

## MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING

OF THE

STATE SANITARY AUTHORITY

August 14, 1942

The regular business meeting of the State Sanitary Authority was called to order by Chairman Harold F. Wendel, at 1:40 P.M., August 14, 1942 in Room 720 Oregon Building, Portland, Oregon.

Those in attendance were Harold F. Wendel, Chairman, Dr. Frederick D. Stricker, and the Messrs. Albert Burch, Blaine Hallock, John C. Veatch, Charles E. Stricklin, Kenneth H. Spies, Secretary, and Archie H. Rice, Assistant Sanitary Engineer.

CORVALLIS CITATION HEARING: Officials of the city of Corvallis, having been cited to appear before the Authority to show cause why their city should not provide adequate treatment facilities for its municipal sewage as previously ordered by the Authority, were given a special hearing at 10:00 A.M. on this date and at the same location.

The city of Corvallis was represented by Mayor H. W. Hand, City Attorney J. L. Lewis, City Recorder Ralph P. Schindler, City Engineer V. L. Goodnight and Professor G. V. Copson, Head of the Bacteriology Department of Oregon State College.

Mr. Wendel opened the hearing by calling upon the secretary to give a brief history of the case. Some discussion then took place regarding statements which were claimed by the

city to have been made by certain federal authorities. Later Attorney Lewis and Mayor H. W. Hand presented arguments as to why the city had failed to comply with the original orders of the Authority. From their testimony it was evident that they did not consider the discharge of raw sewage into the river as producing polluted river conditions and that their considerations were based chiefly upon the word of Professor Copson. Professor Copson failed to produce evidence to the effect that serious pollution was not being caused by the Corvallis sewage.

Expert testimony as to the necessity for a sewage treatment plant at Corvallis was given by Lieutenant Colonel F. H. Stover, Sanitary Corps, Headquarters Ninth Service Command, Fort Douglas, Utah.

After further discussion of the facts in the case the Corvallis representatives agreed to obtain the approval of the City Council at its next regular meeting the following Monday night to expedite the project as much and as soon as possible by (1) submitting the necessary applications to the Federal Works Agency for priorities, monies, etc., (2) preparing the required engineering plans and specifications and (3) investigating every possible means of finance.

The hearing terminated at 12:30 P.M.

A transcript of the proceedings are attached to these minutes.

MINUTES: Copies of the minutes of the previous meeting having been submitted to the members in advance, MOTION: it was

moved by Mr. Hallock, seconded by Mr. Veatch, and unanimously carried that the Authority dispense with the reading of the minutes of the April 24 meeting, and that the minutes stand approved as prepared by the secretary.

ACTIVITIES REPORT: The secretary reviewed the contents of the Activities Report for the months of March, April, May and June, 1942. This report included a summary of the present status of municipal sewage disposal in the state of Oregon, as well as a discussion of sewage disposal facilities at military establishments and of certain trade waste problems. During the discussion of the activities the secretary asked for the opinion of the members regarding the progress being made by the City of Pendleton. It was agreed that \$3000 annually for the creation of a sinking fund was none too much, but that because of the emergency such an amount would be considered adequate for the time being. The city must, in addition to working out an adequate financial program, proceed with their engineering studies. Previous estimates had set the cost of improvements at \$169,000.

PROJECT PLANS: It was moved by Mr. Hallock, seconded by Mr. Veatch, and unanimously carried that the following project plans, which the State Sanitary Engineer had approved for the months of March, April, May and June, 1942, be approved by the State Sanitary Authority:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type of Project</u>
April 23	Camp White, Medford	Sewers
April 23	Camp White, Medford	Sewage Treatment

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type of Project</u>
April 18	Aluminum Co. of America Troutdale	Sewage Treatment
May 27	Sweet Home	Preliminary Report Sewers and Sewage treatment
June 2	Camp Adair, Corvallis	Sewage treatment
June 22	Swan Island, Portland	Sewer extension

COLUMBIA RIVER POLLUTION SURVEY: The secretary presented cost data for the study made of pollution in the lower Columbia River, such a study covering the period from December, 1940, to April, 1942. Total cost to the State of Oregon prior to June 30, 1942 was \$5215.41. Of this amount \$2,689.15 was paid by the Sanitary Authority. Other agencies contributing included the Columbia River Packers Association, the Oregon Game Commission and the Oregon Fish Commission.

BIENNIAL BUDGET: The Sanitary Authority Budget for the Biennium 1943-1945 was submitted for approval by the members. The total amount requested was \$36,605.00, or \$22,440.00 for salaries, \$10,120.00 for general operation and maintenance and \$4,045.00 for capital outlay. Agreeing that the budget should be based on activities conducted under normal times, MOTION: it was moved by Mr. Stricklin, seconded by Mr. Hallock and unanimously carried that the budget be approved as submitted. A financial statement for the present biennium was also presented to the members by the secretary.

