

**THE HATCHET.**

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 Items of general interest gratefully received.  
 Editor's hobbies and opinions on this page, all the rest facts—impartial and uncolored.  
 Editor is at home in his sanctum, HATCHET Building, Forest Grove, from 6 a. m. to 10 p. m. of each week day and always glad to talk and be talked to.

AUSTIN CRAIG, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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**WHO SHALL BUILD AND OWN THE GREAT SHIP CANAL?**

This important question is second only to the great enterprise itself and the HATCHET calls public attention to this matter in advance of the next session of congress and we urge our people to take prompt action and petition congress to assume the responsibility of the construction of the Nicaragua canal and thereby secure permanent control of this grand inter-oceanic highway. We have no reason to doubt the forthcoming favorable report of the canal commission on the re-assembling of congress in December, recommending the construction of the canal, fixing one hundred and ten millions of dollars as their estimated cost of its construction.

There will be two propositions before congress, one to subsidize a private company, the other to construct the great work on government account. The HATCHET is absolutely opposed to the proposition to subsidize a private company for the reason that the canal is a national enterprise, an enterprise which affects every American interest and should be as completely under the control of our government as our treasury department, and when completed the canal should constitute a new department in our government to be known as the Department of Commerce, clothed and invested with powers, duties and responsibilities co-ordinate with the War and Navy Departments.

The most nearly correct estimate of the wealth of the United States is upwards of sixty billions of dollars, and it would be an exhibition of cowardice unworthy the prestige, prowess and power of the people of the United States to hesitate in this grandest of all national attempts at the development of our natural and commercial resources. The construction and ownership of the canal will crown this glowing nation with a glory that adorns our republic as the helmet does a race of Knights. The one hundred and ten millions should be cheerfully furnished by this nation and every dollar expended under national supervision and paid only to American citizens who should be permitted to do all the work and furnish all the material in its construction. The expenditure of one hundred and ten millions to American workmen, laborers and manufacturers of needed material in building the great ship canal, would give activity to American forces not witnessed since the close of the late civil war. Not a dollar of this national appropriation should be suffered to go abroad for work or material and when finished the colossal product will redound to the glory and power of this nation as enduring as the pyramids of Egypt and as a bulwark of defence our republic can point to it as our Gibraltar commanding both the Atlantic and Pacific, holding all nations at bay in time of war and render our Monroe Doctrine forever formidable to monarchies who may attempt conquests on this continent. The HATCHET will at an early day present its readers with a memorial to congress and request their signatures.

**AN ERROR CORRECTED.**

An editorial from the Times is given below. The clipping from the St. Helens Mist was borrowed by that paper, though without cred-

iting, from the Hillsboro Argus and was originally spoken in praise of our neighbor's deep well. The gravity system of St. Helens comes out of the Columbia River and is pumped into a tank. Here is the Times editorial:

St. Helens' new water system is now completed. It is a gravity system and the Mist says "furnishes a quantity of water that cannot be surpassed in the state and will be no little incentive in causing people to locate in our midst. It observes elsewhere: "This city has reason to be proud of its facilities for extinguishing fires. A good system of water supply and a well-trained fire department are things which any town can well feel proud of. These conditions are productive of confidence and business stability and if a municipality cannot afford such necessities it has no right to a charter. Men of capital are always slow to invest in communities unprotected in matters of fire, and the business judgment of a city having proper protection for such emergencies is highly commendable."

A number of rods along Prickett creek belongs to Mr. Ranes and the water right has never been sold. His right would have to be bought as well as the rights of the Gales Peak Water Co., if the city were to get its water supply by a "gravity" system.

Shall the general welfare of the citizens of Forest Grove be consulted in the selection of a water source or the personal interest of a few men whose endeavor has ever been to saddle tax burdens on the city for their own advantage?

Would stock in the Gales Peak Water Co., be worth anything if other sources than those where they control the water rights were selected for Forest Grove to get its water supply from?

What comparison can there be between Bull Run, rising in the snow of Mt. Hood and Prickett and Rhoderic creeks whose sources are where a burn is liable to occur at any time?

Would the citizens' water committee have been more "competent" if they had brought in a report favoring buying worthless water rights up on Gales Peak?

**THE GRAVITY SYSTEM.**

The water question is the most important one that has come up before the citizens of the Grove for it not only affects the prosperity of the city but the health of the citizens. A committee of citizens was appointed at a public meeting some time since to look into the matter and after an exhaustive investigation, though at first diverse in their views, they unanimously favored the Holly or deep well system. The minutes of the meeting at which their report was given appear in full in another column. Every one should read the proceedings carefully and consider the question without prejudice.

So much has been urged about the gravity system that the HATCHET has taken pains to secure facts about it and here presents the actual condition. No other source of supply for a gravity system has been suggested than Rhoderic, Prickett and Clearwater creeks, the first two being ardently supported by a few. Engineer Sidney Smith recently visited and measured them and reported that there was sufficient water for a city of 8000. The following measurements will show why he was mistaken.

