

Wouldn't it be a God send to have fresh pure water piped along the street, so that your family could be supplied and your property protected from fire? To do this it will cost an average real-estate owner (with assessed valuation of say \$1500) twenty dollars a year. This is not much! Ten dollars of this will be for rental, maintenance etc, and the other half to help retire one \$1000 bond each year. The assessed valuation of Meridian is about \$150,000. Less than one cent increase in the tax rate, which is now about 5 cents on the \$1 valuation, would meet the expense of the water works bond issue, figuring on an issue of \$12,000.

This is what we will get in return:

Good, pure water, instead of germ-infected water coming from a shallow well of bad seepage or from a dirty cistern. This saves doctors' bills and perhaps undertakers' bills.

Fire protection. How many times this summer did you get up in the night and investigate your property, realizing that the ditch was dry and that only a spark would start a big blaze?

Insurance rates would be reduced, and a large property owner paying 3 percent insurance could carry a few hundred less in amount and save most of the cost of the water supply.

Lastly, but as important, is the fact that the town needs and must have the water works as a matter of public pride and for the growth and welfare of the place. The railroad company may give us hot air but they will not park the depot grounds until we get water works, and the Times will risk its reputation as a prophet on this. There are people who would come to Meridian if better water and fire protection were given.

We must take on responsibility as residents of a town. We must make improvements and, if necessary, as with the water works proposition, bond ourselves to pay for it.

If we vote the bonds, the personality of such men as J. M. Anderson, Elmer Sims, H. P. Madden, W. A. Palmer and Ed Hartman, the trustees, is a guarantee that the town's interests will be guarded. They are responsible men.

Mr. Clem Hedges has a good deep well, and twenty families regularly pack water from it. Why can't the town have one five times as big, and with the cheap electric power at hand, pump all necessary water? Next week the water will be turned out of the Ridenbaugh ditch for the season, and then we will have no protection whatever from fire.

In our next issue we will publish some comments from Meridian tax-payers.

MERIDIAN PEOPLE TALK WATER WORKS

Friday, October 29, 1909

Although there is no well-defined plan perfected as to the method of building, the people of Meridian are in favor of some kind of a water works system. The Times man has talked to many of our citizens, but found it difficult to get a satisfactory expression, as no estimate is at hand of the cost or the extent of the system.

Dr. C. L. Dutton is in favor of the system if it can be built by the town and with no graft of any kind. He thinks the method of using a gravity system, and piping the water from a reservoir located on the higher ground near town, might be looked into. He does not believe that our present run of typhoid can be traced directly to the use of cistern water.

Dr. P. L. Payne says that all typhoid can be traced to the water supply, but that he considers that shallow wells are as liable as the cisterns to contain the germs. He thinks both are dangerous, and that we should use water from deep wells. He is enthusiastic for some kind of water works, and says that there are so many ways in which it will benefit the town that he fails to see how anyone can object.

Homer Champlin says he has always favored improvements and wants to be known as a booster for the water works.

J. L. Waggoner is in favor of water works, but does not think that \$15,000 will build them.

L. K. Deck thinks the water works would not benefit him, as he has a good well.

J. H. McSparran thinks the system would be of little benefit to

those having outlaying acreage, while they would pay for the expense the same as those uptown.

J. M. Jackson thinks the town should have water works.

J. J. Groves says the water works are necessary from every point of view.

J. W. Harrell and T. Stevens are both boosters for any plan that will get a good water supply for the town- "and don't you forget it."

Homer Tolleth would like to see water works built.

Horace Bray, who has charge of the Onwiler interests, says that water works are needed. He says that although they are at expense of building a cement walk around their property, they are ready to put up a bigger and better hotel just as soon as the town needs it.

W. M. A. Hayden is in favor of water works- anything that will boost the town.

H. Barz says this is just what he was trying to get the people to do some time ago, and says we need the water works very much.

Geo. E. A. Atwater thinks the benefit of the water works system will not be confined to a few blocks in town. Every acre of ground within three miles of Meridian will be worth more money the day the water works are completed. A benefit to the town people will enhance their purchasing capacity and their general prosperity. In turn this must be felt by all those who have business relations with them. More people will come to town, produce will find an easier market than being hauled to Boise, and thus the farms will be more desirable and worth more money. In Meridian, the churches and societies will have more members, and we will not hear so much about lack of support. The town is not as big as it should be, and the lack of such things as a water works system is the cause of it.

The Garret Brothers are enthusiastic boosters for the water works.

E. F. Hunt says we need water works all right, and that anyone can see the necessity of it.

J. M. Anderson- As a member of the board of trustees, I want the people first to speak. Of course I am in favor of it, and believe the

time is ripe for something to be done.

