

WATER COMPANY WILL STOP WORK

City Is Liable to Go Dry With a Vengeance --No Whiskey or Beer and May Have Water and Lights Cut Out

A very peculiar condition exists at the present time between the city and the Klamath Falls Light & Water Company. The Council is of the opinion that the franchise of the Light & Water Company has expired and so far have not seen fit to extend it. Mr. H. V. Gates came here recently for the purpose of asking the Council to extend the franchise according to the provisions of the contract, which he claims they are under obligation to do. An ordinance was introduced and read at the last meeting but no further action has been taken. It was expected that some action would be taken at the meeting last night, but the matter was not brought up.

There has been several rumors on the street today to the effect that the Water Company was going to shut off the city water and lights and in addition to these rumors the announcement was given the papers stating that the company would not undertake to make any further extensions of their system or furnish water to new residences. To determine what attitude the company intended to take in the matter a representative of the Herald called on Mr. H. V. Gates this afternoon at his office. The following questions were asked Mr. Gates:

What is the meaning of the announcement you gave the Herald today?

"It means that the City Council refuses to carry out the conditions of the contract between us and the city, one of which conditions is: That if the city does not purchase the plant, they shall renew the contract and franchise in periods of five years each, or in the present instance extend to September 1911. The result of the inaction is that we have no legal right to excavate in the streets for any new work. For this reason and to save prospective customers loss by depending on us we inserted the ad explaining the situation."

What new work were you intending to do?

"Water and light extension to Buena Vista, Hot Springs and other additions and to the railroad grounds, and to perfect our present water system in the original town so as to afford better pressure and supply during fires. We would continue as in the past three years anticipating every demand. During that period our power plant has increased from a capacity of 50 H. P. to 400 H. P., our mains from two miles to eleven and one-half miles. Electric lines in greater ratio. Our reservoirs now

cover many bills and not once during that time has the Council had to make any demand for any extension. No municipal or private plant in the state of Oregon can show as clean or clear a record. We had appropriated \$20,000 to expend in 1909. We have ordered all construction stopped, have notified the railroad and all others interested that no extensions will be made. We cancelled an order for a car of pipe leading for us, and when our present jobs are complete the construction force will be let out."

How will this affect new services along the present water mains?

"We cannot make any new taps for service. We are more sorry for this than anything else, for it strikes the innocent and needy demand for water."

You have been laying mains right along without any renewal of contract. Why do you stop now?

"Because we have been doing that which was illegal is no reason why we should continue. However, the apparently hostile attitude of the City Council presages a legal contest, a wise man prepares for it. It takes money, as we and this city, from a former experience, well know. We are going to husband our resources. The surest and quickest way is to stop construction."

How about the rumor that you are going to cut out street lights and hydrants?

"We have not said so, but on April 1st if we are not paid in cash or a new contract entered into, we will cut out street lights and twelve hydrants, the contract for both having expired. Any warrant issued for service thereon would be invalid. The original ten hydrants would remain in service."

Have you made any effort to compromise?

"The contract provisions are so clear in their obligations that the man who suggests compromise starts dishonestly. We have complied with all that we obligated ourselves to do. The city did the same and then went into the courts to repudiate, but failed. There is a clear obligation on their part to renew the contract and no honest man could refuse to comply. However, we did make some offers, one to rebuild the street light system into a modern type, giving better lighting and cut the price 30 per cent and we agreed wherever Tungsten lamps are used to cut the rate one and two cents per candle power, and to lay a six-inch water

main along Klamath avenue and place thereon 15 hydrants and add hydrants all over the city so that in the residence portion no building would be over one block from two hydrants, making a total of 70 hydrants in the city, the added cost per year to be \$911 and we gave an option good until September, 1911, for purchase on arbitrated value."

Do you expect any settlement outside of the courts?

"If we can avoid it, no courts for us, and I hope the city has all it wants. I hope the better element of the city will wake up from their sleep of indifference, investigate and settle it. Business men would have settled it long ago. It is a vital question to us. We lose money in any event. The city and its citizens lose the benefits from improvements we make year by year. While it suffers no apparent loss in money it does in credit, and whenever the city goes into the market for sale of bonds it will find a black mark against it for attempted repudiation of its first issue and a continuance in repudiation of contract won't whitewash it any."

When do you expect to go away?

"Probably Thursday morning and not to return for several months."

CASE OF SMALL POX.

Claude Clopton, who returned from San Francisco about ten days ago, has a very severe case of small pox. He is staying at the Giles place on the Ankeny ranch about six miles south of the city. County Health Officer Dr. Hamilton went to the ranch this morning to investigate the case and reports that Mr. Clopton has the small pox in a very bad form.

A large number of the people on the ranch and neighbors have been exposed. Steps were taken immediately to quarantine the ranch and also all those who have been exposed. A strong guard will be placed to watch the premises and every effort made to prevent the spread of the disease.

SCHOOLS ARE IN GOOD CONDITION

County School Superintendent J. G. Swan is still keeping up his good work for the schools of the county and this work is beginning to show very satisfactory results. Mr. Swan last week visited the Summers school and reports the school in fine condition. They are taking up the work of improving the grounds and are planning to set out a large number of young trees and also to seed the ground for a lawn. Many of the schools are adding an additional three months to the term and most of the teachers have been engaged for special short terms.

C. E. Mulkey has been engaged to teach an additional three months at Fort Klamath. This will give the school a complete nine months term.

B. P. Alexander will also teach three additional months at the Loos-

ley school in the lower Port Klamath district.

