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**ARGUMENTS ON SPECIAL ELECTION**

The following communications have been received for publication bearing on the special election to change the city charter:

**The Water Question.**

Take for example a home that is assessed for \$200. The present year's tax is as follows: State tax at 3 1/4 mills is \$1.50; county tax at 6 mills is \$3.00; the city tax being 10 mills and at least one-half of this is for bridge and street improvements, leaving 4 1/2 or 5 mills for city government, or \$2.50; making a total of \$7.50. This is for purely governmental purposes. When the year has passed and gone, the \$7.50 is gone, and all we have for the same is the condition of our state, county and city as in morally and socially to begin the next year. The county school tax is 20 mills or \$10.00, making \$12.50 for school purposes.

This is never lost if the school is managed in such a way that we get something like a dollar's worth on the dollar, or facilities for our children or our neighbor's children for an education. Then there is the 5 mills of city tax, or \$2.50, for bridge and street improvement. This with the \$12.50 school tax makes \$15.00 that we get a permanent benefit from. To this add the \$7.50 governmental tax and we have \$22.50, the total tax on \$200 assessment.

Now take the water tax on this home: \$1.00 for house use, 25c for bath, 25c for toilet and 25c for hot water boiler, or \$1.75 per month, making for the year \$21.00, to say nothing of lawn or garden sprinkling. What kind of a tax is this? Of what use is it after the year has gone? Only the fond recollection that you have put up your part to help strengthen the water company, which with all this cannot or does not keep pace with our city's growth; and this with no fire protection. Think of it, \$7.50 and \$21.00, making \$28.50, or \$15.10 that has a lasting benefit to us.

How does this compare with a municipal water plant? With the same rates a municipal plant would pay for the cost of the plant in 10 years, and each year every tax payer will have paid 1-15th of the plant, at which time the water rates will not be more than 60 per cent of the present rates. Also during this entire time the city will have reaped the benefits of a thorough fire protection, in the reduced insurance premiums and the protection to all of the uninsured property and stocks, and ample water for lawns and gardens, all of which tend to beautify our city. With a thoroughly up to date municipal water plant and fire protection, the value of real property in the city will increase as taken together three times at least more than the cost of this plant. Let me ask you, what could our city more good, in the way of making it a desirable place for a home than an abundant supply of pure mountain spring water, and that at a low price, owned and operated by the people, for the people and our visitors. Let us wake up to the situation, and show to ourselves and the outside world that we are alive to our conditions and can and will make use of the exceptionally favored conditions that nature has given us, by voting to change the charter, so that the water user can when paying for his water rent in a few short years, at the same time and price pay for the plant and own it. Also let me say that a majority should not rule? None but a person who thinks that a select few should be elevated to a position by which it would require at least two of us, or who they no doubt

think are the common rabble, to balance their vote. Shame to the man who thinks another's vote twice as great as his.

In answer to JAH and the News, Does the editor of the News, by his sudden advance to epulence, wealth and importance, imagine he is able to resuscitate the conditions of feudal times, with the lords, princes, serfs and slaves? But we the common people, with our respectable, though plain homes can say, with thanks to God, there are not many such in our community as JAH and ye mighty scribbles.

April 1908 in all earlier, are not P. S. Davidson, the Light and Water Co. and Leslie Butler part owners of the News? What would become of our public schools under the proposed plan of property and majorities if the News and JAH (namely, your vote to count according to your property?) Would the heavy taxpayers and corporations, with their allied interests, vote 20 mills special school tax? Hence from the past answer, not this year nor next. This is enough to make Jefferson, Monroe and especially Lincoln hang their heads with shame, were they here. He certainly handles the names of Rockefeller, Morgan and Hartman carefully, as no doubt—in his mind—and they have known of the wonderful conspiracy in paper that was being consummated here, they would have begged for permission to buy a little stock; also if you are not aware that municipal ownership of water system does not increase taxation, please read the reports from other cities which you have failed or refused to publish, and a small ray of light might break in on your otherwise illumined mind. I write this advisedly, so "charge it to me."