H. P. Madden- I am a member of the board also, and want the people to speak first. I feel sure the typhoid around here can be traced to our poor water. I understand there is a proposition to put down a well 200 feet deep at \$1.25 a foot, which, with a six-inch pipe, could furnish 35 inches of water over a wier by test. Standard well pipe, costing \$1 a foot, could be used. There is much talk of a compressed air machine which probably could be adapted to our wants, and might be used without much expense for a storage tank. Two miles of mains would cover the town completely, and the total cost of the water works system should be between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Champlin & Tolleth are in favor of water works.

E. G. Dunkin is in favor of a better water supply.

Dr. Reynolds says that bonds of from ten to fifteen thousand will be needed, but that this should not be a burden. The water rentals should pay for maintenance, interest on bonds and for reasonable extensions. The first thing to do is to call a meeting, and petition the trustees for an election. If the election is called and the bonds carry, the various systems can then be discussed and the trustees can get expert advice if necessary. The town can legally bond up to \$15,000.

Raymond T. Ott says the town should not question the cost if one life can be saved by pure drinking water. He is for water works, first, last and all the time.

E. C. Pfaffle says that insurance rates would go down about 15 percent with water works, and that a merchant carrying a stock of goods can, with this 15 per cent, pay his share of the interest on the bonds. In other words, he will, for the present, save as much as he would pay out. Many can cut their insurance down if we have fire protection, as now one is inclined to carry as much as possible. Mr. Pfaffle wants the water works put in, and D. J. Bullock is also a booster for the plan.

Elmer F. Sims favors water works, and if the town is not financially able, he wants a private corporation to do the work.

Mr. Sims thinks the poor water is the cause of much sickness.

Dr. H. F. Neal says: The only way Meridian can go ahead is to bond for these improvements. I am heartily in favor of it. Many cases of typhoid can be traced to the poor drinking water we have here. The filters in the cisterns do not catch or kill the little germs that cause typhoid. The filth from the [?] water may contain these germs, there is nothing to prevent their growth. The shallow wells in Meridian catch more or less seepage water, so I don't consider them safe.

J. A. Fenton- I am strongly in favor of a plentiful and wholesome supply of water for town use. I think the town ought to own its water system. It may be a little expensive at the start, but experience has proven in other places that it was a good investment, and I don't see why it should not be so in Meridian. Pure water is one of the first necessities of life, and we cannot afford to try to get along without it. By all means, let us have a good water system in Meridian.

J. A. FENTON FAVORS WATER WORKS

Friday, November 5, 1909

Editor of the Times: As the question of a municipal water system for Meridian seems to be up in real earnest, I desire to say a few words bearing upon that subject:

The only possible argument anyone can urge against the proposition is that of expense. Can we afford it? Is it worth what it will cost?

Experts agree that a reasonably comprehensive system could be installed here for about \$10,000, for which amount the town would have to vote bonds. The cost of operation, maintenance, interest and sinking fund would probably be about \$1,500 per annum. The income derived from the system should be sufficient to meet this. In other words, the water department of the town should be self-sustaining.

At present, the principal source of the drinking supply for the town is through the wide open irrigation ditch, which gathers up all manner of filth as it wends its sluggish way through the streets and alleys and around barn yards, a veritable open sewer. Next to

breathing foul air, foul drinking water is the most prolific cause of disease, especially typhoid fever and diphtheria. Could you estimate the cost of a case of either of these diseases in your family and the possible result? It is simply a miracle how Meridian has escaped an epidemic of disease.

The average cost to each householder would not exceed the cost of a good well. Each family must have an abundant supply of pure water. Why not put the cost of your well into a common fund, which would enable the town to convey water to its citizens in a modern, beautiful way? And which from every point of view is the most economical. It would give us protection at once from loss by the two most destructive forces with which mankind has to contend, disease and fire.

Where municipally owned water systems have been found unsatisfactory, it has been found due principally to two causes, namely, too cheap construction, which requires constant repairs, or an inadequate system which had to be enlarged. We can guard against both easily. The best authorities declare that where a thoroughly good system is once installed, the cost of maintenance is almost nothing. Let us all boost for the water works.

J. A. Fenton

ROUSING MEETING HELD! LOOKS LIKE MERIDIAN IS TO GET WATER WORKS!  
COMMERCIAL CLUB CONSIDERS MATTER and a BIG MASS MEETING is PLANNED

Friday, November 12, 1909

Some day, and not far in the future, Meridian will be provided with a water works system. There has been newspaper talk and impromptu discussion, but not until Wednesday night was the matter brought before the business men in proper shape. Civil Engineer Edmund M. Blake, of Boise, met the members of the Commercial Club, upon invitation, and the question was discussed in all its different phases. There were quite a number of business men present, but, owing to the stormy weather and short notice, many were absent.

