

57 OPEN SEWERS

A HEALTH MENACE
UNPLEASANT BOATING
NO SWIMMING

CLEAN RIVER
VOTE 500 ☒ YES

HOW LONG

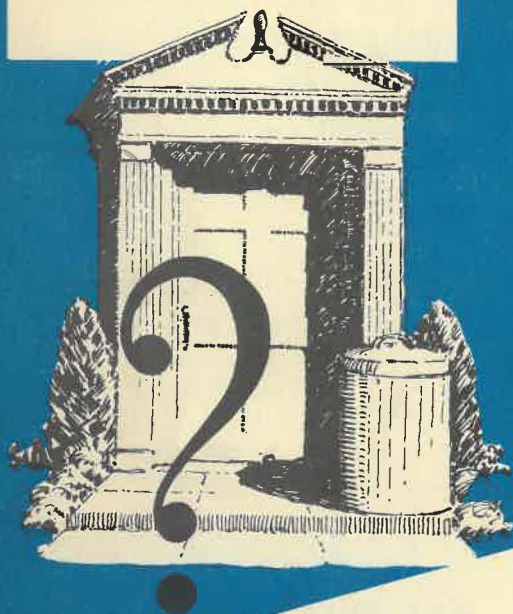
are you going to
be satisfied to have

SEWAGE

(DISEASED FILTH)

at your

FRONT DOOR



VOTE FOR
PROGRESS

LET'S CLEAN
UP THE WILLAMETTE
RIVER AND COLUMBIA SLOUGH

VOTE
YES ☒ 500

SEWAGE DISPOSAL A Civic Problem!



A majority of the people residing in Portland are sincerely desirous of having the Willamette River and Columbia Slough cleaned up. Portland's population has been increased by more than 100,000 newcomers during the past three years. Present indications are that the population of this city will have soon doubled that of prewar days. Industrial and residential sewage has increased and will continue to increase in proportion to this city's growth. And all of this sewage, this waste from our city flows past your front door in and on the Willamette river.

WILLAMETTE... A River of Unhealthy Filth or Cleanly Beauty?

The people of Portland refer to their home as the "City of Roses" and were inclined to boast of their once beautiful and healthfully clean Willamette River which flows through the very heart of the city.

Now that once beautiful body of water is gaseous, mucky and actually reeks with the unhealthy waste of nearly one-half million persons living in this area.

The polluted waters of the Willamette river and Columbia slough are a threat to the health of every individual living in this area. Neither commercial or game fish can survive in this filth during a large part of the year. Only the lowest species of fish and animal life, such as carp; and the rapidly increasing hordes of rats and other disease carrying vermin breed and thrive under the unsanitary conditions of the Willamette's open sewers.

Four years ago we voted to improve and beautify the city's waterfront. Now is the time to vote for the improvement of conditions in the river itself.

CLEAN UP... With Proper Sewage Disposal

Sewage disposal is a system of conducting sewage and other waste matter to a common point or points and there subject this waste material to a mechanical and chemical treatment which eliminates germs, disintegrates filth and thus prevents nauseating pollution from contaminating our waters.

The sewage disposal plan under consideration calls for sufficient treatment of sewage and other waste matter so that the effluent, the material remaining, would be of such nature that it can be disposed of in a satisfactory manner.

RECREATION... The Answer to Juvenile Delinquency

The energies of Portland's youth must be diverted from street loitering by provision of proper recreational facilities. Juvenile delinquency is arousing public attention as a problem. Healthy bodies and healthy minds are the result of outdoor play.

Swimming, boating, fishing and picnicking along the many miles of Willamette river flowing through Portland are unpleasantly impossible now because of sewage contamination.

A natural playground, the Willamette flows through the very center of our city. Portland owes the recreational opportunities of a clean Willamette to her youth—and adults also.

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS About Sewage Disposal

1. What is Sewage Disposal?

Sewage Disposal is collection and treatment of sewage and industrial waste material to eliminate dangerous pollution of waters used to carry sewage away.

2. Why vote for a bond issue?

Acceptance of a bond issue at this time on the part of taxpayers guarantees immediate postwar construction of a sewage disposal system.

