

SANITARY SURVEY OF MEDFORD MADE BY GREATER MEDFORD CLUB

General Conditions Good But Violations of Ordinances Pointed Out for Correction—School Houses in Bad Sanitary Condition.

Two Physicians Refuse to Report Contagious Diseases—Number of Houses Without Sewer Connections

This report is in the nature of a sanitary survey of the city of Medford. It is closely allied to the surveys made by Mrs. Caroline Bartlett Crane in a number of cities of the south and middle west. For this work Mrs. Crane is usually hired by the cities—by common councils and club organizations—for a thousand or fifteen hundred dollars in order that the authorities may secure a condensed review of the whole situation for their own official use. Cities have regarded such surveys as actual service for which they have gladly paid, and where one person, as Mrs. Crane, performs the service the cost of hiring several parties for the preliminary survey is avoided.

In the same way, as nearly as its ability permits, the inspection committee of the Greater Medford club has aimed to perform an actual service for the city in this report.

From the report following the individual names of violators are omitted but are contained in the report filed with council.

Work is Impersonal
The work of the inspection committee is entirely impersonal and disinterested and its aim is not complaint but co-operation with the city in the enforcing of certain ordinances; not prosecution, but statistical information for the use of the city in the interests of sanitation, clean food, and individual responsibility.

From a sanitary point of view the general appearance of Medford permits a favorable impression. The streets of the city are each night washed and cleaned, and there are no openly located heaps of decaying fruit, vegetable or animal matter.

It would add to the comfort of the citizens, if adequate provision could be made for laying the dust on the residence as well as business streets, during the summer season.

City Drainage
We have found that contrary to the generally prevailing impression, no sewerage is drained into Bear creek; that only the overflow taken care of by the storm sewers empties there; and that the sewerage has been adequately disposed of, until the present by the septic tank provided for that purpose, and that upon completion of the second septic tank now in process of construction, the future in connection with this problem is well taken care of.

In view of the amount of surface to be drained and the possibility of very heavy rains during the winter, 1.59 miles of storm sewers would appear to be wholly inadequate for the needs of the city.

The danger of overflowing from the mains might be very considerable.

Alleys
We find alleys in the city, especially in the business district, to be very generally neglected. Quantities of highly inflammable material, constituting a fire menace, have been allowed to accumulate in unsightly heaps along alleys—noticeably in the region directly back of the new First National Bank, back of the row of saloons and restaurants on South Front street and also along the alley joining North Central avenue with Bartlett street, between the Medford Pharmacy and Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company.

Contagious Diseases
We find that according to the city health officer, Dr. R. W. Stearns, there are many cases of violation of section 5 of ordinance No. 129, relative to the reporting of contagious diseases. Two supposedly reputable physicians refuse to report such cases to the health officer and there are many other cases of neglect of this important duty.

Garbage
We have found specific violations of ordinance No. 319 providing that "Every person conducting or running a restaurant and other places in the city of Medford where the public are supplied with food shall maintain at all times a garbage can or cans, holding not more than twenty gallons, which shall be constructed of metal and shall be water tight and fitted with air tight lid, and said can shall at all times be kept securely covered with said lid, and said can shall at all times be kept securely covered with said lid, except when being filled and emptied." Then follows a list of violations among restaurants. No fault is found with the sanitary conditions of any restaurant or hotel kitchens, merely with the garbage depositories.

Condition of Toilets
The following brief reports on this subject were submitted for compilation by the several members of the inspection committee:

The following report includes the sanitary survey of the business portion of the city on the south side of Main street from Central to Holly, and the streets intersecting that side of Main street.

I found all places in this district connected with the sewer either directly or indirectly. In some cases the firms of adjoining buildings being obliged to use the same toilet. While I found some buildings where the toilets were kept in a wholesome, sanitary condition, by being cleaned daily, many of them had little or no care, and were consequently very unsanitary and obnoxious, thus forming the most favorable breeding places for flies and typhoid germs.

On Main street between Central avenue and Holly street I found things in a very sanitary condition excepting the insufficiency of toilets in each building. Some of the stores have no toilets and the employees are obliged to go next door or farther away.

A chicken house was used for slaughtering fowl, and there was a receptacle or depository for the entrails and all refuse made by dressing fowls for sale. The odor was unspeakable and this whole group of back buildings, which is in the most crowded part of the business section was the worst thing that came under my notice.

B. G. CLARK.

Plumbing
This ordinance provides: "No person or persons shall within the corporate limits of the city of Medford erect or maintain or suffer to be erected or maintained upon premises owned by him, her or them, any privy or cess pool upon any lot or parcel of land abutting upon any street in which there has been constructed and is being maintained a public sewer."

Sufficient of the city was covered in the following reports from the several members of the committee as was deemed necessary for indicating the general percentage of violations of this ordinance herein referred to, and for the purpose, such as were deemed typical districts of the city were chosen for the survey.

Having been assigned to investigate the sanitary condition of Jackson and North Roosevelt, I submit the following report:

On West Jackson street there are four houses which have outside privies and no connection with the sewer.

On North Roosevelt avenue there are four houses which have privies.