PERSONNEL: Because of the large unexpended balance in the Sanitary Authority appropriation and because the secretary must spend at least half of his time on Sanitary Authority business it was requested by the State Board of Health that a larger share of the secretary's salary be paid from Sanitary Authority funds.

MOTION: it was moved by Mr. Hallock, seconded by Mr. Burch and unanimously carried that the Authority pay one half of the secretary's salary, starting August 1, 1942.

DISCUSSION OF CORVALLIS HEARING: It was agreed that the secretary should attend the city council meeting at Corvallis on August 17, 1942 to be sure that the council approved the actions promised by Mayor Hand. Because the city representatives claimed that no federal authorities had given them a statement outlining the necessity for priorities for the proposed sewage disposal works it was suggested that such a statement be obtained from Dr. W. T. Harrison, District Director, U.S.P.H.S., San Francisco, California.

For the purpose of transmitting the opinion of the State Sanitary Authority to the Federal Works Agency, the Vital Areas Board of Review and to any other persons or agencies concerned the following resolution was presented by Mr. Veatch, seconded by Mr. Hallock and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION: It is resolved that the Sanitary Authority of the State of Oregon after complete investigation of the facts is of the opinion that the discharge of raw sewage into the Willamette River from the city of Corvallis is a menace to the health of the men to be stationed at Camp Adair and that the city of

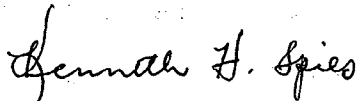
Corvallis should proceed immediately toward the construction of an adequate sewage treatment plant. It is the opinion of the State Sanitary Authority that the construction of such a plant is necessary in the interest of the winning of the war.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Veatch, seconded by Mr. Stricklin and unanimously carried that the chairman and/or the secretary of the Sanitary Authority be authorized to certify a copy of this resolution and furnish any information which may be appropriate to any person or authority having jurisdiction over the furnishing of material for the construction of such a plant.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES: It was suggested, that if time permitted, the secretary should contact personally the various city councils and officials to determine what steps had been taken by the municipalities to comply with the orders issued March 19, 1942 by the Authority.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 P.M. It was decided that the next regular meeting of the State Sanitary Authority would be held in Portland, Oregon, on Friday, November 13 at 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted



Kenneth H. Spies  
Acting State Sanitary Engineer  
Secretary

## CORVALLIS CITATION

Meeting of the Oregon State Sanitary Authority

August 14, 1942

## Persons Present

## SANITARY AUTHORITY

Mr. Harold Wendel, Chairman  
Mr. Blaine Hallock  
Mr. Albert Burch  
Dr. Frederick D. Stricker  
Mr. John C. Veatch  
Mr. Charles E. Stricklin

Mr. Kenneth H. Spies,  
Acting State Sanitary Engineer  
and Secretary

Mr. Archie H. Rice,  
Assistant Sanitary Engineer

## CITY OF CORVALLIS

Mayor H. W. Hand  
Mr. J. L. Lewis, City Attorney  
Prof. G. V. Copson, Oregon State College  
Mr. V. L. Goodnight, City Engineer  
Mr. Ralph P. Schlinder, City Recorder

## STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Mr. Rex Kimmel

## UNITED STATES ARMY

Lieutenant Colonel F. H. Stover  
Fort Douglas, Utah

At 10:00 A.M. the Chariman called the hearing to order.

Mr. Wendel: Would any of you gentlemen care to have the history of the case read?

Mr. Lewis: Yes, this is our first opportunity to get any information.

Mr. Wendel: Then Mr. Spies, State Sanitary Engineer, will read it.

(Mr. Spies then read the history of the case to those present. This included parts of the memorandum dated July 20, 1942 and the letter to Authority members dated July 28, 1942.)

Mr. Spies: That brings the information pretty well up to date, except for the visit to Camp Adair of the Secretary and Colonel Dopmeyer of the U. S. Public Health Service. We visited Corvallis last Friday for the purpose of investigating the matter of war-time necessity of such a project at Corvallis. To date, no report from the U. S. Public Health Service has been received relative to this.

Mr. Lewis: Gentlemen, would we be permitted to supplement the record with something we feel is important. Last November, Dr. Stricker, State Health Officer, addressed to the city under date of November 13 a letter to the effect that Fred T. Foard, Regional Consultant of the United States Public Health Service, would visit Albany and Corvallis to make a survey in connection with the general sanitation; milk supply, water supply, etc., in the area. Dr. Stricker asked that we make a definite appointment for him with the city officials on the 18th of November, to which our municipal judge replied that the date would be satisfactory and fixed that as a definite meeting with Dr. Foard. Dr. Foard came to Corvallis to survey the whole situation--you understand that this came after your letter of September 29, which, frankly, we did not construe as an order--and he told us, in his opinion, in view of the fact that the water supply for Camp Adair was to be purified, that a sewage disposal plant was not necessary at Corvallis. I feel it is necessary to supplement your record in order to explain our position.

Mr. Hallock: Just who is this Dr. Foard?



