

JACKSONVILLE SENTINEL

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Friday, August 5,th 1904.

The critical voter will have a big list of candidates to select from at the presidential election this November, there being eight presidential candidates to select from, they being as follows: Republican, Roosevelt and Fairbanks; Democratic, Parker and Davis; Prohibitionist, Swallow and Carroll; Socialist, Debs and Hanford; Social-Labor, Corregan and Cox; Populist, Watson and Tribbles; Negro Liberty, Scott and Payne; Independent, James Inman.

WATER SUPPLY FOR JACKSONVILLE.

The problem of a supply of water for Jacksonville that will be pure and in quantity sufficient for the town is one that is of serious moment to the citizens of Jacksonville now that there are bright prospects for the town's growth. The lack of ample water for household, irrigation and fire protection purposes is a heavy handicap to the town's growth for a plentiful supply of water at reasonable rates is one of the things always considered by prospective investors before they purchase property in a town. The more satisfactory the public utilities of a town the more prosperous, and the water supply is the most important of these utilities and is the one that should be first considered in the upbuilding of a town.

As there is no large stream in the vicinity of Jacksonville from which water can be had for town use, so another source of supply must be secured. Of these possible sources of supply there are several that are feasible. The one that would be the cheapest would be the cross-tunnel on the bedrock under Daisy creek now being undertaken by Peter Applegate. This source would afford water that would be cool and of the purest quality, but as the watershed of Daisy creek is small it is not likely that a very large quantity of water could be secured, but by opening up a large tunnel area a storage capacity could be had to hold the inflow of water during the hours of the night when little is being drawn off that would make it possible that this system would supply all the demand for Jacksonville even were the town to double in population. A reservoir on the hill, which would be necessary to give gravity pressure, would give a reserve supply in case of fire. The town will be debarred from getting water from Jackson creek by both the present water rights of individuals and by requirements for water by the quartz mills that are expected to be located along this stream. As these mills would use a very large quantity of water they may have to put in storage reservoirs in the upper section of Jackson creek to keep up the supply of water during the dry season. This reservoir system could be made a source of supply for Jacksonville and it would not be so very expensive, as there are narrow gorges and dam could be put in. While the water would be pure, it would not be so cool as an

under ground supply but as the pipe line to bring it to town would be two or more miles in length the water would be quite palatable when drawn from the faucets. As for the present supply of water that is had by the town from Jackson creek that would end so soon as large quartz mills were in operation up the creeks for the slickings would render the water unfit for house use and the sediment would fill the pipes and cisterns.

There is a big underground flow of water on the lowland below town but as it is but 10 to 25 feet to bedrock and this water gets all the drainage from the town it would not be healthful for drinking and cooking purposes. And a sewerage system would not fully do away with this source of danger for there would yet be great quantities of impurities from the streets and back yards soaking into the ground. Water pumped from wells in the main part of town would be as liable to be infected with disease germs as that had from below for it is affected by surface water. An unlimited supply of pure mountain water could be had from Little Applegate or from Squaw lake but the great cost would preclude this system unless both Jacksonville and Medford could join in the undertaking and the towns were large enough to justify the expense which would probably be \$50,000 or \$75,000.

Water Jacksonville must have and if the town cannot get the best then it will have to take the best to be had. With ample water for irrigating purposes Jacksonville could be made the handsomest town in all Southern Oregon for it now has the location and the environment for natural beauty and scenery that make it one of the most desirable residence towns in Oregon. Jacksonville is practically without fire protection for the present cistern water supply and hand fire engine would avail little in a big conflagration. With a large reservoir on the hill an ample supply of water would be in reserve to meet the exigencies of a big fire and the high gravity pressure would enable water to be thrown direct from the hydrants onto a burning building. A good water system would be one of the most profitable investments that could be made for Jacksonville for that would do more than any other one venture to attract to the town enterprising business men and desirable families.

Jacksonville is now to have a bank and it is expected to be ready for business within two months. No details have given out but W. C. Morris, at present cashier of the Oregon Savings Bank, of Portland, will be at the head of the new company which will be composed of Portland, Spokane and Jacksonville capitalists. The Blue Ledge copper people are the moving spirits in this bank undertaking and it is an indication that their mining venture is a go and that they will make Jacksonville their headquarters. The opening of this bank will be a most important factor in the business revival to Jacksonville for it will first of all, give the people of this place renewed confidence in the future of their town and give them courage to undertake measures that will help in the upbuilding of Jacksonville. It will also give the town a higher standing in the commercial world and be a great advantage to the local business men in the transaction of their banking business. That a bank has been opened in Jacksonville will indicate to prospective investors and immigrants that the town is on the up grade, that investments are safe and that the town has a future that will justify their becoming residents of it.

Spectacles soldered and other light repairing done at reasonable prices at Hickel's jewelry store, Jacksonville.

Cabbage, fresh and crisp and all other vegetables fresh from Maury's gardens at Learned's. Fresh fruits of all kinds.

SHALL JACKSONVILLE OWN ITS LIGHT AND WATER PLANTS?

