The Times-Herald.

VOL. XXXVII — BURNS. HARNEY COUNTY, OREGON, JULY 19 1924 — NO. 37

VOTE ON NEW CHARTER FOR BURNS AUGUST 16

Provides Modern Improvements Keeping With Development; Water, Sewer Estimates.

The city council has fixed Saturday, August 16th, as election day to vote on the new city charter for Burns. This has been under consideration for months and the subject has received careful study before being submitted to the voters. It makes provision for improvements that are essential to the growth of the town and in keeping with the present development. Because of the approach of this election The Times-Herald is this week publishing the estimate recently submitted by the engineers on the proposed water and sewer system. This report gives details in an itemized form in the original but the tabulations are omitted from our report. However the totals are given.

In giving this subject consideration it should be understood that the plan outlined by the engineers is not definite, that is, the city is not bound to follow this particular plan if it is found other ways are feasible or some of the expense may be eliminated. The subject should be seriously considered. It is absolutely necessary that Burns construct water and sewer systems in order to meet conditions now confronting the town.

The estimate follows:

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF WATERWORKS OF BURNS

The necessity of an adequate supply of pure water for the present day community needs no argument. Even where conditions are such that individual supplies from wells may be obtained without pollution, the problem of fire protection is one for the community in general. To successfully fight a fire requires concentration of a large volume of water at one point. Considered from an economic standpoint, the cost of maintenance for individual supplies of running water is no small item and the reduction in insurance rates coming with adequate fire protection will to a large extent offset the cost thereof.

Water Requirements and Source of Supply: The actual per capita consumption varies so greatly in different cities that it is difficult to estimate the probable repuirements of one city by the known use of others. The consumption of water is affected by the climate, soil conditions, condition of the system and pressure, industrial requirements, the extent of metering, and the general disposition and customs of the users. Along with the per capita consumption also must be considered the population to be provided for. It would be equally a mistake to provide only enough water for the present population of a growing community or to over-build a system and incur the cost of a supply which will not be completely utilized for years to come.

The only available source of supply for the City of Burns as we see it will be from driven wells. No large single item of investment such as a dam or a long pipe line will be required. When a certain development is outgrown, it will only be necessary to put down additional wells sufficiently removed from the first ones to avoid interference and install additional pumping equipment. It would esem to us then that only a reasonable provision for future growth should be made in the source of supply, although the mains should be adaptable to extensions.

Having carefully considered all the existing conditions, we are of the opinion that a supply of 200 gallons per capita for a population of 2,000 or 400,000 gallons in 24 hours will be a logical present development for the City of Burns. The pumping equipment should have a somewhat larger capacity to provide for breakage and shut-downs. For the present population a surplus of water will exist which will permit liberal use for sprinkling and irrigation. With the growth of the City, restrictions and economies in the use of water, and the installation of meters, will reduce the per capita consumption below the figure used and postpone the necessity of incerasing the supply until greater than the estimated population has been reached.

On account of convenience of arrangement, short pump mains, and reduction of friction, we prefer to locate the wells near to the distribution reservoir which would bring them on the hill somewhere in the vicinity of the schoolhouse. From inquiry, we understand that the lava rock seen on the surface of the ground is merely a capping and that drilling through this rock will develop practically the same source of water as exists on the olwer areas adjacent to Burns. There is always an element of uncertainty in connection with well development and we would suggest that at least one well on the most favorable location be drilled and tested before the balance of the water works system is completely planned or installed.

Our estimates provide for wells located on the hill adjacent to storage and distribution reservoirs. These will be drilled wells probably 12" in diameter and will be pumped by deep well turbine pumps, delivering water into a surface reservoir of sufficient capacity to carry practically a day's supply. For distribution purposes and to serve the higher areas water will be lifted from this reservoir into an elevated steel tank of 50,000 to 60,000 gallons capacity. The distribution mains will have a minimum size of 4" to give fire service. Larger feeding mains will be laid out in such a way as to permit future extensions in the portions of the City most likely to have rapid growth.

Our estimates provide for a complete system of fire hydrants at alternate blocks and valves necessary to shut off any unit of the system for repairs. For the sake of economy, we have planned placing the water pipes in the same excavated trench as sewers where rock excavation will be involved. While this is a departure from the usual practice, we see no danger of pollution that can result therefrom. The pressure upon a water pipe is always outward, while the leakage to a sewer, if there be any, will always be inward.

Estimates: The preliminary estimate of cost totals $129,232.00. This estimate provides for the best class of construction throughout. While some of the details are subject to revision when definite plans are completed, we believe that the total is adequate and conservative.

Preliminary Report on Sewer System for City of Burns, Oregon

Present day standards of living and sanitation make a sewer system a necessity in any community of consequence. A liberal use of domestic water by the American people for washing and carrying of organic wastes makes necessary some method of disposal. Cess-pools and individual septic tanks are unsatisfactory in operation and in the long run expensive. The only method which meets all requirements is the adoption of a sewer system to collect and carry the wastes to a remote point for disposal. The ultimate method of disposal is a problem in itself but the concentration of the total flow at one point makes it a community probelm worthy of skilled attention.

