

THE EUGENE DAILY GUARD

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MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1909

OREGON DEAR OREGON.

(Air—"Heldberg.")
 Better than riches or worldly wealth,
 Is life in a clime that's royal,
 Teeming with happiness, hope and health,
 And warmed by a sun benign;
 Sweeter than pelf than is won by stealth,
 Is building with citizens royal;
 So come, let us clink, but first let us drink
 One toast with a brimming stein.

Here's to the state that knows no dearth,
 Here's to the hopes that rise;
 Here's to her sons, the best on earth,
 Here's to her smiling skies;
 Here's to the past so glorious,
 Here's to her future great;
 Here's to her ever victorious,
 Here's to our own dear state.

Oh, Oregon, dear Oregon,
 The state we love so well,
 Where summer snows and beauteous rose
 Deck mountain, hill and dell;
 Where shimmering sheen and evergreen
 Blend into heav'n above;
 The thought of you, so old, so new,
 E'er fills our heart with love;
 The thought of you so staunch, so true,
 E'er fills our heart with love.

EUGENE IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Some of the outside newspapers, in commenting on the city campaign, and the space devoted to it in the newspapers, express the opinion that such contests do not attract homeseekers, and are altogether injurious to the interests of a town. Quite likely the observation is correct, but conditions such as have existed in Eugene for four or five years past must be righted at any cost, in order that the city's future be made secure and its growth and prosperity permanent.

In this world it is generally the rule that what is worth having must be strenuously contended for. Just as it has become almost an invariable rule that a gold mine of value must of necessity pass through a period of contest and litigation in the courts, so a municipality whose public utilities and franchises are valuable or likely to become so are always a bone of contention. Private corporations, headed by men of wealth, realize early the possibility of future profits and begin the process of acquiring these valuable rights and privileges. But sometimes the people object to surrendering rights that they feel are justly theirs.

That is the situation in Eugene—a city with a future—and the private corporations controlling public utilities die hard. If the community were lifeless and its future growth uncertain, this struggle would have ended quickly, and to the shrewder investors and more experienced observers of city-building the advertisement given Eugene during the past four years has not been altogether bad. They realize that such a bitter fight would never have been waged by the corporations for rights and franchises that are not considered worth a great deal of money, either at the present time or in the near future.

That is all there is or ever has been to this long-drawn-out struggle over water, lights and power. The city wants to preserve the rights a private corporation would wrest from them. The issue to be decided next Monday is whether there is to be a city-owned light and power plant, or one owned by a private corporation. Defeat Mayor Matlock and the ticket he heads and the fight is lost—at least for years to come. The opposing candidates refuse to commit themselves to any definite policy on the subject, but raise objections to the McKenzie plant. They simply desire the defeat of the only definite plan of relief that has been set on foot; if they accomplish this they have probably won the fight for all time. Anyway, they have prolonged their hold upon the city for years to come. When the Ritchey creek proposition was pending The Guard predicted that its defeat would end the agitation for a gravity water system, although the corporation and its friends at that time declared they favored gravity water on a different plan. It was simply a dodge to fool the people into continuing their pumping graft—and it worked successfully. Just as this paper predicted the gravity plan has been abandoned and the only talk heard now is for a well supply. At this time, if the corporation can mislead the voters by raising unfounded and unreasonable objections to the McKenzie power plant and compass the defeat of Mayor Matlock, there will be no municipal power plant installed anywhere, or at any time.

That is the only issue in this campaign—city-owned lights and power, or Willamette Valley Company lights and power. If the former, municipal ownership of the water system, secured after years of struggle, will be made profitable and successful; the city may be lighted more cheaply and better than any other in the Northwest, and suburban residents need not grope in darkness owing to the inability of the city to light their streets.

If the power plant is abandoned, and the Willamette Valley Company maintains its monopoly—well, we leave the intelligent voter to draw his own conclusion.

