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Musings

By an Innocent Bystander

Some time ago we talked of "ships and shoes and sealing wax" so today let's finish the quotation and talk of "cabbages and kings." Not cabbage heads, although we sometimes wonder if there weren't a lot of such things wandering about this neck of the woods. So here goes!

Today we want to call attention to something we have never spoken of before in all that we have said about the water business. We understand that the plan is to have two separate propositions on the ballot when, IF EVER, there is an election on the matter. The first proposition is to authorize the issuing of bonds amounting to about \$29,500 for the purpose of laying new water mains all over the city in place of the old leaky ones. Proposition No. 2 is to authorize the issuance of bonds for \$18,500 for the purpose of laying a connecting main to bring in the Medford water. The voters of the city will have a chance to accept or reject either or both of these propositions.

If the voters endorse Proposition No. 1 and reject Proposition No. 2 the result will be that we will have all the old water mains in the entire city torn out and replaced with new, which listens good, BUT—

Did you ever stop to think that this proposition carries absolutely NO PROVISION FOR AN INCREASE IN THE REVENUE OF THE CITY, ALTHOUGH ADDING NEARLY THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO OUR BONDED INDEBTEDNESS? How in the name of all that's topsy-turvy do the advocates of this Proposition urge that it be accepted and the Medford water rejected, ever expect to pay off these bonds or the interest thereon?

A city has just two ways to raise income—direct taxation and water rentals. At least our city is so handicapped. And the same people who are advocating the passage of Proposition No. 1 are forever howling about the "poor taxpayer" and declaring they are unalterably opposed to anything which would add to his burdens. And these same folks say that "it takes all that the city gets from the water now to pay expenses and interest on our old bonds and we are opposed to the Medford water on account of the additional cost."

It is a well-known fact that the city's income from water rentals for many years past has been inadequate to pay expenses and interest and to overcome this situation a regular annual tax levy has been made on the real estate of the city and the money so raised, (amounting to nearly one-seventh of the entire levy) has been transferred each month to the water fund under the guise of "rent on fire hydrants."

In February of this year the minimum water rent was raised from \$1.00 to \$1.50, for the reason, according to those who proposed the raise, that the city "needed more money to pay expenses and care for its indebtedness." Now if the present city income from its water is inadequate to pay expense how do they expect to pay this additional thirty thousand dollar bond issue which they are asking us to allow? If Proposition No. 1 carries and Proposition No. 2 is defeated it will mean either an additional raise of water rents for the same old hard water or an additional direct tax levy, just as sure as God made little apples.

If BOTH propositions carry, or if the Medford water proposition carries alone, an almost 50% increase in the income from the water will automatically be provided and we believe this will be entirely sufficient to take care of both the old bonds now on the books and the new ones we will have to issue. There are some people in the city who do not agree with the writer about the adequacy of the income from the water should we get Medford water, but after conferring with competent engineers, city officials of other towns and other experienced people, we say again THAT IT IS OUR HONEST BELIEF THAT THE EXPENSE OF OPERATION IF WE GET THE MEDFORD WATER WILL OR CAN BE LARGELY REDUCED and that the income from

REASONS GIVEN FOR ERECTION OF NEW GYMNASIUM

In what way is the present gymnasium inadequate? Answer: Both the main room and the dressing rooms are too small for a school of this size.

When was the present gymnasium built? Answer: Fourteen years ago. Then it was the largest gymnasium outside of Medford. Now it is among the smallest. Although Central Point has an enrollment of nearly four hundred its gymnasium is smaller than the ones recently built by the Howard and Oak Grove grade schools.

What part do gymnasiums and playsheds have in the modern educational program? Answer: America relies upon its school to train for citizenship. Changing social and economic conditions have greatly increased the amount of leisure time for all classes. Wholesome and purposeful use of this time is essential. The whole physical education, health and recreational program of the schools is directed toward training for citizenship. A well equipped gymnasium is necessary for this training. If children of Central Point are to have equal opportunity with children of other communities then proper school facilities must be provided.

What has been done about a playshed for the smaller children? Answer: Although many parents have expressed themselves strongly in favor of a playshed to provide better facilities for the smaller children during bad weather no action has been taken toward building one.

What are the facilities at present? Answer: There is no play space for the smaller children at present. The one small gymnasium which we now have cannot take care of the needs of a school of nearly four hundred children.