As to whether the light and water service for Jacksonville shall be handled by the town or by a private corporation is the question now to be considered by the citizens of this place. The trend of the times is for municipal ownership of public utilities and the exorbitant charges and frequent controversies and lawsuits between towns and private light and water companies is but accelerating this movement. Three-fifths of the cities and towns of the United States now own their water and light plants and the time is not far distant when municipal ownership of these utilities will be universal. There are many towns here in Oregon that pay the greater part of their expenses from the profits of their water and light plants. Were there not big profits in these utilities, one of the companies seeking a perpetual and exclusive franchise from us would not have offered to give a \$700 street light service for \$200 a year and the other company offered to light the streets free of charge if given an ironclad franchise. Of course they expected to make this money back by big charges to the private consumers.

As to the profit in lighting, the retail price for electricity runs from 15 to 18 cents per kilowatt, while the town is offered current by the Gold Hill company at 3 cents a kilowatt. The cost of operating the plant would not exceed \$25. per month to keep the street lights in order and oil for the journals of the dynamo. No expert electrician would be required for there is no complicated machinery to look after, a dynamo being so simple in construction that if kept oiled, will run for months without repair. All that would be required would be for the town night watchman to move the lever and turn on the current in the evening and turn it off in the morning. For wiring buildings and doing other expert work the company would send a competent man to be paid by the day by the town, the individual paying the town for the wiring and fixtures for his buildings. The dynamo would occupy no more space than a large stove, and a space 8x10 feet in one corner of the town hall would be all that would be required. The total cost of the light plant would be about \$3,500, of this \$1200 would be for the motor and \$2300 for freight, installing and for wiring the streets for 50 incandescent lights and for connections with buildings. Arc lights are not used in small towns, they being too expensive, as a separate machine is required.

Jacksonville could as readily handle the water as the light system though the cost of installing would be larger, probably \$15000 for a system like the one Peter Applegate has begun, which would involve crosscutting beneath Daisy creek with a tunnel and for a reservoir on the hill and for piping the town. As the demand for water would be very large and the cost of pumping small the electric company offering to furnish the power at \$5 per horsepower per month, for a 24 hour service it would be a good business proposition for the councilmen to thoroughly investigate the advisability of the town owning both the light and water plants so that they may be able to judge as to whether the town should retain its franchises or turn them over to a private corporation.

The granting of a franchise for a light and water plant for Jacksonville is a matter of serious importance to the welfare of the town and no final action should be taken in the matter until a full and careful consideration has been given the propositions submitted by the companies asking for the franchise. The council should consult with some disinterested electrician and an attorney as to the requirements of the proposed service of the terms of contract and no vote should be taken until every member

of the board is present. The costly and unsatisfactory experience of other towns should be a warning not to grant an exclusive and perpetual franchise to any company. So rapid is the development in electrical science that cheaper light and power is one of the possibilities of the near future and no contract longer than for 10 years should be granted. A bad blunder now by the council might mean thousands of dollars of unwarranted expenditures by the town and by the citizens for light, power and water service. There is no need of haste in the matter for it will require either company three months to get their lines up in the valley to the points from which they propose to run their wires to Jacksonville. As the councilmen are all careful experienced business men there is every likelihood that they will give this matter careful consideration and it would be well for the electric companies to defer submitting ironclad ordinances granting to themselves exclusive and perpetual franchises, until after they have first submitted their propositions and given the council time to consider them.

TWO BIG ELECTRIC COMPANIES.

Of the two electric companies seeking to supply Jacksonville with light and power both are responsible and are in a position to carry out any contract they may enter into for light and power. The Condor Power & Water Company, of which Dr. C. R. Ray is manager have an electric power station at Gold Hill that is all ready to run and next week the work will be begun of erecting the pole line and stringing the wires to Medford is expected to be completed within the next two months. The Conder Company have a concrete dam across Rogue River which afford 9000 horsepower. A power station, also built of concrete, has been erected and one large generator installed and all the connections are ready to install other generators so soon as the needs of the company require.

Dr. Ray has secured for his Company a ten year contract to furnish Medford with current for light and power purposes at a price of three cents per kilowatt per hour for light and \$5 per month per horsepower. The town will operate its own light and pumping plant as heretofore using electricity instead of steam. Dr. Ray has submitted a proposition to supply Central Point with light and power. He has also made contracts with a large number of farmers to supply their places with light and with power.

The Gold Hill Development Company has a capital stock of \$300,000. The president of the Company is Eugene Wuesthoff, who is a multi-millionaire and president and chief stockholder in the Union Refrigerator & Transit Company, one of the great companies that operate refrigerator cars on all the railroads in the United States, this Company alone having 2500 cars. The vice-president of the company is John K. Fisher, of Milwaukee and one of the leading attorneys of Wisconsin. The secretary is Charles Rohde, manager of the Cudahy Rubber Company, of Milwaukee, the great rubber manufacturer of the United States. H. Schaeffer fills the position of both treasurer and manager for the company. Mr. Schaeffer is a leading capitalist of Milwaukee, but has now removed to Gold Hill, where he will hereafter reside, his family to join him from the East in a short time. Mr. Schaeffer's company has bought the Houck water power and electric station at Gold Hill and this fall will begin the work of putting in a new and larger race and a power plant of 8000 horsepower. They will at once put in an additional wheel and another generator giving them 500 horsepower and meeting their requirements until the new station is in operation. This Company is now lighting the town of Gold Hill and Mr. Schaeffer is now securing contracts with mine owners and with farmers for power and light and he will have a system of wires about Jacksonville even though he does not secure the town's contract.