

EARLY VOTE ON ARCHBALD CASE PREDICTED NOW

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—When the impeachment trial of Judge Robert W. Archbald of the United States court of commerce, charged with misconduct, was resumed today in the senate, sentiment seemed to favor an early vote on the disposition of the case.

It was suggested today that the senate might remove Archbald from office without enforcing the second part of the impeachment penalty—disqualification for officeholding—but indications were that the full penalty would be imposed.

STATE TAX LEVY LOWEST ON RECORD

SALLEM, Ore., Jan. 9.—The state tax commission today completed its apportionment of state taxes for this year among the various counties. Including the special levy for the Monmouth Normal, the total state taxes to be raised this year amount to \$1,122,214.48, derived from the state levy of 1.1 mills, which is the lowest ever made in this state except in the year of 1859, when the levy was 1 mill.

Table listing county tax levies: Baker \$ 27,277.75, Benton 14,483.25, Clackamas 40,353.75, Clatsop 25,256.50, Columbia 18,422.25, Coos 24,811.00, Crook 15,879.25, Curry 4,306.00, Douglas 29,337.00, Gilliam 10,927.00, Grant 9,299.75, Harney 9,282.00, Hood River 12,750.50, Jackson 28,383.25, Josephine 13,719.00, Klamath 18,200.00, Lake 9,768.50, Lane 44,901.00, Lincoln 8,779.25, Linn 26,950.00, Malheur 12,291.50, Marion 51,577.00, Multnomah 410,188.48, Polk 20,954.00, Sherman 19,332.50, Tillamook 18,231.50, Umatilla 48,069.00, Union 25,044.50, Wallowa 13,035.75, Wasco 19,388.50, Washington 24,414.50, Wheeler 5,098.25, Yamhill 24,770.25

Are You Afflicted With Piles? This disease, whether acute or chronic, is easily and rapidly overcome by using Meritol Pile Remedy. Given positive and permanent relief when all others fail, and we heartily recommend it to any sufferer, Haskins' Drug Store.

The Daily Hint from Paris.



The new coat, housed front and back. Of black satin, ornamented with jet buttons and black fur.—Maison Bechoff-Davida.

CLERK OF COURT GRABBED INTEREST

TACOMA, Wash., Jan. 9.—The trial of Samuel Bridges, former clerk of the federal court at Tacoma who is charged with embezzling funds from the office, was resumed this morning before Judge Robert B. Bean, of Portland, substituting for Judge Cushman.

At yesterday's session W. C. Masterson, special agent for the government testified that Bridges took \$78,588.67 belonging to a railroad as a settlement of condemnation proceedings, deposited it in a bank and took the interest for his own personal use.

CITRUS CROP LOSS ONLY \$20,000,000

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Jan. 9.—An official statement that is issued today by the Los Angeles chamber of commerce claims that the damage to citrus fruits by recent frosts will not exceed 30 per cent of the crop. This would entail a loss of less than \$20,000,000.

EAGLE POINT EAGLETS.

(By A. C. Howlett.) Henry Young of Lake creek, an old veteran of the Civil war came out Thursday to visit old-time friends and relatives.

New Years day was properly celebrated although there was but very little doing on the streets or in the stores. Mrs. George Von der Hellen gave a dinner and had the following guests: Dr. and Mrs. Holt and daughter Miss Helen, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. J. V. McIntyre, Miss Mary Foster of Medford, besides relatives of the family. They had a very pleasant time and of course an excellent dinner.

Last Thursday our banker, J. V. McIntyre had a time getting into his bank. The rampass had swollen the door and also the door sill and it was such a strain on the lock that he was unable to turn the key in the lock but finally one of our blacksmiths, Henry Childreth came to his assistance and after the door was opened Mr. Childreth removed the cause and now he feels easy when he locks the door.

George E. White foreman on Mr. Cooley's orchard, Ortie Vastal, Mr. Vatchs who owns the old Reese place on Rogue river, Thomas Carlton and his brother Lyle were among the visitors in town Thursday. Also Mrs. Carl Narreagan were trading with our merchants.

Judge John Watkins our Justice of the peace, Wm. Von der Hellen and Thomas E. Nichols made out a new jury list for 1913 last Thursday. In spite of the wind, rain and fog our farmers still continue to come in and haul lumber from our lumber yard.

Mr. J. H. Lydiard of Table Rock came over last Thursday to get a lot of strawberry plant of Ed S. Wolfer our strawberry man, and spent the night with us, also Eddie Higginbotham and Thomas Stanley two of our out-going road supervisors.

