commission. The commission fixed the physical value of the plant at \$54,000 and then allowed for building up the business, an item always taken into consideration, said Mr. Green. He declared that he did not know what return the commission had allowed Mr. Gates on his investment, and the mayor came to the rescue, giving the figure at 8 per cent, but Mr. Gates said it was 12 per cent net, allowing nothing for depreciation.

Taking the floor, Mr. Gates desired the audience to understand that he did not purpose discussing the question of value, but desired to answer some questions, one being relative to the possibilities of increased business. This, according to Mr. Gates, is only a matter of conjecture. There has been a steady increase, but the future

depends largely upon conditions.

At this juncture Mr. Toozee started something by remarking that the city made a mistake when it entered into the contract; another when it stirred up the railroad commission, and would make still another if it issued bonds for the purchase of the plant. He spoke disparagingly of the materials employed in the construction of the system, and said that under no circumstances could the city hope to run the plant as efficiently as could Mr. Gates, who had spent his life with public utilities. "If we want to own a plant let us go ahead and let Gates keep his plant, and then get a new one and not buy a worn out plant," said Mr. Toozee. "We are getting water just as cheaply now as we would under municipal ownership. When Gates put in the plant there were comparatively few water connections, while now the town is practically supplied and the future increase is therefore simply a matter of growth." From Mr. Green's statements Toozee could not see wherein the city would be benefited.

Mayor Van Orsdel, plainly disturbed by the attitude of the speaker, heatedly informed the gathering that Mr. Gates' contract did not terminate with the expiration of twenty years; that if a price cannot be agreed upon at that time, or every five years thereafter, the contract would (Continued on page two.)

## EQUAL PAY IS PROVIDED

### WOMEN TEACHERS HEREAFTER RECEIVE MEN'S WAGES.

#### District School Boards Shall Not Discriminate Between the Sexes, Says the Measure.

The house on Saturday passed Senator Moser's bill granting women teachers equal pay with men for their services. The bill already had passed the senate with only two votes against it and went to the governor that afternoon and was signed by him. Only five or six votes were recorded against the measure in the house. This act gives Oregon the first state-wide law placing women teachers on an equality salary basis with men.

As the measure now stands, the district school boards "shall not discriminate between men and women teachers, and for the same and like services shall pay women teachers the same or like compensation as shall be paid to men teachers, taking into consideration the years of successful teaching experience in the districts where the teachers are employed."

While it is pointed out that this leaves it largely discretionary with the school boards to determine what, in their estimation, constitutes "successful teaching experience," the teachers believe that the bill will go far to remove discrimination.

#### DIFFERENCES ARE ADJUSTED

### And Now Independence Telephone Will Give Farmers Better Rates.

Mr. Cosper, owner of the Independence telephone system, having satisfactorily adjusted his differences with the farmers, now purposes reducing their rates and at the same time improving the service. According to the Monmouth Herald, in the course of a couple of weeks he expects to place a new up-to-date switch board in the Monmouth telephone office which will permit of the best of service for patrons on his lines and then he intends making a reduction of fifty cents per month on phones used in places of business and where patrons who have phones in their residences with eight persons on the line the rate will be one dollar per month while the rate on individual lines will be dropped from three to two and one-half dollars.

#### Good Roads Discussed.

The citizens of Airlie and the farmers in the surrounding country held a good roads meeting Saturday night. The construction and maintenance of dirt, gravel and broken-stone roads were under discussion. Professor Skelton, head of the department of highway engineering at the Oregon Agricultural college, discussed the cheapest and best way to construct roads in this neighborhood.

#### Knights to Celebrate.

Celebrating their fifty-first anniversary, the Knights of Pythias all over the state will conduct work in the first rank of the order on the evening of Friday, February 19. All those who take the first rank on this occasion will be known as members of the Brig S. Young class, Brig S. Young being the supreme chancellor of the order.

## PLAY PLEASAS MANY

### "YELLOW ROBE" PACKS WOODMAN HALL TO THE DOORS.

#### Participants Acquit Themselves Like Old-Times, and Win Applause From Audience.

The presentation of "The Yellow Robe," at the Woodman hall Saturday evening by local talent and for the benefit of the library fund, was largely attended and well received. Every available seat was occupied long before the curtain went up, the merchants and business houses having made this rousing attendance possible by closing their doors at 8:30 o'clock.

The scene is laid in an eastern city, whither Erastus Underholt, a Kansas millionaire, impersonated by C. L. Prichard, has taken his brood with the intention of breaking into society. The family has become disheartened over the snubs they have received and are about to return to their native state, when the son accidentally suggests a way to them to bring the desired results. Frances Simonton, who so very creditably took the part of the irresponsible and sporty son, after a night's debauch brings home a man he has picked up, or rather who has picked him up, and in the morning discovers this stranger in bed with him. He is determined that the man, whoever he may be, shall stay and help pacify his father, and to make sure of his detention for that purpose young Underholt takes his clothes and secretes them. There being nothing left for the stranger to appear in, he utilizes a yellow silk coverlet from the bed as a robe and Mr. Fred West, who takes the part of the stranger, Augustus Keene Shaver, appears on the stage in this garb elaborately draped about his person. The father of young Underholt appears upon the scene at this time and is enthusiastic over his find and determines to use the man from India as a means to break into society, realizing to what an extent fads are carried in such circles. Marie Mitchell, who took the role of the society girl, and a friend of the Underholts, furnished the names of the elite of the city to be invited to a reception, introducing the adept from India. Miss Pauline Coad, who portrayed the daughter who was ashamed of her father, and Miss Pearl Uglow, the "tom boy," who stuck to dad, both acquitted themselves with credit, while Mrs. Volheim, the maid, and Mrs. Francis Simonton, the widow who was looking for number three, proved themselves to be real comedians. Otho Hart, as Rev. Tweedle from Africa, helped to make some funny situations, while V. E. Wisner made a correctly dignified servant. Ray Grounds as Charlie's friend, acquitted himself well. C. L. Prichard and Fred West, in the leading gentlemen's roles, acquitted themselves with distinction and lived up to their past reputations as entertainers.

The cast very generously gives Rev. G. H. Bennett credit for the excellence of the production, he having spent much time with them as instructor. The High school orchestra, which furnished such excellent music without remuneration, also is deserving of the appreciation of both the players and the public.

#### REUEL WOLVERTON IS DEAD.

### Native of Polk County Dies of Consumption in Portland.

On Friday last, Reuel F. Wolverton, who was born January 25, 1887, near Monmouth, passed away from plural tuberculosis in Portland, at which place he had been in the employ of the Portland Light & Power company. He resided on the farm where he was born until 1902, when his parents moved to Monmouth, the young man attending school for five years, when he went to Hood River for two years, and afterward to Portland, which place he made his home until his untimely taking away.

The funeral services were held at the Christian church at Monmouth, and the remains were buried in the K. P. cemetery of that place. The Rev. Jones delivered the address over the remains. Besides his father, O. A. Wolverton, and two sisters, Edith Bolter and Leto Wolverton, he leaves a host of friends to mourn his loss.

#### Will Exhibit at Fair.

Wm. Riddell and Sons, breeders of livestock near Monmouth, will have an exhibit of sheep and goats at San Francisco. The Riddell herd is one of the noted ones of the northwest and will take their share of honors at the big show.