

THE HATCHET.

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Established for the dissemination of Washington county news, the elevation of humanity and the money we can make.
 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.

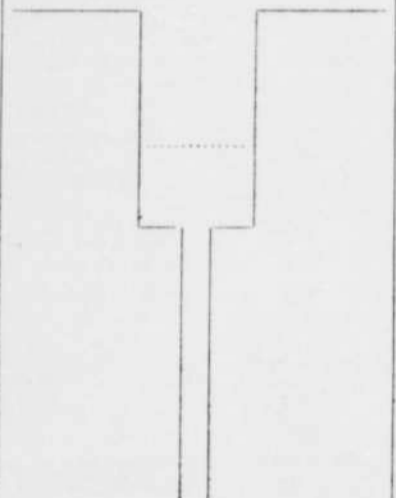
AUSTIN CRAIG, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
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DEEP WELLS.

When the "Water Committee" reported in favor of deep wells, as the cheapest and best source of water supply for this city, a number of persons at once denounce the report, and some went so far as to claim lack of competency on the part of the committee. Such things must have been spoken in the heat of personal interest which a cool after thought would gladly have called back. We are inclined to believe the committee was composed of such high minded men that they will pass by, as unworthy of notice, any such "slanting" remarks. They did make a very careful and thorough investigation of the water question, and were prompted in their work by the memory of the awful scourge of diphtheria, which claimed so many young lives during the past year, and with a desire to do the best possible thing for Forest Grove. If such motives are not worthy of commendation, and the work of that committee not entitled to respect, then good motives and humanitarian work are of no value in this educational city. We are yet inclined to believe that many of our people do not understand what the committee meant by a "deep well", and will try to put the matter before our readers in so plain a way that all, excepting those who are wilfully blind, may understand it.

We call the soil under us an alluvial deposit, which means that in the ages past water covered all the valley country, and the rains producing brooks on the mountain sides washed the soil down into the inland sea and it finally found rest at the bottom. In time the sea-wall was broken at some point and a gateway made to the Pacific ocean. Then appeared the great Willamette valley with its wonderful productive soil. The soil was deposited on a clay foundation that varies in depth from five to thirty feet. The clay measure upon which the alluvial soil rests varies in thickness from two to about fifteen feet. Below this quick sand and gravel can often be found, and farther down another measure of clay. Under every clay deposit water can be found in some abundance, but all the water that is above the upper clay measure comes from our annual rainfall. In October our wells will be very low but by March they will be nearly full, which means that our abundant rains have been absorbed by the soil and held as low down as the first clay measure and from that as a basis the soil is filled, in many places to the very surface. As our wells rise and fall as there is water in the soil then it must be true that the source of supply is from the soil. The well that is called upon for much water will drain a large space around it, and this drainage may include all kinds of filth which may produce disease and death. If the people are very careful in keeping their premises clean and all filth vaults are far away from the well there will be less danger than exists in a majority of the wells in Forest Grove. Alluvial soil is not a good filter and wells may be contaminated by filth deposits that are one or even two hundred feet away. Gophers dig passages down to the level of low water often, and then when the rainy season comes the holes serve as drains into the well. A well, to

be perfectly pure, must be protected from every drop of water that is above the first clay measure, and those who have given the matter much thought claim that the safest and best way is to go down below two or three measures of clay. This may be done by sinking a pipe six or eight inches in diameter to a depth of 150 to 200 feet. When, at such a depth abundant water is found it will rise in the pipe to a point near the surface of the ground. It is an easy matter to find the water level. Around the pipe a large well can be dug to a point ten feet, or more, below the level of the water in the pipe, a thick cement bottom laid and a thick cement wall built up above the surface of the ground, and the pipe cut off at the bottom of the well. Then we will have a well getting its source of supply from a point far below the clay measure, and above it will be absolutely protected from every possible source of drainage. To any one "who has eyes to see" the following diagram will explain what we mean:



So far as tested such wells furnish an abundant supply of purest water. The Hillsboro well furnished four continuous streams through 7/8 inch nozzles, fire pressure, for three hours and ten minutes with no perceptible lowering of the water. The five wells in Portland furnish an abundant supply and the water is of the best quality. The Hotel Portland has advertised as a drawing card "Our own pure artesian well water". It was carefully tested by a competent chemist and found to be free from all impurities.