Why not build another wooden building and continue to use the present building as it has been used or spend some money on it to increase its capacity? Answer: The school authorities feel that investment in frame buildings is not wise. Over a period of time they prove to be as costly as concrete buildings. Furthermore, by the time a playshed is built and necessary repairs are made the amount of money spent would nearly equal the amount proposed for a new building.

What repairs will soon be necessary on the old building? Answer: If continued as a gymnasium a new floor must be put in soon. Floor joists must be added. Sealing, painting, and adding to the side for more seating space will run into an expense of several thousand dollars. None of this will be necessary if the building is used for a playshed.

Can the present gymnasium be used for a playshed and other physical education needs for the smaller children? Answer: Yes. If it is not given the heavy use that comes from the play of the large high school boys, the floor will last for a long time.

What kind of a building would be built? Answer: A concrete building, sixty-five feet wide and ninety feet long, with a wing for dressing rooms and shower rooms for both boys and girls, and an equipment room. If satisfactory bids are received a stage may be provided for auditorium purposes.

What is the estimated cost? Answer: Between \$14,000 and \$15,000.

Why is the proposed bond issue only \$8,000? Answer: Expenditure of any funds will depend upon a PWA grant of 45% of the total cost.

Are the chances of getting this grant favorable? Answer: Yes. If the school district votes its share there is an excellent chance to get the government grant.

Why has this election been called with such short notice? Answer: It is necessary that the district vote its share and have its application for a grant in at once.

What rate of interest would the school district have to pay on bonds issued now? Answer: The city of Central Point will pay 3% on part

of the water rents will be ENTIRELY ADEQUATE to pay all expenses of operation and take care of all water bonds the city will have.

Questions Answered In Connection with New Bond Election

Q—What is the estimated cost of the entire project of taking up all the old water mains in the city and replacing them with new, and also to bring in the Medford water?

A—The engineer's estimate of the cost of this project is roughly \$88,000.

Q—How much of this \$88,000 will the city have to raise by a bond issue?

A—55% of \$88,000 is \$48,400.

Q—How is the \$88,000 to be divided?

A—\$34,000 to lay the connecting main to Medford and \$54,000 to replace all old mains within the city.

Q—What interest will the new bonds carry?

A—4% if issued to the government and perhaps less if sold to a private bidder.

Q—How are they to be paid?

A—While the government requires such bonds be "general obligation" bonds, they are to be paid out of water receipts so far as possible. Of course, if such receipts should prove inadequate, the balance would have to be raised by direct taxation.

Q—Is it probable that the water receipts under the Medford contract will not be sufficient to keep up the bond interest and to pay off the principal?

A—No. According to estimates by the city recorder and others interested, the annual income from the water system under the Medford contract will be amply sufficient to pay interest charges and bond retirement, as well as all cost of operation.

Q—What will the Medford water cost the city of Central Point per month?

A—\$1.00 per month for each "live service connection" or water user, plus 15¢ per thousand gallons for all water used above the minimum.

Q—What will be the minimum water allowance for each water user per month?

A—5,000 gallons.

Q—What will the city be compelled to charge its water users per month under the Medford contract?

A—\$2.50 per month minimum and 20¢ per thousand gallons for all above.

Q—What will be the city's gross profit per month?

A—\$1.50 per month for each water user, plus 5¢ per thousand for all water used above the minimum.

Q—How many water users are there at present in the city?

A—260.

Q—Based on this number of water users, what will be the city's gross annual income from water?

A—\$4650 (provided no one uses more than the minimum of 5000 gallons). To this will be added 25% of all money received from those using more than the minimum allowance. Just what this will amount to is all guesswork so is not taken in to consideration in this article.

Q—What has been the city's profit above cost of operation of the water system; which profit they can use to pay interest and bonded indebtedness?

A—Over a period of 27 years, with the minimum water rental fixed at \$1.00, the city's share of that dollar was only 27¢. However, even with that small amount of net profit the city has been able to retire

of its water bonds and 3 1/4% on the other part. School district bonds should sell as well if not better. This is an exceptionally low rate of interest.

Q—What length of time would be taken to pay off these bonds? Answer: Probably ten years.

Q—What will this cost the average taxpayer? Answer: The maximum cost which would come the first year when the interest would be greatest would be \$1.20 per \$1000 assessed valuation. This would decrease each year. For the average home owner in Central Point the cost would be about seventy-five cents a year. This is based on the present school district valuation which is \$880,000.