The City of Burns has reached a development where a sewer system is needed even if there is no further growth. However, the coming of a railroad connection and the utilization of the immense timber resources back of Burns, in addition to the certain agricultural resources seem to guarantee a growth to a population far beyond what is now supported. The City presents some difficult problems from the sewer construction standpoint zut these are not insurmountable. In portions of the City the existence of surface rock will make the excavation of sewer trenches expensive, while in other portions of the City the flat grades and low elevations relative to the outfall lines must be overcome.

After spending several days in going over the local situation in detail and after studying available maps and topography, we have made a preliminary layout for a sewer system that will serve all purposes and is entirely feasible. While some modifications will no doubt be necessary after detailed surveys are made, we believe that present estimates are liberal and may be used with safety in considering the improvement and in deciding upon a bond issue to meet the cost of the same.

Our plans provide for sewers running from North to South on all of the streets now utilized. These sewers will have a minimum size of 8", which experience shows to be necessary for proper cleaning, and will be provided with manholes and flushtanks to allow ready maintenance. They will lead to a trunk sewer at the South end of the platted

(Continued on page four)

DESPONDENT MAN TAKES HIS LIFE WITH SHOTGUN

Rudolph Wenzell Killed Himself Early Yesterday Morning in Kitchen at Farm Home.

Rudolph Wenzell shot himself in the breast with a shot gun yesterday morning resulting in instant death. The fatal shot was fired in the kitchen of his home on the Brown ranch a mile north of Burns about five o'clock after he had fired one shot from the gun near the door of a bed room where his young son and daughter were sleeping.

Mr. Wenzell had threatened such an act before, according to his young son. He was subject to despondency at intervals and some times on such occasions he would indulge in drinking. A bottle of liquor was found in his room.

The daughter stated that her father had been restless, all night and was up and down. She had occupied a bed in the sam room with him but because of his restlessness she had gotten up and entered the room where her brother was sleeping. He announced he was going to take his own life after he firen the gun the son got up and tried to take it from him but the father threw him aside and entered the kitchen closing the door. He had made a loop of a strong cord which was attached to the trigger and used his foot to discharge the gun which was placed against his right breast.

Mrs. Wenzell had gone to Klamath Falls to visit a son and the other children were away from home, two of the boys being in Catlow where the family formerly resided. Mr. Wenzell was between 50 and 60 years old and the father of eight children. He was an industrious man and ambitious in his desire for the education of his younger children. They came to this place for better educational facilities and he had recently leased the Brown farm adjoining Burns. He had just finished putting up the first crop of alfalfa and the prospects to succeed financially were bright.

The tragic ending of his life was a shock to his family and this community where they are all held in high esteem.

Harry Z. Smith has disposed of his poolhall to R. Y. Bogard and E. Lathrop, formerly of Rocky Bar, Idaho. The purchasers have returned to Idaho to make arrangements to come back and take charge of the business the first of next month. W. T. Lester made the deal for this transfer.

OBSERVATIONS ON TOUR OF PORTION OF COUNTY

Excellent Crops Where Water is Available for Irrigation; See Warm Springs Reservoir.

Three outstanding green spots were found in a tour of some 340 miles of Harney county made on last Sunday and Monday by Supt. Shattuck of the experiment station and a representative of The Times-Herald. The P Ranch, Blitzen valley, Diamond, the Drewsey section on up the Malheur and Calamity creek presented a most attractive contrast to the other localities visited.

The trip took us by Narrows, Matt Davies Jack creek ranch and Oscar Downs' to as far south as Blitzen in Catlow valley then back by the P ranch, grain camp to Diamond where Sunday night was spent. The following day the party drove into Crane by way of Princeton and from Crane to Riverside then to the Warm Springs dam. Drewsey was reached from this point and then up the Malheur to Chas. Lillard's "Valley of the Moon" ranch and back to Burns over the new market road and Pine creek grade.

The object of this tour was to advertise the annual Field Day at the experiment station tomorrow. Fortunately Shattuck had his Dodge Coupe equipped with new balloon tires which Con Liebig had put on just recently and the writer is fully "sold" to balloon tires. Without these the trip would have been quite different as they took out the bumps and ruts to such an extent that is was possible to make good time over any of the roads, which are not exactly boulevards. In fact they lack a lot of being that. The extreme dry weather has made the roads bad for traveling, besides there has been a lack of work done on them during the present season.

While on the subject of roads it might be well to make some comment on observations during this swing. The main traveled roads are badly cut up, especially is this true of the Hanley lane, the road leading over the hills by the Blitzen and the Wells Hill road south of Crane. Some permanent work should be done on each of these during every summer season with a view of really having roads in the end. There is another feature of the road system in Harney county that causes much confusion to one not familiar with localities in that the cross roads are not marked with signs. This would make a vast difference to travelers and save many miles.