But perhaps enough has been said to fully explain what we understand by the term "deep well", and we hope every reader will study the question so thoroughly as to understand what the committee meant by their report. When the committee began their investigations not one member on it was in favor of a "deep well", but as a result of their extended work they, unanimously reported in favor of such a well. Honest men they are and they made an honest report. We beg our readers to lay aside personal and selfish interests, if such they have, and study the water question in the broad interests of Forest Grove, for good water will do much to make our city still more attractive, and make it a healthful as well as a beautiful place.

GALES PEAK WATER CO.

In answer to numerous inquiries: The Gales Peak Water Co. was organized several years ago with C. M. Keep, pres., Geo. Boos, vice-pres., P. O. Chilstrom, sec. Other incorporators were I. A. Macrum and E. W. Haines. They purchased the water rights on Rhoderic and Pricketts creeks with the exception of Mr. Ranes' right and a farm right reserved by Mr. Rhoderic. It is supposed to have cost them about \$2000 altogether. The company has been brought into prominence of late through a strong agitation of the "gravity system."

SCHOOL MONEY.

This month Washington county receives about \$5,400 from the state for school purposes. This with school money now in the treasury will make \$100,000 to be divided among the districts of the county, each receiving \$1.70 for every child within it between the ages of 4 and 20 years. The money thus

distributed goes into every neighborhood and by keeping ready money in circulation does much to relieve the business stringency.

BRIDGES.

The numerous reports from all parts of the county that bridges are being built or repaired is evidence that the present county board is giving careful attention to the convenience and safety of the people of the county. No one can travel far in any direction without meeting indications of their oversight. Most of the dangerous bridges have been put in condition and the few remaining are having their attention.

PETITION.

To the Honorable the Senators and Representatives of the State of Oregon in Congress,

GENTLEMEN:
 Your memorialists and petitioners are citizens of the United States and also citizens of the State of Oregon, and they have the honor to exercise one of their constitutional prerogatives in thus addressing their representatives in the Congress of the United States.

We, your petitioners, are of the opinion that the time has arrived when the people of the United States should take final executive action and forever settle the question as to the construction of the inter-oceanic canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans through territory owned and governed by the republics of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, whose territorial and sovereign interests are directly concerned, and whose explicit concessions, granting the exclusive privilege to the people of United States to build and to operate the Nicaraguan canal have been provided and guaranteed as we are informed.

Therefore, your memorialists do most earnestly petition and request our senators and representatives in congress to take prompt and united action to the end that the government of the United States may on its own account proceed to build, finish, and control the Nicaraguan canal, for the following reasons:

First. The magnitude and national importance of this great enterprise can no longer be delayed without impeaching our sincerity, resulting in humiliation, if not dishonor, to the people of the United States.

Second. The construction and ownership of the canal by the United States is dictated by the principles of the soundest statesmanship, by consideration for our future safety and the safety of all the republics of America in their future relations and dealings with the other nations of the globe, promoting to the utmost degree the harmonious and intimate intercourse of all the republican governments which now occupy the Western Hemisphere, and will constitute our Gibraltar of the West for the protection, development and improvement of every American state, giving an imperishable activity to American commerce and an indestructible bulwark to republican governments.

Third. Climatic conditions, the location of civilized races and the history of maritime nations all point eastward and westward as the great highway for the bulk of the commerce and intercourse of the world. What the Suez canal has accomplished for commerce between Europe and Western Asia, the Nicaraguan canal will immediately excel in its important commercial results to the Pacific and Atlantic states in both North and South America.

Fourth. The speedy construction of this work under the authority and administration of the government of the United States suggests the importance of creating a department to be known as the department of commerce co-ordinate and equal in all of its functions and duties to the Department of War or the Department of the Interior. Such a department, created to promote American commerce, should be subjected to such requirements and regulations in its administration and management of the interests of the United States in the said canal that our commerce, Eastern and Western, would receive a powerful impulse.

Fifth. In conclusion your memorialists do most earnestly invoke and request the enthusiastic activity of our senators and representatives in congress in bringing this important matter to a final and favorable conclusion to the infinite benefit of our fellow citizens of this commonwealth whose personal interests in the completion of this great inter-oceanic highway we justly regard as one of the most important duties of our faithful representatives to prosecute and defend during the next session of congress. And your petitioners will ever pray.

Money to Loan.

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Just a Little Left



County Commissioners' Court.
 AUGUST TERM.
 County road No. 134 was decided established, expenses ordered paid, and order to open will issue.
 Petition of Archbishop W. H. Gross for rebate on 1892 tax, not allowed.
 Petition of Anton Pfanner for privilege of constructing telephone line between Hillsboro and Forest Grove, granted.
 Reports of county officers examined and approved.



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