

### That Ashland Water Question

To the Editor:

I notice in one of your recent issues an article on the Ashland water system, signed, "A Citizen," as such articles usually are where the writer desires to avoid personal responsibility for his utterances. I shall say nothing here for or against the proposed bond issue—the people of Ashland will attend to that, my purpose being simply to correct the writer's false statements on present conditions. He says, "from an experience of ten years in the water business in the east," etc.

This man is not the first one who, just fresh from "the east," has assumed the guardianship of his news-sought home and seeks the first newspaper opportunity to tout his discordant horn. His proper label is, "A new knocker come to town." He says: "I am sure that if the Ashland water system was in individual hands it would pay," etc. Here is "the flea in his ear."

"Citizen" (?)—if he is a citizen—is not the first one to covet the "individual" control of Ashland's water system.

The most serious fault in his article is that he does not tell the truth. Perhaps his ten years' experience in the east has not been in that line.

He says: "The greater part of their water supply is taken into the mains just above the park, and that many people live along the creek above that point and that the drainage of stables and human excrement has no other way except into the water system." Such a statement is absolutely false and libelous, and I do not wonder that he does not sign his name. It is not strange that he should see "wiggles" in the water when the anti-truth wiggles have so mixed up the wheels in the head (recently imported "from the east") that he cannot tell the truth. The recklessness of the fellow in making such a statement in the presence of physical conditions, that make it so easy to prove that he either does not know what he is talking about or that he wilfully lies, is a little unusual.

The main intake of the system is two miles above the city limit and there is nobody living above it. Some six miles up the creek there is

Long's lodge, where people stop in the summer, but from which nothing gets into the creek. The lower and only other intake is above the city limits, and there is but one place in addition to Long's occupied above that intake and the "good cultured people of Ashland," by careful supervision see that no contamination comes from that. Such recklessly criminal statements are libelous and should be prosecuted. Of all town knockers, "Citizen" belongs to the worst class. I will not believe without further evidence, that he lives in Ashland. C. B. WATSON, Ashland, Or., Dec. 8.

#### NEW LINE-UP IN CONGRESS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

democrats are much in evidence. They are condescendingly tolerant toward the efforts of this congress at legislation. Their attitude towards the present majority is:

"Go as far as you like—or can. You haven't much longer to go."

But they are jealously on the lookout for anything that appears aimed at depriving the next congress of rightful prerogatives. Champ Clark, the imposing statesman from Missouri, slated for the speakership of the next house, is already at work considering details that will confront him as majority leader. He has done yeoman's service as minority leader for so long that he admits his new job—if he gets it—will be rather strange.

One of the most heartrending details of the coming metamorphosis of the political aspect of the house is the approaching exodus of the big republicans from their long-cherished homes in the fine committee rooms of the capitol. For years and years the republican chairmen of the big committees, in many cases, have accumulated their public and private appurtenances of all kinds. Many of them feel more at home there than anywhere else in Washington. But the time is coming when they must gather up their belongings and hie themselves forth to little hallrooms in the house office building, convenient and comfortable, no doubt, but far from the homelike, familiar places that the

old committee rooms have been. The soon-to-be-retired republicans gaze with wistful longing at the comforts they must forego, every time they enter their present official homes.

There are almost tears when they think of removing their own, individual furnishings from those familiar walls and resigning the honored places to the hands of the democrats. And already the democrats are looking with longing eyes on the places to be vacated and wondering anxiously just what part of the committee pie each will be able to capture.

Over on the senate side of the capitol the venerable Senator Eugene Hale is preparing to leave the accustomed room of the committee on appropriations, of which he is chairman. For the venerable Hale is retiring. Just down the corridor Nelson W. Aldrich, for many years general manager of the United States senate, is more than busy with his final efforts at general managing. For Aldrich, too, has determined to resign his general managership when March comes around, and he has much to do before that time.

Among the hosts on hand for the final acts of the 61st congress, the busiest are those members of the house who are known variously as insurgents and progressives. They are planning to make this session a "big" one for insurgency and following their fight last session to curtail the power of the speaker, they have settled on the committees of the house as the objective point for their this year's fight. The insurgents, under the leadership of Norris of Nebraska and Mardoek of Kansas, are planning to "bring the committees under the control of the house as a whole." With this end in view they have framed a reform measure providing for the election of the committees by the members of the house in a rather involved, safeguarded way. They have some doubts about being able to gain the support of their erstwhile allies, the democrats, for this measure. The democrats worked well with the insurgents last session during the attack on Cannon and the committee on rules, but when it comes to taking the power of appointing the committee of the house from the speaker entirely, the insurgents are not so confident.



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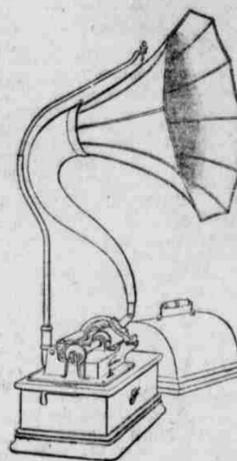
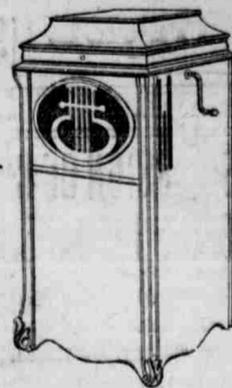
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