3. How much will it cost the Average Taxpayer?

The present rate of taxes would not be increased by acceptance of the sewage disposal bond issue. Portland is rapidly paying off outstanding bonds so that when the proposed sewage bonds start maturing, taxes will have been reduced more than enough to offset sewer cost.



The average home-owner now pays \$50 per year. The proposed sewage disposal bond issue would cost him \$1.78 per year, but this small amount can be taken from taxes at their present levels.

Taxes could be reduced \$1.78 per year for the average payer. But surely, a sewage disposal system is worth more than that to the average Portland family.

4. Would construction of a sewage disposal system help returning war veterans?

The immediate construction of a Sewage Disposal Plant following the war will mean jobs

for our returning veterans and others while we are going through the change of converting war-time industries into peace-time industries.

5. Why plan NOW?

Intelligent planning NOW, means no lost time after the war is over. We need to have in readiness the necessary plans, and the funds with which to pay for the job. Also with interest rates at their present low, it is believed that these sewage disposal bonds will be sold to bear not more than 1½% to 1¾% interest. Planning NOW will avoid unemployment. Let's not wait until the breadlines start forming.

6. How about the Moses Plan?

The Moses Plan specifies sewage disposal as Portland's number one public works project.

7. What is present status of sewage disposal funds?

On July 31, 1933, the people of Portland voted on the problem of sewage disposal—approving a self-liquidating bond issue. Because of legal technicalities in the language of this issue, the bonds were not salable and so the question must again be put to voters.

On the vote of the people, \$635,000 has been collected on a sewer user charge during the past 44 months. \$200,000 of this fund will be paid to engineers who have been employed by the City Council to make complete studies and plans for a sewage disposal system.

A Riverman's Personal Observations

"Along about 1905 a public boathouse was built by subscriptions and the city operated that boathouse as the Portland Public Baths for about five years. Many of Portland's now prominent business men will recall having learned to swim there.

"Then the Brooklyn sewer was built and so recreation on the river was forced to move upstream from the city. The lower point of Ross Island became quite a playground.

"In 1917 the city health officer tested the water of the Willamette and found decided pollution, even at the south end of the city—upstream.

"... Raised in South Portland, I used to drink Willamette river water..."

"There used to be a summer run of salmon... This run ceased in 1925.

"Boating and canoeing used to be favorite pastimes on the Willamette..."

"The river is getting worse every year and where we used to have clear water all of the year, except during fresher periods, it now starts in right after the spring fresher to get brown and by October is darker than strong coffee and the oxygen content is about zero."

CAPT. K. A. PREHN,
City of Portland Harbor Master

What Other Oregon Cities Are Doing About Sewage

COTTAGE GROVE: Considering levying a sewer user charge of 25¢ per month.

SPRINGFIELD: Voters have authorized issuance of \$250,000 in revenue bonds.

EUGENE: Approximately \$100,000 has been accumulated through sewer user charge. Considering levying a five-mill general property tax for five years for sewer improvements.

CORVALLIS: Considering levying sewer user tax equal to 15% of water bills to finance construction of an interceptor sewer.

SALEM: General obligation bonds for \$200,000 have been sold and plans are being made to levy a sewer user charge.

ALBANY: By end of fiscal year, will have \$60,000 for post-war sanitary projects. Are raising other funds.

OREGON CITY: With sewage disposal as the number one project, plan to finance post-war construction by general tax levy.

LEBANON: General tax levy of 10 mills is being collected.

NEWBERG: Levying a surtax on water use equal to .10¢ per 100 cubic feet of water.

Portland Should Not Lag... Portland Should Lead!

Forty-five Oregon communities already have sewage disposal facilities. Eighteen new sewage disposal plants have been constructed at military and war industry establishments in this state.

Twenty-four Oregon cities have taken definite steps for construction of sewage disposal plants after the war.