Dr. Stricker: He's with the United States Public Health Service.

Mr. Lewis: It says here that he is the Regional Consultant of the--

Dr. Stricker: He changed the statement soon after, because he didn't have the facts and wasn't authorized to make a statement like that.

Mr. Lewis: I'm not offering that as being conclusive of anything, but since it did come from a man of apparent authority with whom we had, at the instance of Dr. Stricker, conferences on the subject, we felt that you should know of it. That was what he told us at the time. We haven't contacted him since, but, nevertheless, in order to understand the attitude of the city officials, I think it is proper that we bring it in.

Dr. Stricker: That opinion was not concurred by the State Board of Health at any time.

Mr. Wendel: Gentlemen, I think it is the feeling of this Board that the weight of evidence is to the effect that it is a decided hazard, and, waiving for the duration the duty of the Board to control the pollution of streams in the state, we feel that this plant is needed to protect the health and lives of the soldiers stationed at Camp Adair. I might add that the Sanitary Authority has been criticized already for not forcing action on the part of Corvallis.

Mayor Hand: Well, the city officials agree with the Authority in that we would like something done.

Mr. Wendel: We do feel that it is a menace to the health of the Army, and we are of the opinion that the matter should be

taken care of at once. We should like to hear from you gentlemen as to why nothing has been done.

Mayor Hand: The only answer I could give to that is, in the first place, the city of Corvallis does not have the money, and, in the second place, all the information that we have been able to gather, leaving the emergency out of the picture, throughout a period of years, is that examinations have shown that the contamination is not harmful to public health. Those examinations have extended over a period of years, and other tests that have been made more recently have shown the fact that contamination still exists. But, as far as the city of Corvallis is concerned, we couldn't just go out and build a plant. We have taken steps. We have made an application for a grant, and it is on file and will be considered as soon as possible. It is necessary that some financial aid must be secured if the sewage plant is built. It would be impossible, with the information we have, to float a bond issue. People would feel that it had been thrust upon us at the instigation of the Sanitary Authority and the Army, and, with this being a defense measure, it would be necessary for the federal government to be entirely responsible for the building of the plant. We should like very much to build a sewage disposal plant. It is a desirable thing to have and to do. At the same time, it demands much money, and the city of Corvallis couldn't do it. That is the position the city of Corvallis is in at the present time. It is not the idea of being arbitrary in the matter, but it is a matter of money. The expenditure would more than double the amount of indebtedness of the city, and we have reached the peak so far as taxation is concerned. We are not in the position to build the plant without material aid from the federal government.

Note: Sheet No. 199-200 was missing  
from book. (K.H.S.)

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Your secretary mentioned the visit of Colonel Dopmeyer to the city. The Colonel told us at the time very plainly that we couldn't build a sewage disposal plant without it being a definite defense need. As I understand it, the Colonel hasn't rendered his verdict for a decision relative to the necessity of the plant, and the federal board of health must issue an order of necessity before priority can be authorized. Because they haven't reached that decision, it seems that nothing can be done at this time.

We did not construe the letter from Major General Joyce to mean that any immediate action must be taken. He, in effect, made the statement that, with the increase in the population of Corvallis, the amount of sewage would increase, but we could not construe his letter as demanding the building of a plant at this time.

Mr. Wendel: Has the city done anything yet along the lines of preparing engineering plans, estimates, etc.?

Mayor Hand: Preliminary estimates have been made. The actual planning has not been carried out. This matter of securing federal funds is going to take time. When we have some assurance that funds will be supplied, the entire engineering part of it will be carried out and will be completed.

Mr. Wendel: This would mean further delay, even if you got favorable action. The engineering plans being not yet in process would require further delay, would it not?

Mayor Hand: Our engineer, Mr. Goodnight, could probably answer that better than I.

Mr. Goodnight: We were told only recently that we should not spend any money for detail plans. The engineer that said that is practical. He's a man from Seattle, Evans, from the Federal Works Agency. You see, we worked out with them the plans we have. If we

made plans now, the cost of them couldn't be included in our grant. In the matter of estimates, due to present conditions the estimates that we make today may not be worth a thing in a short time.

Mr. Wendel: The plans do not change.

Mr. Goodnight: The plan has been approved tentatively by four or five engineers in the state. I've talked with Mr. Everts about them. I've also gone over them with Mr. Evans.

Mr. Hallock: This Mr. Evans told you not to prepare plans? Do you know his initials? You say he's from Seattle.

Mr. Goodnight: You know why he said that, because we are trying to get this loan. He was trying to help the city. If we spend that money now, before the agencies authorize the necessity of the plant, if they do, why the city will be out that money.