Miss Edna Peeler of Butte Falls spent the night with us Thursday. She took the E. P. and Persist stage for Central school house where she is engaged to teach school. Mrs. Joe Ippert and her son Harris of Ednall's station also spent the night at the Sunny Side.

Medford A Good Town.

Medford is a mighty good town, worthy of the best of everything. That's why we have joined the American Drug and Press association and offer to our people the Meritol line of goods, guaranteed in every way, with preparations, made by the association and sold only through its members. There is nothing like these goods, guaranteed in every way, without an equal, made by experts. We want Medford people to have the best there is, so we offer you this line. Ask to see Meritol goods at Haskins' Drug Store.

TO FARMERS AND ORCHARDISTS.

Cultivate your land with a Motor Tractor. It will pay for itself in the saving of horse feed and hired help. Valley Motor & Tractor Co., Valley Garage, Medford.

Annual Report of Mayor Canon

Read, approved and ordered published by the council at the meeting, January 7, 1913.

To the Common Council of the City of Medford, Oregon.

Gentlemen: Section 1 of the charter of the city of Medford requires the mayor to make a written statement of the condition of all of the affairs of the city and to recommend such measures for the government and improvement thereof as he may deem expedient at the last meeting of the council each year, before the annual election. I propose on this occasion, which practically closes my four years work as mayor of Medford, outline briefly the accomplishments of these four busy and important years in the history of this city.

When I became mayor in January, 1909, Medford was a village. It had no adequate water system, no paved streets, excepting a few blocks on Main street; only the beginning of a sewerage system, and excepting in the center of the city, very little sidewalk. The population of the city was about 2,000, which entailed a free mail delivery, but the United States postal authorities had refused to institute free delivery here because of the lack of sidewalks and a proper system of house numbering. One of the first matters to which the new administration turned its attention was to secure the installation of sufficient sidewalks and to institute a system of house numbering to satisfy the federal authorities and secure free mail delivery in Medford. This was accomplished in the summer of 1909.

A much more important and critical situation confronted the new administration with reference to the water works system. The pressing need for an adequate supply of pure water in the city had led the preceding administration in its closing days to award a contract for building a \$200,000 gravity system, consisting of a pipeline from Little Butte creek to Medford, a distance of twenty-three miles without first securing any of the right-of-way therefor. When we came into office we found that the work of installing the system was about to commence and that the final line of location for the pipeline had not yet been completed by the surveyors. The pipeline passed through a well settled section, much of it in orchard and it was imperative necessary that we immediately go about the work of securing rights of way. This work was undertaken by the special water committee of the council, whose members laid aside their private business and concerns and devoted practically all their time to the work, driving day after day and many times far into the night, through rain and mud. The work accomplished by these men has never been adequately appreciated by the people of this city. So successful were their efforts that every right of way excepting one was secured without delay and in most cases without payment of money. The total cost of the right of way with the exception of one piece of which I shall speak presently, was secured for less than \$25.00 per mile.

The pipe line, however, ran through the ranch of M. F. Janley for a distance of more than two miles and the city found itself unable to secure, by negotiation, this portion of the right of way. It developed that the previous mayor and myself had entered into a contract with Mr. Hanley for the purchase of a water right and a right of way for a pipe line for \$25,000.00 and that they had afterward, for reasons which appeared sufficient to them, repudiated this contract and refused to carry it out and had bought their water supply elsewhere. When Mr. Hanley was approached for a right of way, he insisted that the city secure its right of way by carrying out its contract and paying him the \$25,000.00. As the city had already purchased and paid for a sufficient supply of water elsewhere, this offer was impracticable. The city having offered Mr. Hanley \$2,000.00 for the right of way and the offer having been refused, the matter was taken into the courts. Protracted litigation followed, accompanied by many delays and disappointments. After almost a year had elapsed Mr. Hanley consented to accept the \$2,000.00 and give the right of way and in the summer of 1910 the system was completed. In the meantime, however, and by July, 1909, we had succeeded in getting the Little Butte Creek water into the city by carrying it in an open ditch to a point below the Hanley ranch and from there taking it into the city pipe-line.