Clyde C. Craig, formerly of Portland, will begin on Monday a four months term of school at Odessa.

Miss Jane Given has been given a three months contract to teach the Long Lake school. She will begin school on Monday, March 22.

Miss Cora Griffith will open a six months term of school at Swan Lake on March 22.

Miss Olive Faught will open a term of school at Sand Hollow on April 5.

Mrs. Archye Kirkendall will open the school at Lone Pine, near Merrill, on March 22. This district has just completed a fine new school building and is now planning to make it one of the most attractive schools in the county. The property is under the government ditch and will be irrigated. A fine lawn is to be laid out and shade trees are to be planted throughout the grounds. With the aid of irrigation this can be made a very beautiful spot.

NEWS FROM DAIRY.

Seigel Harris left for Bonanza last Wednesday. He has been busy lately grubbing sagebrush for Manuel Vierra. The cleared place will be planted to potatoes.

Otto Hoppe and his brother made a trip to Dairy Tuesday.

John Donnell made a business trip to D. Y. Gray's place Tuesday and Wednesday, and took some horses to Bonanza to be sold to Mr. Stewart, the California horse buyer.

John Logue and daughter, Mrs. Alf Wallis, and Manuel Vierra made a business trip to the Falls Tuesday.

W. H. Bliss is now clearing his land, by grubbing and burning sagebrush.

Emil Egert and family have moved to their place from the Colahan ranch where they have been living during the winter.

Last Monday Mrs. Chas. Faith, of Bonanza, made a visit to her daughter, Mrs. P. Handley, who is ill.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bliss was working at Mrs. C. C. Pearson's the first part of the week.

O. Hoppe lost two horses last spring and when C. E. Drew was over on the Reservation recently, found them and returned them to the owner.

Doc Pool made a trip to Olene Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Smyth and Miss Anna Smyth made a business trip to Dairy Wednesday.

D. Y. Gray, of Yonna, sold a horse to Arthur Langell, of Bonanza, last Monday for \$70.

Frank McCumber was very sick last Tuesday. Dr. Johnson, of Bonanza, was called.

Geo. Ritter went to Bonanza last Wednesday.

Wm. Flackus and Wm. Clark have made about 500 posts in the past few weeks, but are now through.

Emil Egert went to Godfrey Beck's Thursday to help brand some cattle which he recently purchased of Mr. Beck.

W. H. Bliss was at Geo. Ritter's place on business Wednesday.

Wm. Uhrmann made a business trip to Pine Grove last Wednesday. Emil Egert went to Dairy Wednesday.

Geo. Smyth will start plowing this week.

Will Logue is working at the Frank Wallis place.

Master Orville Smyth, of the Hildebrand school, who is but 12 years of age, has rented two acres of land from H. J. Donnell, on which he intends to plant potatoes. The proceeds of the crop will go to Master Orville.

Geo. Grizzle, of Klamath Falls, was out to Manuel Vierra's this week buying some grain.

Ward Rueck, who has been absent from school on account of sickness has recovered and is with us again.

Mrs. L. M. Fitch has received a letter from Mrs. H. H. Bishop, of Kennet, California, who was in this county a short time ago, stating that she and her husband would return to Klamath County the 1st of April. Otto Hoppe and brother, Robert, were at Godfrey Beck's Thursday.

Joseph McCurdy, who at one time lived in Yonna Valley, has lately purchased a place in Grants Pass.

Fred Brooks went to the Falls on Tuesday to get his daughter, who has been attending school there. She will now enter school at Dairy.

Mrs. M. P. Nelson and children arrived at their home in Yonna Monday. Mr. Nelson went to the Falls

COMMISSION TO GET BUSY ON CHARTER

First Meeting Thursday Night--Promise to Have New Charter Ready Within Ten Days or Two Weeks

There is no longer to be any delay by the charter commission in getting down to business and drawing up a new charter to be submitted to the vote of the people of the city. Three members of the commission were present at the meeting of the City Council last evening and the matter was thoroughly discussed. Chairman E. R. Reames and Judge Thos. Drake explained the reasons why the commission were unable to get together before to transact business. The impossibility of the members doing any work before the present date, on account of the busy session of the Circuit Court and other business matters taking other members from the city, was fully understood by the Council.

Judge Benson, one of the members of the commission, will return from Lakeview Wednesday and then members will hold a meeting on Thursday evening and have agreed to meet each evening after until the charter is finished. Both Mr. Reames and Judge Drake gave it as their opinion that they would be able to have the new charter completed within ten days or two weeks. The secretary has already received a large number of charters of other cities through the state and Judge Noiland has furnished a copy of the Astoria charter. Portions of the old charter will be used and some of the best sections of the charters of the other cities will be added and new sections covering local conditions will be drawn up.

The City Council adjourned until Tuesday evening at which time the commission believes it will have some of the proposed new charter ready to submit to that body for their consideration. While the work asked of the charter commission is rather a thankless job, the members present stated that they did not so consider it but rather accepted it as a distinctive honor and they would take pride in doing the best they could. Some of the best legal talent of the city are on the commission and have promised to freely give their advice on all questions involving the formation and adoption of the new charter.

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There is no longer to be any delay by the charter commission in getting down to business and drawing up a new charter to be submitted to the vote of the people of the city. Three members of the commission were present at the meeting of the City Council last evening and the matter was thoroughly discussed. Chairman E. R. Reames and Judge Thos. Drake explained the reasons why the commission were unable to get together before to transact business. The impossibility of the members doing any work before the present date, on account of the busy session of the Circuit Court and other business matters taking other members from the city, was fully understood by the Council.

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