Mr. Lewis: I would like to supplement what has been said. While I realize that perhaps the financial end of it isn't the primary interest on the part of you gentlemen, it is of importance to the city. Assuming that it would cost \$300,000, which seems to be a conservative estimate at the present time, that is too big a project for the city of Corvallis to handle. Furthermore, it must be taken into consideration that the value of Oregon State College, a state institution, is one and one-half times the assessed valuation of the city of Corvallis. In that connection, we are of the opinion that it is a state as well as federal project. You have probably cooperated in the Salem plans. I don't know how far they have gone. I believe that they are on their way, and it is my understanding that they have a large grant to assist them. It would require a little checking, but it would be my guess offhand that the value of state property in Corvallis is probably as great a share of the total value in the city as it is in Salem. Therefore, we

naturally feel that this would be a project requiring some state participation, which, of course, would require legislative action. Now, that may not seem important to you gentlemen, but city officials of Corvallis have tried to handle the city affairs in a business-like way and have kept financial affairs pretty well straightened out. We have tried to keep the tax levy down, in spite of the fact that we have so much untaxable property within the city limits. If you would look, you'd find that Corvallis has a very low tax rate and that few cities stand with Corvallis in their tax situation. I think Pendleton is a little bit better perhaps. That is why this matter of financing is so important to the city.

I would say that your asking us to come here and show cause why we hadn't installed a sewage plant is an attitude which is not fair. In other words, the affirmative is entirely overlooked.

Mr. Veatch: Isn't that a matter of statutes which provide that you shall provide sewage disposal systems?

Mr. Lewis: I admit that there is a short portion of the law which has something to do with polluting of streams, but it is not very clear as to what authority there is.

Mr. Veatch: The very law under which this body was organized places upon you the duty of providing facilities for the disposing of sewage now discharged into the streams of the state. We are of the opinion that that law provides that certain things shall be done.

Mr. Hallock: May I ask you another question: You comment on the state institution in Corvallis and feel that you should receive state assistance the same as Salem. Has Corvallis attempted to secure any grant from the state?

Mr. Lewis: The legislature has not met since this came up.

Mr. Hallock: It has met since this law was put into effect. I wonder if the city has made any attempt to secure state aid from the legislature, since you knew sewage treatment would be required.

Mr. Lewis: I will answer it this way. Why should Corvallis be the one to go ahead with a project of this size when other cities are not doing much about it?

Mr. Hallock: On the contrary, a great many cities are moving along in a manner satisfactory to this body.

Mr. Lewis: Your city of Portland isn't, and it is the worst one.

Mr. Wendel: We have had the city of Portland before this Authority, and they are going forward at a rate satisfactory. 31% of the municipalities in the state are doing all that is possible at the present time. Their programs are satisfactory to the Sanitary Authority.

Mr. Lewis: We have no definite word that this project is necessary to the war effort. Major Joyce, in his letter, said that it would be desirable as soon as practicable. They certainly would not have planned Camp Adair and continued to a point of occupancy without ever directing a word to the city, if they felt that a sewage treatment plant was necessary. The very fact that they have constructed Camp Adair I think demonstrates conclusively that they have a satisfactory water supply when it's purified. It is my understanding on this that you can't get approval for con-

struction unless the project is going to directly assist the war effort. As far as we know to date, we couldn't possibly proceed if we did have the money. Our position, as outlined by Mayor Hand, is that if this is necessary it is only because of the construction of Camp Adair. It is not a necessary immediate project without bringing in Camp Adair.

Mr. Wendel: May I explain our position. Were it not for the war, our demands on municipalities for adequate sewage treatment would have been pressed a whole lot more vigorously on all those not complying with the law. Many of our municipalities are making a sincere effort. The city of Portland has had in effect for going on two years a service charge. The engineering plans are being made. Many other municipalities are doing the same thing. I explained at the outset that it would be virtually impossible, under the priorities that rule us, for the city to get the materials, if it were not a critical defense necessity. It is the belief of our technical staff that it is. Moreover, it is the belief of the Army that it is. If you should like to hear from Colonel Stover, who is here today representing the Army, I'm sure that the Colonel would be glad to tell you his opinion as to the necessity from a defense standpoint that this work should be undertaken at the present time. I interpreted General Joyce's letter in a different manner than your city apparently did. As to the critical status of this situation, I think perhaps Colonel Stover can--

Mr. Lewis: I'll make one more remark. We still feel that we should be allowed time to carry on our program the same as other cities. Not in a few days or months, but in a few years, as the city of Portland. There have been a great many surveys made

of this river, and we have those surveys, surveys made by the engineering department of the college and by another body of qualified men under state authority. It's the one that was made by a commission. I don't remember the members, except that Mr. Koon of Stevens and Koon was chairman. Of all these surveys, presumably with some foundation, not a single one of them reaches the conclusion that Corvallis causes any serious contamination of the river. We have a qualified bacteriologist with us today from the Oregon State faculty, if you wish to go into this fact.

Mr. Wendel: We believe, from all the information we have been able to secure, that it is a definite hazard to the Army, that is why we have called you gentlemen before us.

Mr. Lewis: We have nothing but your conclusions on that. On the other hand, we have numerous surveys to show you.

Mr. Stricklin: I interpret those reports contrary to the way you do.