The completion of the gravity system did not solve the problem of furnishing Medford with an adequate supply of pure water. On the contrary, it only brought the situation to a more critical stage. The city had flowing into its reservoir each day, more than four million gallons of mountain water, but it had no distributing system with which to carry it to the people of the city. At this time there were in the city about seven miles of distributing mains, covering less than a quarter of the area of the city. Without an extensive distributing system it was not only impossible to furnish water to the people, but also impossible to realize revenue from the sale of the water to help take care of the interest on the \$300,000.00 which the gravity system had cost and this charge threatened to become a heavy burden upon the taxpayers of the city. Moreover the credit of the city had been taxed almost to its limits to secure the money to build the gravity system and it was clearly impossible to sell the general obligation bonds of the city in amounts sufficient to provide means for building a sufficient distributing system.

In this contingency, it was determined that the best course would be to submit to the people an amendment to the charter authorizing the assessment against abutting property...

the cost of installing distributing mains, these assessments to be made payable in annual installments and the city to have authority to issue water main bonds of the issue which should be payable from the proceeds of the system as the same were collected. This amendment was approved by the people of the city and a way was thus provided for financing the work of installing water mains.

There was, however, one feature in this proposed plan which operated most unjustly. The city had already issued general fund bonds for \$150,000.00 and had used the proceeds in building the portion of the distributing system which had already been installed. These bonds were a lien on all of the property of the city. If the property owner having no water main was now called upon to pay for the main in front of his premises, the result would be that he would, in fact pay for his own main and also help pay for the main of his more fortunate neighbor in front of whose premises the main had been previously installed. It was therefore decided to lease to each property owner paying an installment on a water main assessment, a certificate which would be good for the amount thereof in payment for water to be used on his premises. In this way the payment of the water main assessment under the city ordinance would be used on the premises and the cost of the distributing system is in fact paid by the surplus water of the city which would otherwise have gone to waste. This plan has proved extremely popular and successful and under it the city has built and installed twenty miles of water mains covering all parts of the city at a cost of almost \$300,000.00 and the necessary money has been readily procured. The result is that the receipts of the water department have gone up by leaps and bounds. At the present time the cash receipts of the water system are more than \$30,000.00 per annum and in addition more than \$6000.00 of water per annum is paid with certificates issued on account of payments on water main assessments. Water rentals in the city are estimated to be the average of two hundred cities in the United States concerning which we have the data. The supply allowed to users is at the present time practically unlimited, all rates being based on unlimited service and no meters being used. It is probable, however, that in the course of a few years, as the city grows, it will be found necessary to install meters and measure the water furnished to water users. The experience of other cities has been that this method has resulted in much more careful and economical use of water by the general public, and that the number of users who can be furnished water from a given supply.

Hand in hand with the installation of an adequate distributing system for our water, has gone the work of installing an adequate sewerage system. This work was absolutely essential to the health and welfare of the city and it has been carried forward by the city during the past four years. The preceding administration realizing the urgent necessity for this work, had constructed on Riverside avenue, during the fall and winter of 1908 a trunk sewer at a cost of about \$20,000.00 but had not paid for the same nor made any provision for raising money therefor. The work of finding a way to pay for this trunk sewer was bequeathed as a legacy to the present administration. The larger part of this was paid by careful economy and by saving for this purpose, a portion of the money levied for the general expenses of the city.

In addition the city has, during the past four years constructed more than twenty miles of sanitary sewer covering most of the city. There have also been constructed storm sewers to carry off the flood water from the streets during the rainy season at a cost of more than \$25,000.00. The sewers which have been built have been placed at a depth to drain basements and are of adequate size to meet, not only present requirements, but the requirements which are likely to exist for a considerable period of the future.

Another important work which was immediately undertaken, was the paving of the streets of the city. In the summer of 1909 the city had been let for the paving of a few blocks on Main street with bituminous pavement and a part of the pavement had been laid. During the summer of 1909 the work on Main street was completed and Oakdale avenue was paved. A contract was also let for paving West Main street, but the work was not carried to completion. It became evident that during the season of 1910 there would be a large demand from the property owners for the paving of the city. The cost of the bituminous pavement had averaged about \$2.50 per yard and it was determined, if possible to secure a satisfactory pavement at a lower price. Accordingly the mayor and council in the spring of 1910 took steps to ascertain just what amount of paving would be wanted by property owners during that season. The majority of the property owners on a large number of streets asked to have their streets paved and the city having gotten together a large amount of work it was determined that the mayor and a committee of the council should go to California and elsewhere to interview paving contractors, examine their work and attempt to secure proposals from them for doing this work. A large number of paving contractors were interviewed and a new campaign was conducted for the securing of proposals. A considerable number of propositions were submitted which resulted in a large saving to the city. The mayor and council however, were not satisfied that the very lowest price obtainable had been secured and accordingly all bids were rejected and a new campaign was started to secure still other contractor to bid and if possible still lower offers. At the second bidding, the Clark-Henry Construction company submitted a proposition which the mayor and council considered extremely reasonable and which meant a reduction from prices paid of over thirty per cent. The bids which had been examined and found to be first