**Equal Representation**

Editor Glacier.—In a recent publication of the Hood River News I notice that the editor endorses the proposition that a few large property holders should have a voting strength equal to the balance of the town, who are small holders. It is a long time since we have heard of a man who assumes intelligence enough to edit a newspaper who was willing to advance such an argument. What condition would we be in should a few men who own or control large property interests (for which they are probably largely in debt) be in a position to dictate to a large number of small householders, the majority of whom own the town house, how they should be governed? The big property owner goes to Portland for a few days to see Ben Hur, etc., and he comes home with a brand new outfit for himself and family. The small home owner stays at home and works every day so that he can pay his bills, and spends his money at home helping to build up his home town. Who pays the largest amount in water rates, the small property owner or the large one? Who would contribute the most toward paying for a new plant. Not the few large tax payers, but the small holders. Then why should not the majority rule? I again say, shame to the man who would insinuate otherwise. A Small Property Owner.

**Argument on Change of Charter.**

Two features are presented to the voters for change.

First, to allow the income from a water system to go toward the payment for the plant. The charter now reads (abbreviated): The council shall levy a tax on all taxable property to pay interest on bonds and provide a sinking fund to pay off the bonds.

The proposed change will read (abbreviated):

(a) The council shall fix a water

rate sufficient to pay interest on bonds and provide a sinking fund to pay off the bonds.

(b) The council may levy and collect a tax not to exceed six-tenths of one per cent per annum to pay interest on bonds.

Argument on first proposed change: The present charter does not allow the income from a water system to go toward paying off the bonds. It provides that that property must be tax in amount in the plant and pay for it. To change this so that water rates should maintain the plant is in accord with the plan in other towns. It places the credit account right across the page from its debit account. Is there any special reason why Hood River should not do so other towns in this business?

Can any reasonable man object to this? Of course it takes the thunder out of the tax threats. It destroys any further gabble about two plants running here in competition. For when tax payers see that if they do not stretch the city means they are more than likely to keep up the plant, a competing plant will soon pull out.

We believe, however, the present council will offer for the present plant what it is actually worth to the city. If this works out as carefully and equitably planned, no such contingency can arise.

**Argument on change No. 2.**

This change is to reduce the present necessary three-thirds vote on a bond issue to a majority of free holders. The wording now is: "and two-thirds of the vote upon the question of their issuance be found to be in favor thereof."

If changed it will read: "and majority of the vote upon a question of their issuance to be found to be in favor thereof; provided, however, that no person shall be entitled to vote who is not, in addition to the other necessary qualifications, a freeholder in said city of Hood River."

**Argument One.**

Other towns of the size of Hood River who are responding to the public utility committee's inquiry have carried their vote on a majority of free holders. A great many towns make it a majority of legal voters. In Hood River the vote on bonds is to be limited to those actually holding property. No reason appeared why Hood River should be peculiar about this matter. Indeed it has been urged that in limiting the vote to a "majority of free-holders" we have been especially conservative. The reason for this will appear later in the argument.

**Argument Two.**

Indeed any other plan than a majority allows a minority to rule. The two-thirds vote as provided for in the U. S. Constitution, in state constitutions and in city charters are largely for equalizing the power of vote.

I think you should by all means own your water system. You will find after a little experience that you can be assured of better and cheaper service.

Very truly yours,  
M. F. Eggleston,  
City Recorder.

**Hood River Heights Club Protest.**

At a meeting of the Hood River Heights Club, Tuesday evening, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

Be it resolved, that we, the Hood River Heights Club, in meeting assembled, do look upon the article signed "J. A. B.," published in the Hood River News, February 10, 1909, and the editorial in the News of same date, wherein their policy is clearly brought out the condition, that our votes are to be counted according to our property, namely, "it is unwise to place the voting of large sums of money for public improvements in the hands of small tax payers, who are more numerous but do not own a majority of the property to be bonded," as a proposition leading to a condition that we denounce as an American, by being contrary to the Declaration of Independence, contrary to the constitution of the United States, and contrary to the Constitution of Oregon and our public school system. And we hope that no true lover of freedom in our fair city and valley will countenance any party or parties or their allies who would undertake to bring about or advocate such a condition. Be it further resolved that this be published in the Hood River Glacier.