Water flowing per minute in Prickett creek:	
July 29, 1893.....	900 gals.
Sept. 20, 1893.....	170 gals.
Sept. 17, 1894.....	180 gals.
Per day of 24 hours.....	259,200 gals.
In Rhoderic creek:	
July 29, 1893.....	840 gals.
Sept. 20, 1893.....	192 gals.
Sept. 17, 1894.....	196 gals.
Per day of 24 hours.....	282,240 gals.

Prickett creek drops from 900 gallons in the last days of July to 180 gals one and one-half months later. Would it be any lower at a later date?

Fire stream requires through 50 feet of 2 1/2 inch hose with a pressure at the hydrant of 50 lbs., 3/4 inch nozzle, 150 gallons a minute, 1 inch nozzle 186 gallons a minute; with a pressure of 80 lbs. at hydrant, 3/4 inch nozzle, 188 gallons a minute, 1 inch nozzle, 237 gallons a minute. The 3/4 inch throws water be-

tween 67 and 81 feet, the 1 inch throws between 64 and 82 feet. The best authority says a good fire stream has 80 lbs. at the hydrant with not less than 175 gallons per minute. For four streams it would require 700 gallons a minute, 42,000 gallons an hour or 1,008,000 gallons per day of 24 hours. For domestic use 200 gallons for each inhabitant would be needed. With Forest Grove's present population 300,000 gallons a day would be required, ten years from now if we have here a city of 3000, and it will probably have that number long before, the supply must be 600,000 a day. From the two creeks together there would be only 542,000 gallons a day (probably less, for these measurements are for September and the middle of October is the driest time), not enough for domestic supply. What would take care of the fires when they turn in a call at the rate of 1,008,000 gallons a day? To conduct this amount of water, as it may be called for, even if the demand is only for ten minutes, requires not less than 10 inch pipe, and true economy and efficiency demand 12 inch. The 10 inch laid will cost at the present time 75 cents a foot, the 12 inch \$1 a foot. It is four miles to Rhoderic and a branch line of a mile to Prickett creek, at a low estimate four and one-half miles together and the cost of the main pipe would be \$18,000 to \$24,000. Add reservoirs, damages, rights, gates, etc. and when the water touches town the cost will have reached \$35,000, then add \$10,000 more for distributing it in the city. Now the minimum supply of 542,000 gallons in the process of reservoiring must stand a loss by evaporation, filtration and leakage, at the least of one-fifth. There is then available only 442,000 gallons for city and fire use which would be entirely inadequate.

But there are other objections to this gravity scheme besides the scarcity of water and the heavy cost (\$45,000).

The supply is wholly from infiltration, coming through forest debris, runs along over and among the pastures, barnyard deposits and through marshes (of all sources the most poisonous). No snow capped peaks with their everlasting deposits supply subterranean streams which break out in springs of purest water. Cut away the forest and your stream will dry up. All the drainage area (all Gales Peak) must be controlled to keep human habitation from it or you must deal with sewage more dangerous than any other. On Rhoderic creek there are now habitations up among the forests, in one instance the entire drainage of a stable goes into the creek distant less than twenty-five feet.

All data of the volume of Oregon streams in the earlier days point to the fact that they are yearly lowering their minimum supply, more passes away in the maximum supply, that is, in freshets.

Objections to the gravity system here are then:

- 1—Insufficient supply for present population.
- 2—As population increases supply decreases.
- 3—Excessive cost of construction.
- 4—Polluted water.
- 5—Expensive maintenance (such as interest and especially repairs for what will not rot out will rust out).

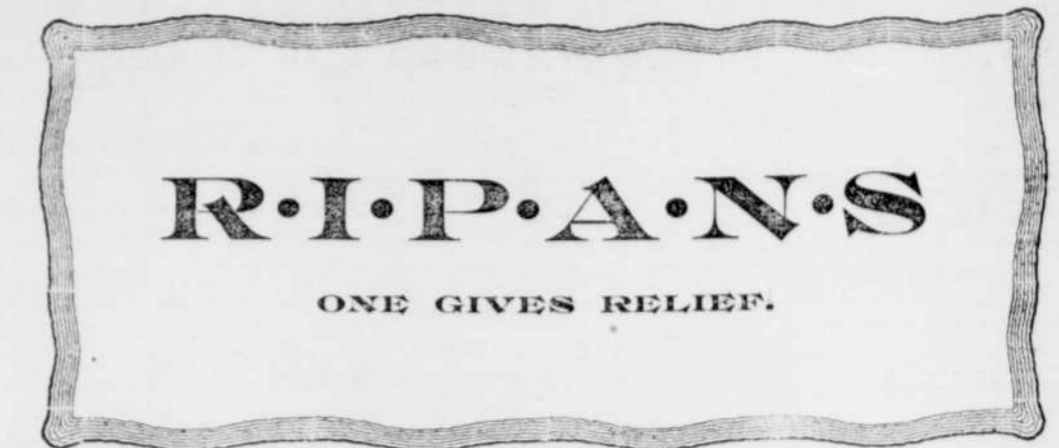
Were there other creeks to turn in and increase the supply objections 1 and 2 might be remedied but it is not within the practical limit of Forest Grove's ability to remove the other objections.