B. Y. CLARK.

The sanitary conditions embodied in this report were made during March, 1912.

In general I might say that the southwest portion of the city, approximately between West Tenth street and South Hamilton, inclusive, has been very indifferently considered by the city authorities having the matter in charge. For example, West Tenth, west from Hamilton, has neither sewer nor water. While Hamilton, south from Eleventh has water but no sewer.

The following lists will show how the sewer ordinance demanding connection has been taken care of.

On West Ninth street between Orange and Hamilton, six houses are not connected with sewer.

On 11th street between Hamilton and Oakdale avenue, seven houses are not connected with the sewer.

One small square between Tenth street and Eleventh street, Hamilton and Plum streets, has eight outside toilets and four barns. An Al camping place for flies. Sewer and water are in on Eleventh street but nowhere else. It should be put in that block at the end of West Eleventh street.

One street in the west end of town, Benson, has sewer in but no water. Weaver tract at end of West Tenth street and Eleventh street is rented quite extensively to campers. No provision is made for sanitation of any kind. Nine houses in this section have no sewer connection.

EDNA H. DAVIDSON.
Fourteen houses on North Central avenue have not yet been connected with the sewer.

Eight houses on Fourth avenue West are unconnected.

Public Schools Unsanitary
Inspection of plumbing in the public schools makes known unsanitary plumbing in all schools save the high school. At the Washington, conditions are bad to the degree of constituting an actual menace. Moreover, the toilets at the Washington school stand open to public use. Ordinary janitor attention should at least be equal to keeping school toilets clean. That there is very great need of more thorough plumbing inspection is very obvious, and the inspector should be a competent man, thoroughly awake to his responsibilities. Through en-

forcement of the sanitary ordinances will go a long way toward making typhoid fever a thing of the past in Medford.

Ice Cream Depots.
We find that no ice cream shop in the city is equipped with any modern apparatus for sterilizing implements for preparing, or the receptacles of ice cream. We found the candy and ice cream kitchens to be only ordinarily "kitchen clean," as housewives understand it.

Conditions surrounding the preparation of ice cream should be carefully investigated and supervised on account of danger of ptomaine in rusty receptacles and unsanitary surroundings.

Protection of Foods.
Section 19 of ordinance No. 129 is openly violated. This section provides: "It shall be unlawful for any person or persons, to carry, convey or haul through, or upon, the public streets or alleys of the city of Medford any fresh meats of any kind, or any fresh fruits or any fresh vegetables of any kind, offered for sale or intended for sale within the limits of the city of Medford, unless the same shall be securely covered, so as to be protected from flies, dust or any unwholesome matter."

Meat is daily carried through the streets and alleys without covering from dust and flies. Section No. 20 of ordinance No. 129 is like ignored. Food stuffs, such as dates, figs, candied figs, and honey are exposed to flies in practically all groceries in the city where they are offered for sale.

It would seem to be apparent that a more adequate food inspection is greatly needed.

City Water Supply
This is most plentiful and with frequent analysis and attention could be kept in an exceptionally wholesome condition.

In the hope that the foregoing data may prove of use and even value to the city authorities, and in the spirit of full co-operation, the above report is made.

Respectfully submitted,
THE GREATER MEDFORD CLUB
By Inspection Committee,
Mable H. Parsons, Chairman.

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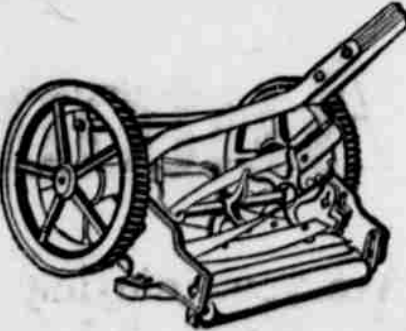
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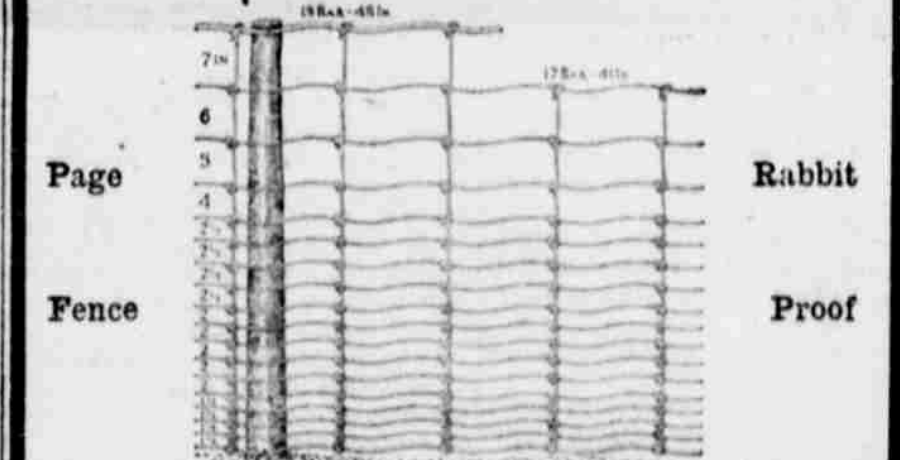
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