**Protest From East Barrett.**

At a public meeting held at the East Barrett school house Monday evening the following was passed and signed, and handed in for publication:

The following appears in the first issue of the Hood River News:

"It is unwise to place the voting of large issues of money for public improvements in the hands of small tax

JAH may be an ignorant man with good intentions and not familiar with our history. He may have for the moment stopped on the wrong side. Not so with the News Editor. He is an educated man. He knows of the Stamp Act and the Continental Congress. He is familiar with our history. When he commends JAH he is not only accepting all that is said in the above pernicious quotation, but he goes on to add "it is unwise to place the power of voting large sums of money for public improvements in the hands of small taxpayers who are more numerous, but do not own a majority of the property to be bonded." You believe that, do you?

Brains, good judgment, fairness, are measured by the size of a man's purse, are they? Then as an editor who poor you would have no vote even though possessed of a good education; but if you suddenly found a purse or a bunch of stock, or poured water into a corporation you should at once pass to the possession of many votes. You believe that, do you? Just apply this. One, for-sigh, feudal, noble, Britton, policy to local affairs and lets see where you come out.

Is it out of place to suggest that the News be moved to Russia where it belongs?

Pub. Com.

**Plant Municipal Success in Ashland.**

D. J. Treiber,  
Secretary of Hood River Heights Club,  
Hood River, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your inquiry of the Water Superintendent of this city of the 25th ult., I have to advise you that the municipal ownership of the water plant here has worked exceedingly well. It pays about \$7,000 a year above a sum of maintenance and interest charges and costs of extensions that are made yearly. It is a gravity system and is one of the best on the coast. It has always been owned by the city. The flat monthly rate per family is \$1.00 with 10 cents for bath and 5 cents for toilet and additional where there is connection with the sewer.

I enclose you a printed list of water rates. We charge \$8.00 per acre for irrigation, and lawn 25 cents per month.

No direct tax was necessary to keep up the plant. On the contrary, the general fund has often borrowed money from the water fund to meet general expenses of the city.

I think you should by all means own your water system. You will find after a little experience that you can be assured of better and cheaper service.

**Three counsels in this state, Seaton, Lincoln and Yamhill, have not a single prisoner in the state penitentiary. This is shown by the biennial report of the superintendent, C. W. James, who has classified the prisoners as to their crimes, length of sentence and county from which committed.**

Unkempt, dirty and with his ankle so badly sprained that he cannot stand without assistance, Robert Gerrieh, who escaped from the Oregon Insane Asylum last November, was found in a barn at Oakland Friday night and taken back to the asylum. He can give no account of his wanderings or the cause of his injury.

Before the next regular river and harbor bill is framed by congress, a report will have been submitted by the army engineers, passing upon the necessity for a 30-foot channel from Portland to the sea, and that report will be accompanied by the outline of a project and estimate of cost. If the report is favorable, it will be binding upon congress, and it is reasonable to presume that the new work will be started under authority contained in the bill.

Four tramps were discovered in an alley at the rear of a Salem brewery Saturday morning by the police. Two of the men were nearly dead and several hours were required to resuscitate them. The other two were unconscious and all were taken to jail in an express wagon.

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"Willow Flat."

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Family orchard in bearing, apples, peaches, pears, plums, cherries, grapes, etc. Also 150 Yellow Newtown, 2 years old; 50 1 year old and 156 Spitzembergs 1 year old. 2 1/2 acres 1 year old strawberries set between trees; 5 inches water; fair buildings, well, wood, hay, two seated back, harness, tools, etc. About 2 acres in grove. Price \$6,500 terms.

David Everhart.

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**Arthur Waldstein, Manager**

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**J. G. VOGT**