Newspaper Editorial Comment

"... Portland has been struggling for more than a decade to do its part in cleaning up the Willamette... The compulsion of state law, the detrimental effects of pollution, and the employment value of sewage disposal as a postwar project all argue powerfully for action. Let's do it." —Oregon Journal

"... Sewage disposal stands as Portland's number one municipal problem. Not until we have met it may we hold up our heads in the community of cities patrolling the Willamette river, nor can we adequately service our own swollen population..." —Oregonian

"... Now is the time to levy for sewage disposal... That Portland must construct an adequate sewage disposal project is certain... The State Sanitary Authority... will require this as soon as postwar conditions make construction possible..." —Oregon Voter

ENDORSEMENTS and STATEMENTS

"Portland is required by state law to clean up the river and pay the cost of a sewage disposal system. Municipalities are expected to be in a position to proceed with the work as soon as the war is over."

HAROLD F. WENDEL,
Chairman, Oregon State Sanitary Authority

"River purification is not only essential to the beauty and charm of our great state and to successful propagation of fish life . . . but also important to the health and well being of literally thousands of our citizens . . ."

GOVERNOR EARL SNELL, *State of Oregon*

" . . . In addition to the plan being one to clean up the Willamette river, it is intended also as a means of providing employment for service men and needy residents during the postwar period."

MAYOR EARL RILEY, *City of Portland*

"In my opinion the No. 1 post-war construction project is a sewage disposal system. . . It will provide the maximum number of man-hours of work. We owe this to our returning service men as well as to the workers now engaged in war industries."

DOROTHY MCCULLOUGH LEE
City Commissioner of Public Utilities

"Sewage disposal and treatment is a community duty and responsibility. The Columbia slough problem is urgent and something must be done as soon as possible. The City of Portland is directed by the State Sanitary Authority to hasten our sewage disposal project."

WILLIAM A. BOWES, *Commissioner of Public Works*

"The Health Bureau constantly wages war on rats. . . . Sewage disposal development will eliminate our greatest rat breeding source—the open sewer outlet."

FRED L. PETERSON, *Commissioner of Public Affairs*

"A recommendation is approved . . . that the Portland Chamber cooperate actively in presenting this question (Sewage disposal bond issue) favorably to the voters prior to the election."

PORTLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"The CIO is vitally interested in the cleaning up of the Willamette river. We urge all citizens of Portland to vote 500 X YES on the city ballot. . . ."

R. B. BAKER, *President*,
STANLEY EARL, *Secretary-Treasurer*,
Oregon State Industrial Union Council—C.I.O.

"The Portland Industrial Union Council heartily endorses the plan for a sewage plant for the purpose of cleaning up the Willamette river—this measure will greatly contribute to the health of the community. . . ."

JOHN B. MCKENNA, *Sec. Treas.*,
Portland Industrial Union Council

"The Central Labor Council of Portland, representing all American Federation of Labor unions, have unanimously endorsed the sewage disposal bond issue."

GUST ANDERSON, *Exec. Sec.*, *Central Labor Council*

"Sewage disposal is the first consideration of the Moses Plan. . . . By continuing the same tax levy that was placed in the current fiscal year for sinking fund

debt service requirements, there would be no increase in taxes to liquidate the \$12,000,000.00 principal and interest during the life of this proposed sewage disposal bond issue."

KENNETH L. COOPER, *Commissioner of Finance*

"Cleaning up the Willamette river would in a great measure help to provide recreational facilities and thus lessen the problem of juvenile delinquency."

JUDGE FRED W. BRONN, *Court of Domestic Relations*

" . . . It is a well established fact that typhoid as well as other disease germs . . . can live for several days in sewage and sewage-polluted waters. . . ."

DR. H. M. ERICKSON, *Asst. State Health Officer*

"The river needs cleaning, and this is the time to authorize it—when the work will help bridge the transition for our returning service men."

PHILIP H. PARRISH
Editor of Editorial Page—Oregonian

"The Portland League of Women Voters approves . . . providing funds for a sewage disposal system. . . ."

CARRIE B. HERVIN
President, Portland League of Women Voters

CITIZENS SEWAGE DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

211 OREGON BUILDING ATwater 1388 Ext. 18

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A. A. Loeb, *Vice Pres.* Lela V. Porth, *Secretary*

Frances Mayer, *Exec. Sec.*

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