class in every respect and the price at which they offered to lay the paving was considerably lower than any paving of similar character had ever been done for in the state of Oregon. In fact the price bid for this company was substantially lower than the city of Portland was paying for work of the same character, although the cost of freight on the material entering into the pavement from Portland to Medford is between 30 and 40 cents per yard. Accordingly a large contract was given to the Clark-Henry Construction Co. and as other property, from time to time, petitioned for paving, in front of their property from time to time additional contracts have been let to the Clark-Henry Construction Co. on the same basis as the original contract.

The result is that more than eighteen miles of street in the city of Medford have been paved. Making Medford the best paved city of its size in the country. Every yard of this paving has been carefully inspected and I feel warranted in saying that nowhere has there ever been laid so large an amount of paving of a more uniform high quality and considering all the conditions, at a more reasonable cost. So far as I know, there is not, in the city of Medford, a defective yard of their paving. Further proof that the paving is reasonable and low, is that practically all the other cities of Western Oregon have taken advantage of the presence of the Clark-Henry Construction company in this section and have awarded them their paving work. In fact it is not too much to say that the bringing of the Clark-Henry Construction company into the paving work in Western Oregon was the means of breaking the paving combination which previously existed and not only saved more than \$200,000.00 to the city of Medford, but also saved the other cities of Western Oregon large amounts as well. The city has now no more property owners from selecting, if they choose, any other form of pavement, not from securing contractors to make better propositions if they were able to do so. In one instance, the property owners on one of the streets undertook to carry on the paving themselves and awarded a contract to another firm on what seemed to them to be more advantageous terms. The result, however, was that the contractors ascended before fairly getting into the work, leaving behind them a large number of creditors and the property owners came to the city, asking it to take over the matter of paving the street and let the contractor to the Clark-Henry Construction company which was done.

The work of the mayor and council during the past four years has been marked with uniform harmony and unflinching spirit of co-operation. It has been the constant and earnest effort of every man connected with the government of the city to give the city a careful, economical business administration of city affairs. This fact has been reflected in the moderate expenditures of the city during this administration and the consequently low tax rate. In spite of the fact that Medford has progressed during the last four years more rapidly than any of the smallest cities of Oregon, the rate of taxation here has been the lowest of any city in the state. The tax levy for city purposes for the year 1910 was 8 mills; for 1911, 9 1/2 mills, and for the year 1912, 9 1/2 mills.

In this amount has been included, not only the money necessary for running the city, but also many thousands of dollars for other purposes among which have been the cost of building a new bridge across Bear creek at Jackson street; the cost of installing the storm sewers; of building a new septic tank; the new market building and for paying the principal portion of the cost of the trunk sewer on Riverside avenue.

The city has at no time during the past four years, been in default in the payment of its general fund warrants, there having always been on hand in the city treasury, ample funds to meet in cash every obligation of the city.

It has been my earnest endeavor to give the people of this city an administration of the police department and particularly with respect to the liquor traffic, which would give the approval and wishes of the majority of the people of the city. I have endeavored to fairly and intelligently enforce the laws of the state of Oregon and the ordinances of the city of Medford in every particular. The saloons have been closed promptly at the hour provided for by ordinance, constant watch has been kept to see that liquors were not sold to minors and that they were not allowed to be in the saloons. Needless to say there have been violations of the law. This is inevitable. The laws against larceny, burglary and even murder have at times been violated in the city but such violations as have occurred in the liquor laws, have occurred despite the vigilance of the present administration and not because of any laxity therein.

The population of Medford has doubled in the last four years, and believing that it is for the best interests of the city that the number of saloons should be kept small so that every man in the business can make a living profit without resorting to questionable practices and law violations and that then everybody in the business should be held to a strict compliance with the laws, we have not increased the number of liquor licenses in the city except to give bars to the two first class hotels which have been erected during that period. In fact there are in the city aside from these two hotel bars, one hundred saloons that there were four years ago. In view of the fact that the population has so greatly increased, while the number of saloons has been held stationary, we considered that we might fairly raise the price of liquor licenses and decrease the number during which the saloons were permitted to be open. Accordingly the price of license was increased from \$800.00 to \$1000.00 and the closing hour was made one hour earlier.