Mr. Veatch: May I correct your statement that there is no city on the Willamette that has done anything on this. Albany, Eugene, Independence, Lebanon, Oregon City and Portland have submitted definite programs and are carrying them out.

Mr. Lewis: We would be interested in knowing what Albany has done.

Mr. Wendel: Albany has started to create a sinking fund for the purpose of financing the project at a later date.

Mr. Veatch: Just a minute ago you mentioned about the findings of this one committee. I was familiar with this committee, and I don't remember any findings which showed that the Willamette River was not being polluted by the cities along there. As a matter of fact, it was largely a result of the work of this committee that



the Sanitary Authority was created.

Mr. Lewis: I didn't say 'none of the cities'. My statement about the committee's report was that there was no conclusion that the sewage from Corvallis was creating a health hazard. There is a footnote there in that report in which it is stated that highly contaminated water can be safely used for domestic use if properly treated. There certainly was no conclusion in this report by this committee that there was any material contamination of the Willamette River from Corvallis. There was no conclusion that Corvallis was creating a definite health hazard. Highly contaminated water can be safely used for domestic use if properly treated.

Mr. Hallock: Mr. Lewis, the substance of your statement is that the city isn't particularly interested because the river isn't seriously contaminated, and, therefore, you're inclined to ignore the whole matter.

Mr. Lewis: I'm not a member of the council, and there might be a considerable difference of opinion.

Mr. Wendel: I don't think we're getting very far in this thing at all. If we're to be so practical, for the time being, of forgetting the law, then I see that our decision should be based upon the feeling of the Army as to whether it's a necessary project.

Mr. Lewis: Don't you think that's a bit out of order? We feel that we're entitled to at least a few details.

Mr. Hallock: Mr. Lewis, it's true that raw sewage from a population of eight or nine thousand people is rolling into one of our streams, seven miles below which our soldier boys are taking their drinking water from this same stream. Now, doesn't it seem that this is at least a prima facie showing, if there is some con-

sideration for their well-being.

Mr. Lewis: That is a feeling of only some of you that it is detrimental to their well-being. I only take the word of these qualified men I have mentioned, when I express my views. I should like to have Dr. Copson make a statement as to his views.

Prof. Copson: I happen to be the bacteriologist at the Oregon State College, and naturally the city turns to the college for assistance in matters of this nature. For that reason, I feel that I have a right to report the findings we have made in this matter.

The statement was made that the city of Corvallis reported that all traces of contamination from the city completely disappeared three to five miles down the river. I have never made that statement. It doesn't disappear. There is still some evidence. It takes the most delicate tests to determine it. By the river, the distance from Corvallis to the intake for Camp Adair is nine miles instead of seven, that makes a little difference.

To a layman, the contamination of raw sewage seems un-aesthetic, but, to a public health man, that isn't quite true. We make the statement, and I think that you have to agree with us in part, that we have a relatively small community on a large river. The situation in Cottage Grove and Eugene is a little more serious. This summer we have about 12,000 population.

Mr. Veatch: With the students in the fall, your population is about what?

Prof. Copson: There are around four to five thousand students.

Mr. Lewis: It should be mentioned here that you couldn't

include all the 4500 in a group to be added to the city's population, because a good many of those are enumerated in the Corvallis census.

Prof. Copson: We have, over a period of years, made a survey. All of our results show that the situation above Corvallis and three miles below are very little different. If they were going to end all human pollution in the Willamette, they would have to start above Corvallis.

(Prof. Copson then showed charts of analytical data of samples of water taken in the river.)

Prof. Copson: It's not quite as good now as it was a few years back.

Mr. Stricklin: Pardon me for interrupting, but do you know the flow about that time?

Prof. Copson: No, I don't.

Mr. Stricklin: Your low water flow is later in the season, around September, isn't it?

Prof. Copson: Perhaps it is, I'm not sure about that.

(Prof. Copson continued with his charts.)

Mr. Spies: May I interrupt? Are these data based on coli indexes per ml. or per 100 ml.?

(There followed a discussion between Prof. Copson and Mr. Spies on the matter of the way in which the reports were figured.)

Mr. Spies: According to this quotation from the report from which the data are taken, the coli indexes are based upon a certain number per ml. rather than per 100 ml. In other words, your values should be multiplied by 100 to express them as values per 100 ml.

Prof. Copson: That may be true.

Mr. Stricklin: As I understand it, then, the first two

charts are wrong.

Prof. Copson: They are correct, as far as they have gone. I gave the positive and negative tests. That the situation is a little more critical now is no more a big factor. There is a definite increase. It's natural with the added increase in population during the past few years.

(Colonel Stover, Mr. Spies and Prof. Copson discussed more about the method of determining the results of the tests made.)

Prof. Copson: We have total counts of the water per 100 cc of 16,700, 12,000, 10,000. Now if any public health authority would make a statement that bacterial count of water of that kind is dangerous for a filtration plant then I'll quit. Look at St. Louis, they take the water from the Missouri River. You know what that is, and it comes out absolutely pure. Grand Rapids the same way.