Q—Who may vote at this election? Answer: Only taxpayers or owners of stock in any corporation paying taxes in the district.

\$23,500 in water bonds out of the original issue of \$45,900.

Q—What would be the net profit to the city under the Medford contract?

A—50%, or 50¢ out of every dollar taken in for water rentals, after the water is paid for and all reasonable expenses paid.

METHOD OF OPERATION

Under the Medford system the big connecting main from Medford would connect direct to the city mains at the city limits, with a normal pressure of 90 pounds. A branch main would lead to the present tower with an automatic valve for keeping the tank full and a two-way altitude valve which would hold that water in the tank and would only allow it to escape into the city mains in case the pressure in the Medford main fell below that of the tower. The pressure in the Medford main would normally be 90 pounds, while that from the tower is about 45 pounds. Thus the only time the city would get any of the water which had been standing in the tower would be when the pressure in the Medford main fell below 45 pounds, or half the normal.

According to a statement by Engineer Rynning, who has had several years' experience as a member of the Medford water commission, there is very slight chance for such a condition ever arising, and even if it did, it would be of very few hours duration.

Mr. Rynning further states that he can see no reason for any use of the present city pump, except perhaps to occasionally pump out the well to prevent it from becoming stagnant, or to ascertain that the pump is in good condition. Even in case of fires there would be plenty of water at adequate pressure without starting the pump. The only reason for keeping the pump in condition is to provide an emergency source of water in case the Medford pipe line had to be shut off for repairs.

Finally, a word as to the purity of the water. There has been a report going the rounds of the city that is almost too silly to answer. It has been said that a dead horse had been found in the big spring from which Medford gets its water. Anyone who will drive out to the Big Butte springs will at once see the absurdity of such a claim. The whole spring has been dug out and concreted, forming a large basin, over which a roof has been placed. From this concrete basin an electrically welded pipe line carries the water direct to the city and the water does not see daylight from the time it leaves the ground until it is drawn from a faucet. And to cap it all, an eight foot fence surrounds the entire spring area. Not much chance for contamination, there, eh?

Motion Picture Film Will Show Oregon Scenes

SALEM, Ore., Aug. 24 —Exceptionally fine motion picture scenes of the Oregon coast and Cascade mountain and lakes region have been obtained for the two reel film being made under joint arrangement between the Oregon Worlds Fair commission and the Oregon State Highway commission, according to the Travel department of the latter body. The film, designed for continuous showing at the Exposition in San Francisco next year, will also be shown throughout the United States. It will picture the outstanding scenic and recreational attractions Oregon offers for the vacationists. All Oregon will be covered in picture before shooting is completed.

The Travel department estimated that in addition to the multitude at San Francisco which will view the film, an audience of at least 500,000 scattered throughout the United States and Canada will see the film next year when it is shown in various cities.

The film will have a musical background and one of the best film voices available will be used in carrying the descriptive wordage.

The Castle Film company of New York and Hollywood is handling the making of the film.

Statistics Show Amazing Growth In Oregon Canning

When Mrs. America gets down her most useful and often most used kitchen utensil, the can opener, the chances are one in 38 that Pa and the kids will have for supper produce grown and canned in Oregon. Back in 1921 one can in 40 used in America came from Oregon, and before the war—well the chances were that Ma herself put the foodstuff up in a glass jar.

Statistics showing the amazing growth of fruit and vegetable canning in Oregon during the past three decades, including this state's share of national production, are included in a report made by the state planning board, "Location and Growth of Oregon's Basic Manufacturing Industries."

Today the canning industry in Oregon produces an output valued at \$17,651,421 and it employs a monthly average of 3,841 wage earners. Actually, however, many thousands of people gain much of their living or add substantially to their incomes through this industry, since it reaches a peak of employment during the summer growing season, and slacks off greatly during the rest of the year.

Back in 1921 Oregon produced 2.43 percent of the nation's canned foodstuffs, and in 1935 this had increased to 2.63. Although the national share did not increase greatly, actually the volume of output increased 103 percent during this 14 year period.

Cave Junction to Celebrate Soon

Starting Saturday, September 3 and running over Labor day, the Second Annual Miners' Jubilee, held at Cave Junction, Oregon, will get under way. The Queen's ball opens the festivities and Sunday and Monday afternoons there will be a Rodeo and in the evening the big Pageant, both days.

The world's champion gold panning contest will be held during this celebration, and all comers, amateurs and professionals are invited to participate.