I am aware that many good people would have liked to see still more radical action taken in this respect but it seems to me that it is a sufficient answer to say that under the initiative and referendum these peo-

ple are at liberty to propose at any election an ordinance putting into effect their ideas and if the same had met with the approval of a majority of the voters of the city, I would have been diligent to carry into effect the provisions of any such ordinance. In this matter, as in all others, I am a firm believer in the principle that the laws should reflect the will of the people and so long as the initiative and referendum is open to the people, no one can rightly complain because laws are not passed to suit their particular ideas. So long as their public servants faithfully endeavor to support and enforce the laws as they exist.

During the four years that I have been mayor of Medford, and notwithstanding the great amount of public improvement of all kinds that have been carried on, not one dollar has been recovered against the city for damages arising from the property injury, either to persons or property, and no amount has been paid out by way of compromise for any such matters except in one instance and that amount of this payment was only \$200.

I submit that this speaks well for the care with which the work in this city has been carried on. When I became mayor, I found a dispute of long standing between the city of Medford and the local light company. It appears that in 1905, the city and the light company had entered into a contract whereby the light company agreed to furnish the city power for lighting, and pumping at 1 1/4c per kilowatt hour. When in 1907 the city turned its lighting plant over to the Electric company under a franchise wherein 4c per kilowatt hour was fixed as the minimum charge which the company was required to make for electric power in the city, the company immediately raised the claim that this franchise operated to abrogate the old contract fixing the rate of 1 1/4c per kilowatt hour and authorized the company to charge the city for power furnished thereafter at the rate of 4c per kilowatt hour as fixed by the franchise. The company presented to the city each month its bills based on the 4c rate, which the city refused to pay, but instead ordered warrants drawn at the 1 1/4c rate. The company in retaliation refused to pay the 5 per cent on its gross earnings to the city as required by the franchise and at the time I became mayor this practice had gone on until the amount disputed exceeded \$7000.00. By taking a firm attitude in this matter and threatening immediate litigation, we were able to settle this controversy on the basis of the city's claim. We also became convinced, upon investigation, that the charge of 25c made to each of the users of electricity for each month as a meter charge, was illegal and contrary to the terms of its charter. We accordingly advised the property owners that they were under no obligations to pay this charge and offered to conduct an injunction suit in case the company should threaten to shut off the supply of electricity from any consumer by reason of such refusal. The company, however, refused to permit the city to raise in this manner by avoiding all threats to shut off the electricity from those who refused to pay the meter charge. While the matter stood in this shape, the management of the company changed hands and the new officials advised the city to permit the company to continue in this respect voluntarily abandoned the practice of making a charge for meter rentals which has resulted in a saving to the people of the city of several thousand dollars per year.

On June 6th of the year of 1912, the Electric company acting under the provisions of its franchise, had erected the city \$20,000 by virtue of which it claimed to be released from all liability to further pay per cent of its gross earnings to the city. While there is some question to the validity of the franchise of this company, in view of the fact that it was passed and approved by the voters of the city after a thorough discussion and general understanding of the matter and in view of the fact that the company, acting under the franchise, in good faith, has made large expenditures, I believe that it would be unjust and unwise to question the validity of the franchise and that the tender made by the company be accepted by the city and all claim to the further payment of 5 per cent abandoned. I do, however, believe that the city is entitled to better rates on its street lighting than it receives at the present time and that perhaps the people of the city should receive a lower rate for commercial lighting. This is a matter which should be taken up by the next administration and thoroughly investigated. Under the new Public Utility Commission Law of Oregon, matters such as this can be referred to the commission and a decision had thereon. This is one of the first matters which should receive attention by the next administration.

The present administration has seen of the opinion that the facilities for crossing Bear creek should be improved and two years ago it was decided that a new bridge should be constructed across the creek at Jackson street. In order to accomplish this result without increasing the indebtedness of the city a tax of one mill was included in the general fund levy for the years of 1910 and 1911. A new and better bridge at Main street was also a great necessity. The charter of the city of Medford placed upon the county the obligation of building this latter bridge and in order to induce the county to build the city a new and substantial bridge at this place, negotiations were entered upon and the city finally agreed to pay \$13,500.00 for the old bridge at this point, the same to be applied toward the cost of a new bridge. This proposition having been accepted, the old bridge was taken down and replaced at Jackson street and the county awarded a contract for the building of a handsome new bridge at Main street. The litigation which followed between certain taxpayers of the county and the county officials and contractor is familiar to everyone. It is sufficient to state that the contention of the city was sustained by the highest court and that the new bridge across Bear creek at Main street is nearing completion and the old bridge has already been taken down and re-