EUGENE CITY AND IRRIGATION

The campaign of muddle received a fresh impetus yesterday

when the morning paper published a so-called proposition from a number of farmers in the McKenzie valley, suggesting the advisability of joining with an irrigation company formed there, the city to build a power plant, and the irrigation company to continue the ditch for their own purposes. The proposition, however, does not come from the irrigation company, or any member of the company, and at no time in the past has such a proposition been made to the present council, the proposed power site having been filed upon many months since by the irrigation company, being, therefore, beyond the reach of the city, unless it had been voluntarily surrendered to them, a step that has never been taken.

The informal suggestion made through the morning paper at this time is the result of the work among the farmers of one of the most ardent supporters of the corporation ticket in Eugene, and those who signed it, naturally anxious for an irrigation experiment and led to believe that this step would aid them, did not fully understand the import of their action as bearing on the result of the local election pending in this city. While the proposition is not endorsed specifically by the opponents of the municipal ownership candidates, they naturally seized upon it as an opportunity to introduce a side issue at a time when every voter who is misled as to the real issue is a distinct gain to the corporation forces.

As a matter of fact the proposition is absolutely impracticable from a legal standpoint, and if taken up by the city could be stopped by any taxpayer who applied to the courts for an injunction. The city has no right to engage in an irrigation scheme or to construct an expensive ditch or tunnel and turn it over to a private corporation, such as this irrigation company, who purpose to sell water to the farmers for profit, charging them, we believe, \$20 an acre for their rights. The incorporators and promoters of this irrigation scheme are themselves uncertain as to their rights, since they have taken the precaution to file on the waters of Fish lake and another lake on the headwaters of the McKenzie in event their work at the proposed site is enjoined or proves impracticable. One of these water rights was held by the Southern Pacific Company, but the railroad surrendered it in consideration of promoting an experiment in irrigation—a very commendable act on their part. This precaution was necessary, it seems, because the rock work necessary to be done in order to take the water from the river at the proposed location may prove too expensive to justify attempting it, and the damming of the river would force the waters over the low bank on the opposite side, flooding farms there and no doubt incurring strenuous opposition from land owners who would be injured thereby. Thus the city, should it have the legal right to take up a proposition (if any is formally made) from this irrigation corporation to construct the most expensive part of the work with money derived from the sale of Eugene municipal bonds, would probably have more injunction suits on its hands than it has now.

Of course, the corporation candidates do not endorse the scheme, more than to give it publicity in their newspaper organ, with the hope that it will tend to muddle the situation, for in a

lack of definite issues lies their only hope of success. They have announced, however, we are reliably informed, that they will "investigate" it in case of their election. Just what this means we do not pretend to know, and they apparently do not choose to explain. Whether an irrigation scheme with the money of Eugene taxpayers is seriously considered, under a competent engineer, which will cost a great deal of money, or if the matter is merely to be left to the judgment of one John F. Ross, who arrived from Colorado the other day and at once took active charge of the Willamette Valley Company's campaign, remains for the future to unfold.

We do not believe, however, that this sort of a dodge will have very much effect upon the result of next Monday's election.

John T. Ross, of Colorado, who seems to be perniciously active for a non-resident, is, we understand, organizing a party in Eugene for the express and avowed purpose of visiting the site of the proposed McKenzie river power plant tomorrow, and condemning it as unsuitable. Ross is not a civil engineer, but a banker, and if he is to chaperone the party it is safe to say his report will not be disappointing to his corporation employers. Johnny has got his gun, and being a stranger, has either been misled into believing that this is the open season for bagging municipal ownership candidates, or that Eugene is simply a corporation game preserve.

The Oregon Electric officials are to decide upon immediate extension work during the present week, so the Portland papers say. It would be the proper thing for the Commercial Club to try to induce them to visit Eugene. In this way we might show them what they are missing by not having a line to this city.

The people along the line of the proposed Eugene & Pacific electric railway are ready to give the company substantial support. It is up to Eugene to do the right thing at the right time—NOW.