Labor day will see the historical miners parade, a caravan of old time modes of travel and action. Truly a western feature this, and much comment was caused last year from the parade. This year it should be twice as interesting.

Also Labor day, the Jubilee is holding one of the greatest banquets ever given in the Illinois Valley, when it is expected that 250 people will put their feet under the table and eulogize the builders of the Redwoods highway. A great banquet to end a great celebration of early day incidents connected with mining industry of southern Oregon and northern California. The dates are September 3, 4 and 5.

Special Offer

Starting with August 19 and continuing on till September 1st The American is offering a special price of \$1.50 for 15 months. Every newspaper in the country has been urged by all newspaper associations to raise their price. All weekly newspapers, the size of The American are urged to raise their price \$2.00 a year. All other commodities are up, but after giving the matter due consideration we decided to give you a better offer instead of raising the price. So now if our readers will justify us in our decision and drop into the office and save us sending out statements or collectors, we will gain and our readers will gain. We are making every effort to improve our paper. We print all our copy using no ready print and strive to work for any thing that we honestly think will be a benefit to our community. If our readers do not agree with us always, we have no hard feelings and hope they have none. Remember if you subscribe for The American or renew your subscription for a year before September 1 your paper will only cost 10¢ a month. If you have a special friend out of the valley who would enjoy the home news and if you wish you may receive your local paper and send one out of the valley for \$2.50 both for 15 months.

Also, anyone wishing to take advantage of the above bargain price and who wish to receive the Popular Mechanics magazine, may get both by sending in \$2.95 before September 1st, and we will send this paper for 15 months and Popular Mechanics for one full year.

LOCAL GIRL HAS STORY IN CURRENT SAT. EVENING POST

The Saturday Evening Post for this week (August 27) carries a story "Road Kid," written by Mrs. Helen Hedrick, wife of E. H. Hedrick, Medford City school superintendent.

This is of very special interest to Central Point as Mrs. Hedrick is a local girl having been born here and attended school here and met and married Mr. Hedrick here, while he was principal of our high school. Mrs. Hedrick's parents Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Norcross live here and we all rejoice with them over this first story to be published in a publication of the size of the Post and expect to enjoy reading many more of Mrs. Hedrick's stories.

The news stand in Medford figured that they sold 500 extra copies this week on account of her story and there was over a dozen extra ones sold here and calls for many more that could not be filled.

New Cafe Doing Good Business

The Central Point Cafe which opened up under new management last week is very well pleased with the response. Mrs. Ida M. Berry and her brother R. C. Chaplin are the proprietors. The cafe has been entirely remodeled and no pains are spared for the comfort of the patrons. There is a lunch counter and tables. Here you may eat a fine dinner or lunch or take home a salad or home made pie or cake, only to be sure you what you wish, leave your order a little in advance. No tobacco is sold there.

Mr. M. S. Gentry has a peach tree that is 2 1/2 years old that is loaded with peaches bigger than a coffee cup. It is a beautiful sight. Mr. Gentry says there is a bigger demand for peaches this year than there has been for a number of years.

Mr. and Mrs. Justine Muse and Mr. and Mrs. Palm and family of Klamath Falls were guests at the Tharp home Tuesday.

C. P. (Pink) Thomason had the misfortune to have two of his ribs broken when a horse crowded him against the side of a stall at the Feltenheimer ranch Monday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Faber of Albany accompanied by Miss Francis Faber arrived Friday evening and spent the week end at the Faber cabin at Lake of the Woods. Howard Dietrich and friend from Portland were week end guests at the Faber Cabin.

So what? -

Never has any man plucked the fruit of happiness from the tree of injustice.—Anon.

Mr. Alexander saying come in and see our fine line of harness before you forget how harness looks.

Mr. R. H. Moore and E. C. Faber being the best of friends until they get on the water question.

Some California people visiting friends in Central Point asking where Medford quit and Central Point started.

Many spectators standing around watching Mrs. Webster clean up vacant city lots but no one taking a hoe and getting busy.

The Lees boys and this writer feeling about the same in a huckleberry patch—the boys saying "Oh here's another one!"

A lady coming into Gus the Tailor shop in Medford and asked for some samples and on being told she might have some asked him if he wouldn't take them off the paper for her. Another lady asked for some if he would run them up on the machine for her as she had no machine.

Dale Smith out on back steps feeding two squirrels.

Rev. Phillips saying that if he had 75 cents to pay down he could buy a place.