placed at Jackson street. The cost of the purchase of the old bridge was paid by the bond issue but the cost of tearing it down and rebuilding it, amounting to nearly \$6000.00 was paid by the city out of its tax moneys. The balance of the money realized from the extra tax for the bridge was used by the city in paying for other necessary expenses such as the building of a new septic tank. This the city has a perfect right to do for the reason that the charter does not contemplate the making of levies for particular purposes and under the charter there are but three funds in the city. Street and road fund; the debt paying fund; and the general fund from which all other expenditures are made. While for convenience the general fund has been divided up and in levying it different amounts are calculated for different purposes, in contemplation of law, the general fund levies are all one levy and the moneys realized therefrom may lawfully be used by the city in such portions as are found expedient for the different needs of the city.

During the past year the city managed to save from its current funds sufficient money to erect a Public Market building on Riverside avenue and to defray the necessary expenses of maintaining and operating the same. I feel justified in saying that this Public Market building is a great benefit to the people of the city in reducing the cost of living and I earnestly urge that it be supported and encouraged in every possible way by the next administration.

There have been other accomplishments during the past year, the importance of which would deserve extended comment were it not that this report is already sufficiently long to try the patience of the public. During the past year the Public Library of the city has been housed in a fine new building and ample provisions have been made for its maintenance in a manner which will make it a credit to the city. In the recent tax levy was included an appropriation of about \$4000.00 to defray the expenses of this institution during the coming year and provide a fund for new books.

The growth of the city of Medford and the erection of a considerable number of new buildings along modern and more metropolitan lines has rendered necessary more modern and adequate fire protection. Accordingly during the last year a paid fire department was instituted in the city and I feel warranted in stating that this department, with the assistance of the splendid water supply of the city and the modern equipment which has been purchased for it, will be found capable of affording the city first class fire protection. This fire department has added several thousand dollars each year to the necessary expenses of the city.

The growth of the city also seemed to render desirable, if not necessary, that additional safeguards be thrown about our elections in order to remove the danger of fraudulent election voting. Accordingly we submitted to the legal voters of the city, about a year ago, an amendment to the charter requiring the voters to be registered for our annual city election. This provision of the charter was for several years a subject of discussion and worked satisfactorily. In conclusion, permit me to say that I feel much pride in the city of Medford and in the work that has been done during the past four years, to make it the most modern and up to date city of its size in the United States.

While I believe it can be truthfully said that in carrying on the extensive work of improving, no money has been wasted and the work has been done for the lowest possible price. Still it is nevertheless true that a large amount of money has been expended and a heavy indebtedness has been contracted. I firmly believe that the experience of the future will justify the wisdom of these expenditures. But nevertheless it must be recognized that the present burden on many of our citizens is heavy. In my judgment, it should be the aim of the next administration to do everything possible to lighten this burden. A rigid economy in every department should be practiced and considerable forbearance, extended to those taxpayers and property owners who manifest a disposition to do their best to meet their obligations to the city. In this connection, I venture to call attention to the fact that the outstanding assessments due the city for paving, sewer and water mains, when collected are paid out in redeeming the outstanding improvement and water main bonds of the city. While these bonds are payable at any time they are not due for several years from the date of their issuance although the interest thereon must be paid annually. It is a serious question whether it would not be wise during the present period of depression and stringency, to permit to meet the indebtedness due the city these assessments, to pay the interest thereon thereby providing a fund for the payment of the interest on the bonds and grant to them an extension in making payment on the principal of these assessments. This can be done without incurring any new debt and will result in leaving in the community a considerable amount of money which is needed for conducting of business. It might be a small charge should be made in case of granting of any such extension, to cover the cost of the additional clerical work. A rigid economy is necessary during the next year or two does not mean that the progress and improvement of the city should stop. There is still much work to be done in Medford in making the place a beautiful and a more desirable place in which to live. The city, on which the work of the carpenters and the plumbers has been completed. The decorating and beautifying still remains to be done. But this is work which can now be done largely with our own labor and the expenditure of any great amount of money. Efforts should be made to improve the parking strips on our streets. A crusade should be waged against weeds and much similar work can be done by our own labor in the way of beautifying and finishing the city.

Respectfully,
W. H. CANON.