**The Hillsboro Express Robbery.**

Harry Corbett, in jail, and Geo. Stewart, under \$2000 bonds, are awaiting the grand jury's meeting on charge of having stolen about \$100 from Mr. Williams, the Hillsboro express agent, on July 18. The story of how the till was robbed of \$50 while Mr. Williams was at the evening train appeared in a previous issue. At that time no clue could be found. Recently Stewart came to Sheriff Ford and informed on his accomplice. On this information Corbett was arrested Tuesday in the Grove by Deputies Bradford and Morgan. The informer disappeared but was captured at McMinnville. Last Saturday Corbett again robbed the till, this time of \$8.75. He was familiar with the building and the two had hid in the upper portion waiting their opportunity. The arrests are especially welcome as they remove every suspicion of a man formerly tried on this charge.

**Birthday Party at Dille.**

Thursday night a birthday party was given in honor of Mrs. Wm. McLeod, Jr., at her home in Dille. There were some fifteen guests and they were entertained most royally, with excellent music by Messrs. Wm. Jackson, Umbhlett and Miller and delicious refreshments.



**FOREST FIRES.**

**LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.**

**Aged Couple Burned to Death; Many Others Feared to Have Perished. Woman Severely Burned. Homes Destroyed. The Flames Still Raging.**

Mountain forests have been on fire since the middle of last week between here and Scoggins Valley. There has been a fire also between Buxton and Nehalem in the vicinity of Mr. Gleason's ranch. The fire towards Nehalem is not reported as having burned out any buildings.

The one in the vicinity of Gales Peak has burned nearly all this side of the range of which Gales Peak is the summit, devouring all the underbrush and the dead and rotten trees, burning the house and barn of Wm. Armstrong, located on the base line directly west on the side of the mountain facing town. It is also reported that a grain field and all the fencing belonging to John Bergeron, living just over the summit from the Eagle mills were destroyed, also that Harry Ball lost a field of wheat. This latter, however, lacks confirmation. The house on E. L. Naylor's homestead just adjoining Armstrong's place was entirely surrounded by timber and it was so smoky that the place was obscured, but was found when Mr. Naylor went to it in the middle of a burn without any damage apparent. The underbrush and logs from Gales Peak south to the old Hiatt place has been burned off so that a person on horseback could easily travel the entire distance. The large green timber has not suffered much by the fire except that which is partially decayed.

The fire at present is raging in the vicinity of the headwaters of Clearwater creek and just above the old Eagle mill and in the vicinity of Wilcox and Temple's places in Scoggins Valley. A cow belonging to Mr. Hansen, on Clearwater creek, was burned in a canyon, being unable to escape the flames. The Cornelius mill is reported burned but this is not yet confirmed. A log schoolhouse in district 83—the Wiatrout school—is reported to have been burned. Mrs. Dixon who lives near Soda Springs was burned severely but not seriously Monday evening while fighting fire. The buildings on Mr. Gleason's place beyond Buxton and the schoolhouse there were with difficulty saved. Above Buxton on the Nehalem road fire has destroyed the buildings, fences and everything perishable on the places of Messrs. Ed. Murphy, Dille, Moore, Nelson and two others, whose names are not obtainable, and Hardscrabble schoolhouse. Many others are in exposed conditions. Mr. and Mrs. North an aged couple living on Clear creek, it is feared have been burned to death. Their place has been destroyed and a search lasting since yesterday noon has so far revealed no trace of them. John Dallas' place was also swept by the fire. A rumor current that he, his wife and two children had perished happily proves by late information to be unfounded. All last night Mr. Gates who lives near heard them sounding a horn and he kept answering. Towards morning the horn stopped. Yesterday evening Mr. Squires was berrying and hunting when he heard some people shouting for help and saw a man, woman and two children. He attempted to go to their relief but was turned back by the fierce flames. It was at first thought they were Mr. Dallas and his family. Fear is expressed for the safety of several parties outing in that region. What the damage will be cannot now be estimated. The fire is continuing unabated with a wind at its back. Jess Crosley's place was swept by the fire. The John Fogarty place, covered with cedar timber purchased a year ago by Mr. Pfanner, was burned out.

**Death of Mrs. Goodin.**

Mrs. Elma Goodin, wife of County Clerk R. B. Goodin, died at her home in Hillsboro Friday night. She had been an invalid many years. The funeral was Sunday at the Hillsboro M. E. Church and the burial in the North Plains Presbyterian cemetery according to the Eastern Star ritual. A vast concourse was present at both services. Mrs. Goodin was a woman whose every acquaintance was a friend and the estimation in which she was held was attested by the large assemblage in her honor and the wealth of flowers sent as tributes to her memory.

Tommy the Tinner takes silver for stoves and tinware.



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