Mr. Hallock: But we don't want it in Oregon.

Prof. Copson: You don't want it in Oregon. This is not serious pollution. I'm just as much interested as any of you gentlemen in having clean streams. It isn't very nice to have dirty rivers. If you compare it with Bull Run water and Clear Lake water, you'd see quite a bit of contamination. If you're not public health trained, it doesn't sound good. Now if the Army has designed a filtration plant that couldn't carry a load like that, it's not a good plant. If the public health people make a statement that the load is so great that they couldn't handle it efficiently, then I would like to hear it. A total count like that of two or three thousand. If they couldn't take that out, I don't know what kind of a plant they built.

Mr. Spies: I still don't agree. We couldn't design any treatment plant that is going to be fool proof.

Prof. Copson: They say that the meagerest kind of filtration plant can take care of 5,000.

Mr. Lewis: Incidentally, the same man, Koon, recommended that we use river water to supplement the Corvallis water supply.

Prof. Copson: Well, up until this last influx of population, there has been no industry on the Willamette and there has been very little increase in population. The contamination is definitely more, but I've yet to see a public health man who states that it's a public health menace.

Mr. Spies: I didn't say it was a menace, but I do say it is a public health hazard.

Mr. Hallock: Doctor, I don't think we are so much concerned with whether we can gamble and get by as we are with assuring a safe water supply for the soldiers stationed at the camp.

In the little town of Baker some years ago we took it upon ourselves to find some means of disposing of the city's sewage, other than dumping the raw sewage into a stream. We attempted to float a bond issue. Our situation was much the same as yours. It didn't meet with too much success at first, as was to be expected, but we got our sewage disposal plant. The point I make is that if we're in earnest and make the people realize the need for facilities, we can find ways to finance it. In Baker we have no cantonment, and no domestic water supply comes from the stream, but we have the satisfaction of knowing we complied with the law. It was no great burden. We have our facilities, and we were just hoping that the city of Corvallis would want to approach this thing with much the same attitude, even if it involved nothing more than going ahead and assembling plans.

Prof. Copson: We are concerned about those soldiers at

Camp Adair, just as you are. The only contention I make is that, from our studies, it is shown that while the sewage pollution is definite and it is raw sewage it is only of minor consideration. The difference above and below Corvallis is slight. Any adequate filtration plant could handle it. As far as being a menace is concerned, I would charge that statement. The plant has got to take out the bacteria. Of course, the bacteria which we're concerned about are very easily destroyed by chlorination, and I can't see that they constitute a menace.

Mr. Wendel: You don't feel there's any hazard at all.

Prof. Copson: I don't like to use the word "hazard".

I would say that there is no danger, other than if the filter plant does not function properly.

Mr. Lewis: What is the extent of treatment at Baker?

Mr. Hallock: It is complete.

Mr. Spies: That's right. It's complete treatment, standard filtration.

Mr. Lewis: What type of treatment is arranged for the 50 or 60 thousand soldiers to be stationed at Camp Adair?

Mr. Spies: Primary treatment plus chlorination.

Mr. Lewis: I don't know what type of treatment you gentlemen think is necessary.

Mr. Veatch: May I explain that. This Authority has never taken an arbitrary view as to what municipalities should do. We don't set up any particular plan which you should follow. You submit to the Authority your plans and those are gone over. Then they are either approved or disapproved. The Sanitary Engineer or one of his assistants is always glad to consult with you. All that we ask is

that the municipalities adopt some plan. We're required to do that under the law. This act was passed by the people of the state for the purpose of protecting the streams. Most of the municipalities are going along on that basis. Many plants have been approved, and some are in operation. All we ask is that there be some evidence showing that a plan is being worked out for construction and installing the plant.

Mr. Lewis: We don't know about the amount or type of treatment. Suppose we planned for one type of treatment and then you changed it.

Mr. Veatch: Of course, you always have a Sanitary Engineer to consult with you as to what plant would be best to put in.

Mr. Lewis: It makes a lot of difference in the cost.

Mr. Wendel: I think we'd like to know the attitude of the Army in this matter, if Colonel Stover would give us their stand.

Colonel Stover: I would be glad to. The Army officials concerned, which included the Headquarters of the Ninth Corps Area, the Surgeon General's office and the Sanitary Corps, went on the assumption that the city considered the letter of last September an order and had started work in that direction. We were somewhat surprised that about April no compliance with the orders had been made and that nothing had been done. All of the Army people who have investigated this to any extent, Sanitary Authorities, Surgeon General's Office, etc. have felt the need of a plant at Corvallis. All letters from them, which I have, have indicated that the sewage from Corvallis should be purified. One from the Chief of Engineers is important when you realize the difficulty of obtaining critical materials, for they have gone on record to say that all possible assistance should be given toward getting purification of sewage from

Corvallis.

