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KLAMATH FALLS, THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1909.

"DON'T DO IT," SAYS CITIZEN.

(Concluded From First Page.)

granted an injunction against the city of Santa Rosa from emptying into a creek impure effluent from sewage irrigation.

The Supreme Court of Connecticut stated in a recent ruling "the discharge of sewage and other noxious matters into an inland stream to the injury of a riparian proprietor below has been held to be an unlawful invasion of the rights of said proprietor, remediable by injunction."

Quoting from Folwell on sewerage: "The effects of sewage pollution of a stream in creating a nuisance is well illustrated by the Passaic river. The extent of the pollution of the lower Passaic may be illustrated in several ways. It is apparent to the eye in the condition of the river during the summer in the foulness of the shores where sewage-laden mud, exposed to the sun, gives off foul odors. Fish life, excepting of a few hardy varieties, has disappeared from the river, and fifteen years ago shad, which formerly frequented the stream, abandoned it. The manufacturers have reported that the acid of the sewage-laden water affected the boilers so as to make its use inadvisable. The use of the river for pleasure purposes, which at one time made it a delight to thousands, has been ruined, and the attractiveness of the river may be said to have disappeared."

The author states that while this is an extreme case, there are many others in this country almost as bad, and as the country becomes more thickly populated, other streams will become similarly polluted. Comparison of the conditions here with those of the Passaic might not prove unprofitable to the city of Klamath Falls.

The author says further "that before it can positively be affirmed that a sewage-polluted stream is safe for drinking after a few miles flow, it must be shown so definitely as to be beyond question by those whose special studies have fitted them for intelligent judgment that the purifying agencies have practically eliminated the germs of the water-borne communicable diseases. That until such showing is clearly made the proposition that crude sewage ought not to be turned into running streams, ponds, lakes, or other bodies of water which either are or may be the

source of supply, must be considered as holding good.

The discharge of sewage into tidal waters involves the principle given as applying to discharge into rivers so far as creating a nuisance is concerned, and also the practical consideration of the movements of prevailing winds and tides. In every case the outfall of the discharging sewer should be below the level of the water at all stages, and be provided with a tidal valve to prevent the ingress of sea water. The position of the outfall should, if possible, be chosen so that the sewage will be carried out to sea independently of the tides and the possibility of its return avoided; and for this purpose advantage should be taken of any current that flows off or along the shore, the sewage being discharged into it and carried away from the neighborhood of the town. If there is a current setting along shore, then the sewage outfall should be placed at that extremity of the town which will prevent the sewage being borne along the shore front. Prevailing winds also must be taken into account, so that floating sewage matter may not be blown back towards the town, otherwise shores within one-half and one mile of sewer outlets are very apt to be polluted, and these outlets should be at some distance from any land, when possible."

When raw house sewage is discharged into absolutely pure water, the amount of dilution necessary to render it innocuous is yet a debatable question, as is also the question whether any amount of dilution renders it innocuous, and whether a river, lake, or body of salt water, whether with or without currents, which has once been polluted will naturally purify itself. Polluted water purifies itself not only by oxidation, but also by sedimentation, dilution, and the agency of animal life.

The waters of Lake Ewauna and the river between here and Keno are heavily charged with decaying vegetable matter already. The lake bed and the river bed and the shore line is composed of foul mud which gives off unpleasant odors in the hot weather even now that is offensive to pedestrians on Main street and persons boating on the waters.

"Most waters," says the author, "contain considerable free oxygen, and if the amount of this in any given body of water is sufficient to oxidize

all the sewage reaching it, the organic matter will very shortly be decomposed without offense and lose permanently its power for evil.

"By sedimentation only the matter in suspension is removed, the proportional amount depending upon the velocity and turbulence of the water, the specific gravity and size of matters in suspension, and the time allowed. It is doubtful if excessive sedimentation is desirable in any body of fresh water, since the deposit even in the deepest water will be worked over by bacteria and give off offensive gases. A large part of the suspended matter does not settle under ordinary conditions, but remains on or near the surface of the water, with which it mixes. Such intermingling is often slow, and the discharge of a sewer can be traced for a long distance as a separate stream, mingling but slowly, and along its edges, with the purer water."

The fact that the waters of Lake Ewauna and the river between here and Keno are already charged with decaying vegetable matter increases the difficulties of determining to what extent they will purify themselves by oxidation and sedimentation if further polluted with raw house sewage; and, again, the question naturally arises, does not that fact render the dumping of raw sewage therein extremely hazardous?

Before it is finally determined to dump the raw house sewage into Lake Ewauna, the Council ought to be perfectly satisfied on these points: Will it detract from the attractiveness of the lake as a pleasure resort and destroy its usefulness in that respect as a factor in the development and progress of the city?

Are the waters of the lake and river between here and Keno capable of receiving raw sewage from a population of 5,000 and purifying themselves to the extent that not only will this city, but other communities and individuals, receive the protection contemplated by law?

Nine out of ten of the possible investors arriving here and looking over our city express their surprise that we are not all fever-shaken; and it is sometimes a little difficult to explain the conditions that contribute to the healthfulness of the place. With a mammoth cesspool in operation it may be more difficult in a few years to offer a satisfactory explanation. Every intelligent investor and home builder can be relied on to investigate conditions before investing his money.

The contemplated sewer system ought to be designed and constructed not for to-day alone, but with an eye to its future efficiency and usefulness; and the disposition of the sewage should be along modern, scientific lines. The adoption of a method of disposition because of its cheapness in the beginning is ordinarily accompanied with disastrous consequences.

There is no question but what dumping the raw sewage into Lake Ewauna is the cheapest way on earth of disposing of it to-day. No argument is necessary to convince the most skeptical of that fact. Should that method of disposition be adopted and the system constructed, in two or three years an injunction suit may prevent the further use of the system. From a financial standpoint the result is a calamity.

It is an open question whether or not the dumping of the effluent from a septic tank without subjecting it to some purifying process may not meet with serious objection, owing to the condition of the waters of the lake.

The population of this city will undoubtedly increase, if it does anything, and the dumping of raw sewage from a population of, say, 5,000 people into the lake for ten years as an experiment is hardly up to the

(Continued on Third Page.)

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