And now Jim Hill has given Ed Harriman a quit claim deed to Oregon. It is some satisfaction to the people of the state to know definitely who owns them.

The Eugene woolen mills are advertising for more help. That is an excellent sign of increasing prosperity.

The Willamette valley needs railroad development more than anything else.

EUGENE S. P. DEPOT

ALREADY TOO SMALL

(Springfield News.)
 The ladies of Eugene are doing a good work in trying to raise \$1000 for the depot fountain, but the public would be better accommodated if that \$1000 and a few more added would be used to enlarge the depot. All one

can say of the depot is that it is a neat little structure. It is entirely too small for their present needs.

JELL-O
 The Dainty Dessert
 PREPARED INSTANTLY. Simply add boiling water, cool and serve. 10c. per package at all grocers. 7 flavors. Refuse all substitutes.



Announces For
 Those Interested a
 Special Display of

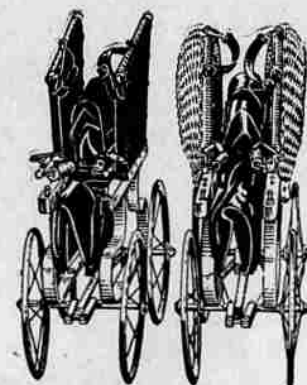
The Store That Saves You Money

On Furniture, Floor Coverings, Shades, Lace Curtains, Ranges

Perambulators

Our new line has arrived and for STYLE, QUALITY and DURABILITY is second to none. We expected to receive the best line made and we are not disappointed.

The Perambulators and sleeping couches are full of surprises. Baby Buggies of the cheaper sort are extra good. The side-wire folding cart is not only a novelty but a success, be sure to see it. The collapsible go-carts close with one fold with one hand and are opened as easily; have spring seats and either hood or canopy top.



Sleeping Couches, Go Carts

We are right not only on the very important features of style and construction but we are right on price.

We bought direct from the factory with no jobber's profits. We ship direct in car loads from Portland, thus saving the high open freight rates.

Consequently we landed our goods for less money in equal quality, better goods for the same money, and are selling them accordingly.

Call and See for Yourself Whether to Look or Buy

SEVENTH AND
WILLAMETTE

FLORIAN M. LAUGHLIN & CO.
 Successors to DAY & HENDERSON

THE LIGHTED
CORNER

FIRST NATIONAL

BANK

Discriminate Ownership
 Stock in Willamette
 Valley Company

To the Eugene Guard:
 There has been much talk
 among city politicians about
 ownership of stock in the
 Valley Company, and especially
 the First National Bank, and
 others. There is no stock
 that company by this stockholder or employee.
 It always has been and is
 to welcome any person to
 corporation of capital stock
 city to engage in the same
 suit of business. New
 new capital are what we
 people who do things that
 come.

Young
 T. G. HARRIS
 S. E. HARRIS

HAY SUCCEEDS
TO GOVERNOR
OF WASH.

Olympia, Wash., March 28.—
 Governor Hay was elected
 today to succeed S. G. Co
 ceased. The ceremony
 ple, there being only a
 nesses to the proceedings.

Following his induction
 rice, Governor Hay, as
 of the national guard, in
 der calling out seven reg
 act as a military event
 ral of the late governor,
 day afternoon. About 100
 troops will participate in
 body-guard will be app

NOMINATION OF
LYONS WITH

Washington, March 28.—
 Ident today withdrew the
 of W. R. Lyons to be judge
 trict of Alaska, first time

NEW TODAY

FOR SALE—160 acres
 wheat farm, on railroad
 in Canada's famous
 For sale or will trans
 property. Address Owa
 6, Creswell, Ore.

WANTED—Roomers and
 Mrs. G. W. Mack, 714

FOR SALE—Three fine
 block from car line 1
 University; east front
 this week. Price, \$100
 J. M. Morris, Over the
 Bank.



For
 TUESDAY
 WEDNESDAY