Our analyses from the figures shown in the last period have reported the water to be grossly contaminated. The reports this year are showing much higher bacteria count than that shown in previous periods, and they are showing a B coli index, based on 100 mls., of 10,000 in many cases. If any of you would be interested in seeing these results, I have copies of the reports up here.

In New Orleans they have no very close source of pollution. It's true that St. Louis and New Orleans take their water from polluted streams. Chicago is not taken from as bad a source as either of those. But none of them have sewage emptying into the river as close as yours will be to the intake for Camp Adair. The Ohio River is not as good as it should be. Under those conditions, extreme precautions have to be taken. It is possible, in these big plants, for them to hire technically trained operators. There is an acute shortage of personnel at this time, and it is very doubtful that the personnel handling the plant at Adair will be of any type approaching that of other cities. So you have the human element to consider. Too, under present conditions, there is the extreme difficulty of repairing things on short notice.

We have a number of supplies of this type around the Ninth Corps Area, which covers eight states, and I have been handling the sanitary work in all this territory. I do not know of any other supply in the area which is in as poor a condition as this one, as shown from our analysis.

Corvallis has undoubtedly been practicing poor municipal housekeeping for some time. It's obvious that emptying raw sewage from a municipality of from 10 to 14 thousand population eight or



nine miles from the source of a water supply is a bad factor, and the fact that the intake is on the same side of the river as the sewage is emptied from makes the situation even worse.

It is also very reasonable to expect that the city of Corvallis will greatly increase in population due to the cantonment. Our experience has been that you plan on perhaps about 50% of the number in a cantonment moving into surrounding communities. Of course, not all will be in Corvallis. The additional wastes from this additional population will aggravate present conditions.

So, with a summary of this data; the fact that all Army people have indicated the desirability of purifying the sewage discharged into the river by Corvallis and recent analyses showing a high degree of contamination, I think it is only within reason that whatever measures which can be taken should be taken to lighten the pollution of this plant.

Mayor Hand: As far as the increase in population goes, the city is already overcrowded. There would be no place for any more to move.

Colonel Stover: You'd be surprised. They can always seem to find places.

Mr. Hallock: You do expect a local stimulation in business, don't you?

Mr. Lewis: We are placed with a great many expenditures which they tell us are necessary. Our public health program has increased. We use to spend \$300 for a health officer, but now we are contributing \$2,656 for our share in the new county health department.

Mr. Hallock: Apparently you were able to raise it.

Mr. Lewis: We have an urgent demand right now that we spend

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\$700 for an entertainment program for the soldiers. We have to hire a special -- recreational director, I think they call him.

Mr. Wendel: I think we appreciate those facts, of course, but I would just like to ask if the statements by the Colonel have affected your attitude.

Prof. Copson: I understand that the Army hasn't a very well equipped laboratory. I would like the Army to come in and be a guest of our department. We would furnish him facilities, and I would like him to come in and see the manner in which our tests are made.

Mr. Wendel: We realize that there is a diversion of opinion, but I think that we should consider the fact that, without proper treatment, the water at the intake is going to be a definite danger. I think that we are all impressed with the uncertainty connected with the proper operation of the treatment plant.

Prof. Copson: Of course, chlorination always takes care of it. Our swimming pools are sterilized with chlorine all the time, and people drink that water when they're in swimming. They can't help but get some of it in their mouths then.

Mayor Hand: I think we have endeavored to show you the position of Corvallis very clearly. When that first letter was received from the Sanitary Authority in September, we couldn't consider it an order. There was no hearing granted where the city of Corvallis had any opportunity to participate, conclusions were drawn without us having a chance to explain our position. There was, too, the fact of the uncertainty of the location of Camp Adair, which would lead us to feel that there was no great hurry. According to information I received from good authority, the action on the

location of the camp did not occur until March of this year. Now, with all these factors in mind, we have tried to explain to you gentlemen the position Corvallis is in, the motives to support our action.

We are now faced with the problem of financing a sewage disposal plant. That is something which, to a certain extent, is beyond our control. If the F.W.A. does not take favorable action on our application, it will take time to put a bond issue before the people.

Taking all these things into consideration, we rather feel that you gentlemen should have a better conception of the position the city of Corvallis is in and will feel that the city is making an effort to comply with the Sanitary Authority in this regard. There is nothing more we can do at the present time, as the federal representative who was in Corvallis last week has not decided as yet as to the necessity of the project. As I understand it, it is impossible to get priorities for materials without the approval of a federal agency such as that.

Do you gentlemen feel that Corvallis is proceeding along the lines of your request?

Mr. Wendel: I feel that Corvallis is not doing everything possible.

Mr. Birch: You are evidently depending entirely upon the federal government for financing it.

Mr. Hallock: I don't feel that you have done enough, Mr. Mayor. I feel that a general campaign for a bond issue at least sufficient to enable you to draw plans and get underway would be successful. I feel that plans should have been in preparation some time ago.

