

LETTERS ON THE WATER QUESTION

The following letters from the Mayor to the State Board of Health, and from the latter to the Mayor, Council and City health officers, bring out a few points to the water which will be of interest to the public.

Hood River Oregon, Sept. 10, 1909. Oregon State Board of Health, Portland, Ore.

Gentlemen: Your letter of recent date with copy of report made to one W. I. Clark is before me, and to say the least is a paradox. In the first place you were requested at least three times by our city health officer to come up and take up this matter with the City Council.

Now the question arises, why you as public officials tried to avoid the city officials or the public? Why did you only examine one water plant?

There are several, and while they are small they all have some bearing on the future water supply of Hood River. You apparently did not discover that not more than one half of the residents of Hood River are supplied from what you term as the lower spring.

Now as to the upper supply. It is owned by private individuals, not even by the water company and is beyond the jurisdiction of the city. The Water Company buy approximately 10000 gallons of water per day from the irrigating company which is delivered almost directly to the distributing system.

The city will gladly do all that they can inside the city limits and outside, too, where they have jurisdiction, which would be in case they owned the source of supply. The city will co-operate with you in every way possible in this case. We are forced to depend entirely on your authority and assistance to prevent filthy and diseased water being sold in the city.

The city four years ago bought a source of supply and own it, and this year have further added to it, and as soon as legal requirements can be complied with will install a supply of clean water; hence can see no good reason why they should try to spend money trying to do something with an uncertain supply out side of their jurisdiction.

Portland, Sept. 21, 1909. To the Honorable Mayor and City Council, Hood River, Oregon. Gentlemen: We beg to acknowledge receipt of copy of resolutions passed by your honorable body, concerning the recent visit to Hood River of the State Board of Health.

Also, that in 1907, as reported, this Board visited Hood River and pointed out to the Council the unsatisfactory conditions of its water supply and its possible source of danger.

Again, this Board has made frequent examination of the water, showing its exact condition from a bacteriological standpoint, so that your honorable body has been at all times informed as to the nature of the water supply, as fully as has this Board.

The attitude of the State Board of Health in matters of this kind, not only as it affects your own city, but as affecting any city of the State, is well known which is that every city should secure its water supply from the purest source possible; also, that if a city cannot or will not secure

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such a water supply, it becomes the duty of the official to secure the best possible under the existing condition. In this respect, we believe your Council has fallen considerably short of its full duty.

1. That the Water Company buys approximately 10,000 gallons of water per day from the irrigating company, which is delivered almost directly to their distributing system.

2. That the lower spring, at least, in former years, as shown by record, flows approximately double the volume during the irrigating season. This would demonstrate, as stated by the Mayor, that this spring is also surface water.

Portland, Sept. 22, 1909. Hon. D. McDonald, Mayor, Hood River, Oregon. Your letter of September 10 received and contents noted. As to why this matter was taken up with the Citizens' Committee is sufficiently explained in our letter to the Council.

the function of this Board, nor is it its intention, to attempt to do anything that it is the plain duty of local authorities to do, and you yourself would probably be the first to resist any such assumption on the part of the Board.

3. Absolutely no attention was paid to recommendations of the Board at its previous visit. We were led to believe that the Citizens' Committee was composed of men interested in the city's welfare and actuated by high motives.

4. We believe that we have done all that is possible for us as a Board to do, viz., to point out the defects and possible dangers of your water supply, and to suggest to you what measures are necessary to protect it until replaced by a suitable one.

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