Catlow valley is very dry. Oscar Downs has moisture at his place and with proper cultivation will make a fine alfalfa farm. The range to the north and west of him is dry and rapidly drying up but to the east and south is still very good. It was learned that some of the wells in Catlow have gone dry and in places several additional wells have been sunk to a great depth without securing a flow.

The P Ranch seems a garden spot after traveling over the territory before reaching it. The visitors found the ranch will produce an average hay crop and the harvest is now in full swing. At the Grain Camp we found E. E. Larson was working a big crew in the hay and while this crop is not up to normal it is good considering. His grain will yield very well, some of it good but a portion of it will not be up to average

Diamond valley is turning out a wonderful hay crop and the ranchers of that section are fortunate. We stopped at the Diamond hotel over night where we had string beans from the garden, also some nice raspberries were found. Diamond seemed an oasis to the travelers after a day of hot, dusty roads and ruts.

The trip from Diamond to Crane by way of Princeton showed some crops where the water supply was sufficient for irrigation but the dry farming crops were almost an entire failure.

Neither Supt. Shattuck nor the newspaper man had ever visited the Warm Springs dam and this was a revelation. While the trip entailed some bad roads and hard hill climbs it was worth the effort to see the big head of water stored for the thirsty crops below. It is an object lesson to any one to visit this big structure and see what it means to farmers. The stored water is perhaps the lowest it has ever been since the dam was completed, yet there is sufficient water for the season still stored and is being let out as needed. A big lake of water stored in a canyon for use when most needed is what Harney valley needs. We would be telling a far different story this season if we had the storage reservoirs in operation in this section. One needs only to make such a journey as the one described to be convinced of the absolute necessity of irrigation and even though the water is not as plentiful as under the Warm Springs project, it is none the less needed—in fact more necessary because of its economic use. With stored water on short years Harney valley would reap much greater yields because every gallon could be economically distributed and put to use instead of the early flood being wasted.

Balloon tires are a blessing on a car when one travels on the road from the Warm Springs dam to Drewsey. They enable one to travel at a speed that otherwise would keep

(Continued on page five)

AN OLYMPIC ON OUR HOME GROUNDS

TOMORROW FIELD DAY AT EXPERIMENT STATION

Earlier Date for Annual Affair Finds Field Crops Less Advanced: An Inspection.

The annual Field Day at the experiment station will be held tomorrow. Supt. Shattuck states that the time is too early to show his field experiments at their best. He says "they-re ragged" because of irregular growth caused by the dryness of the soil. In ordinary seasons it is not necessary to irrigate to bring the seed up but this year considerable of the seed did not sprout until the first irrigation, therefore the crops are uneven.

A representative of this paper went over the station fields with Mr. Shattuck Thursday afternoon and he doesn't share in Mr. Shattuck's apprehension that the station will not be up toexpectation. The crops are even better than had been expected by the writer after a tour of some 350 miles over Harney county earlier in the week. The winter crops are making a fine showing and the several expriments are most interesting when studied from the viewpoint of a producer.

Some of the striking features of the station this season that attracted the attention of the writer will appeal to those who make an inspection of the plant. For instance: A new variety of smut resistant oats, the nurse crop of wheat immune from smut; the effect of crops in alfalfa sod after successive growing of the legume for four years and after being plowed a second season and seeded to wheat the alfalfa still predominates, showing how hardy the plant is. Another experiment that has proven a success this season after four or five failures is clover with a nurse crop.

The field peas are making the best showing of anything in the line this season and are proving their success beyond any doubt. The alfalfa has been cut just recently and therefore the fields wil lnot appear in their usual verdure but the yields are of record and show the usual high yields. Another plot of alfalfa seeded this year shows an excellent stand.

The silage crops are again the show portions of the station. The sunflower sshow the best stand ever secured on the station and are thick an dof a uniform height. These with field peas and other silage crops should be given more attention by the dairymen and stockfattening men of this section.

A new feature at the station this year that will prove of great benefit to the farmer and city dweller as well, is the new lot of trees and shrub sthat have been added. Some of these are making good for the first year and it will not be long before one may know just what trees and shrubs are adapted to this section and it will mean much to the home beautiful. Norway spruce, honey locust, black walnut, Russian olive, the latter a shrub, mountain and white ash, box elders, poplars, all seem to be doing well, also several varieties of apples, pears, cherries, etc.

The Field Day gathering tomorrow will be just as interesting to the farmer as ever before, even though the crops are not so advanced as in former years when the event was held later in the season. Governor Pierce, B. F. Irvine, Jeff. Myers, Prof. Hyslop and othrs accompanying the board of regents will be on hand to greet the visitors and confer with those who are interested in the work.

Preparations for the big picnic dinner at noon are perfected and the day will be observed in a happy manner where old time people may gather and discuss problems of mutual interest.

C. A. Korten is here from Chicago this week on his annual visit. Mr. Korten has a big farm just east of Burns and comes out each summer on his western tour to see how things are progressing. Mr. Korten is in the wholesale business and makes this section of the northwest in connection with that business. His many friends were glad to greet him.

Fred Haines is home. He has been in southern California and we understand also visited Texas oil fields during his absence.