Mr. Wendel: We addressed a communication long ago to you. Many communities at that time proceeded with plans for sewage treatment. This board has always shown an attitude of working with communities. Now there are going to be thousands of boys down there, and it is a matter of protecting their welfare that we're interested in. If your attitude is changed, then I think you will make an effort immediately to draw up detailed plans so that if you're fortunate enough to obtain money from the federal government, you will be ready to go ahead.

Mayor Hand: It would satisfy the commission, then, if we went ahead with our plans.

Mr. Wendel: It would satisfy the commission if everything possible is being done. If you had started levying a service charge, as they did in Portland, you would have had enough money for the engineering work.

Mayor Hand: The board realizes that it is impossible to get much done before the first of the year.

Mr. Wendel: We realize that it takes time. The soldiers are already moving in--that is why it is regrettable that you didn't do something before.

Mr. Lewis: Colonel Dopmeyer hasn't made his report as yet, and, unless he says it is necessary for national defense, we couldn't built it even if we did have the money.

Mr. Spies: That was the understanding at first. However, I have received some other information, and it seems that the President of the United States has set up a new committee composed of members of the Army, Navy, Federal Works Agency, Federal Housing, etc., plus representatives at large from the states concerned. Any project

requesting federal assistance will go before this committee. I contacted the Oregon representative a couple of days ago, and he stated that our statement to the effect that it was necessary would probably carry more weight with that committee than the opinion of some federal agency. I took that to mean the Public Health Service would not have the final word, as was formerly the case.

Mayor Hand: Gentlemen, all I'm trying to bring out are some of the facts that will show you our position in this matter. We're not disinterested in this at all, we'd like to see something done.

I don't know what the council will say, naturally. All we can do is take back a report of this conference and present the matter to them.

Mr. Wendel: Why is it your council members are not here? Every one was served with a citation. We had hoped that you could tell us definitely today just what you would do about this.

Mayor Hand: Some of our members are in defense work. All have business's of their own and serve without compensation on the council. They couldn't just leave their work. I told Mr. Spies that I would get as many here as possible. When I talked to him, he said to bring the ones I could.

Mr. Hallock: Couldn't you gentlemen, without much delay, assure us that you will go ahead with your detailed plans? In other words, you could develop plans at the expense of the city instead of the federal government.

Mayor Hand: We'd have to put that before the city council, and they would have to take action on it.

Mr. Goodnight: We've taken studies of our sewage situation

in Corvallis over a long period, and it was from that information that I worked out the size of the interceptor. We have determined a little more than a rough estimate. The standards for a treatment plant is more or less uniform anyway. With all that we have, probably less than three weeks would be necessary to complete the plans.

Mayor Hand: Would it be satisfactory to the commission if Mr. Goodnight would complete the plan.

Mr. Wendel: Mr. Spies can answer that.

Mr. Spies: He's a registered engineer.

Mr. Wendel: How soon can you have a council meeting?

Mayor Hand: Monday night.

Mr. Wendel: What will your recommendations be to the council?

Mayor Hand: As Mayor, my recommendation would be that we proceed as rapidly as possible. We'll have our engineer prepare plans for your Sanitary Engineer to check, and we'll expedite the matter of a grant or loan from the F.W.A.

Mr. Wendel: Would you consider adding to that the investigation of every other means of finance?

Mayor Hand: Yes, but I don't know what other means there would be.

Mr. Wendel: I think that this commission is assured that you're going to do everything possible, is that not true?

Mayor Hand: The general thought of the council was that any service charges that might be passed would be for the purpose of maintenance.

Mr. Lewis: A service charge would take some time. Our water department is under a water commission which is entirely separate

from the city council. I might say that the members of the water commission do not always agree with the members of the city council. We might have a local problem in that respect.

Mr. Birch: We ran up against the same thing with Pendleton.

Mr. Hallock: Those things occur, but they can be worked out.

Mr. Wendel: No one wants to use material or labor for any project not vital to the war effort. The Army realizes the necessity of conserving every bit of man power and material, and yet they believe it is necessary to have this treatment plant.

Mr. Lewis: In that connection, Senator Holman considers it a project deserving federal assistance.

Dr. Stricker: He was instrumental in having this act passed in the first place.

Of course, the most grave thing is that if they should have an outbreak of dysentary down there, we would be responsible. Just think how an outbreak like that would effect the state of Oregon.

Mr. Lewis: What is Harrisburg doing?

Mr. Spies: They've made preliminary studies and have submitted an application to the F.W.A.

Mr. Goodnight: Another thing, the government is going to open Fern Ridge Dam, and that will alleviate the situation somewhat.

Mr. Wendel: Is there anything else?

Mr. Hallock: I would like some assurance as to when we will hear what action has been taken.

Mayor Hand: We'll advise you.

Mr. Birch: Why not have one of our men present at the meeting of the council?

Mr. Lewis: It's a public meeting.

Mr. Wendel: Well, I guess that's all, gentlemen. Thank you.



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