In the first place, Mr. Blake stated, that while he was building a good system for South Boise, and that it will be owned by private capital, he thought the people in Meridian were wise in advocating municipal ownership. He said it involved more expense, but the people

would get what they were paying for and that the service would be as they desired.

The question of pipe came up next, and the merits of cast iron and wood pipe discussed. Mr. Blake advised cast iron, as being cheaper in the end, although the first cost was a great deal. Geo. E. Atwater submitted plans for the Kawoni system of air pressure for the plant, but Mr. Blake stated that although for a hotel or private institution this system was all right, he would not advise it for a town, the service being uncertain.

Remarks were made by A. D. McCullough, President Fenton, J. M. Anderson, Ed Hartman, Homer Tolleth, E. E. Sims, Homer and Harry Champlin, E. C. Plaffle, H. P. Madden and others, and although no definite conclusions were reached, the plans for a system suggested by Mr. Blake were enthusiastically endorsed.

The report of the committee appointed to correspond with firms relative to cost and also to furnish an idea of the number of blocks to be served was made by Chairman Atwater. They found that one and three-fourths miles of mains would cover the town completely, and that this could be reduced to one mile if necessary. The area includes a little more than the sprinkling district on the north side and several blocks south of the track.

The cost of the system Mr. Blake estimated to be about as follows

6160 ft 6 inch pipe at \$1 per ft.	\$6160.00
2400 ft 8 inch pipe at \$1.20 per ft	\$2880.00
Total cost of laying 8560 ft pipe	\$9040.00
12 hydrants at \$40	\$480.00
60,000 capacity tank and tower and pump	\$6,000.00
25 horsepower motor and building	\$2,500.00
Total	[?]

Mr. Blake said that while these figures might appear high, they were based on the best material and construction possible. The cost can be reduced \$5,000, for instance, by using wood pipe. Or the system can be put in with cast iron pipe, and laying but a mile of mains for about \$13,000.

These figures are based on tank construction similar to that at Nampa, a tank elevated ninety feet, and being 110 feet to the top.

There would be capacity of about 60,000 gallons, with a pump of 350 gallons a minute capacity.

He said if 160 places use the water at \$25 a year, under the proposed system, the maintenance charges and interest on bonds will be paid. In this way the taxes of all those not using the water will not be increased a cent.

Mr. Blake stated that if a reasonable price could be secured from the Idaho-Oregon Company, electric power will be best. He was asked various questions, and gave much valuable information. He favored no particular make or system, but spoke more as a consulting engineer. At the conclusion of his talk, he was given a vote of thanks by the Commercial Club, and invited to be present next Wednesday evening, when a big mass meeting of citizens is being arranged. It is planned at this meeting for questions and answers to be given, so that any person will be able to get a good understanding of the problem of providing the town with water works.

#### CITIZENS ENDORSE WATER WORKS

WILL PETITION BOARD TO CALL BOND ELECTION

Friday November 19, 1909

An enthusiastic mass meeting, attended by many tax payers, was held at the big tent on Idaho Street Wednesday evening, as per the call of the Commercial Club members. The water works question was discussed, and many questions were asked and answered. J. A. Fenton presided as chairman of the meeting, and John F Baird as secretary. E. M. Blake, of Boise, was present, and gave estimates as to the cost of the plant. These figures were practically the same as given before the Commercial Club last week, but were more carefully prepared. He figured on a tank elevated 110 feet, with a capacity of 60,000 gallons, 10,000 more than the tank at Nampa, but in other respects the same.. This, he said, could be erected by the Chicago Bridge & Iron Works for \$4,450. He recommended a pump to furnish 50,000 gallons a day and capable of furnishing to two [?] streams 355 gallons a minute. This would cost \$1,000. He recommended a 225 h. p. motor at \$400, a building at \$1,500 and a deep well at about \$350.

For the piping system he recommended eight and six inch iron pipe

costing about \$10,000 as against wood, costing \$4,000 less. He said the expense of keeping up wood pipe would be considerable as against nothing for iron pipe.

He said the entire system could be built complete for \$18,000.

Remarks were made by Clem Hedges, J. H. McSparran, H. P. Madden, S. M. Burns and others. Rev H. E. Wilhite complimented the citizens upon their enterprise in starting the movement for better water.

After discussion, the audience was asked to give by standing vote an endorsement of a municipal water system, and every person in the tent rose to his feet.

Dr. S. M. C. Reynolds then offered a resolution that a committee of three be asked to secure signatures to a petition asking the village trustees to call an election to vote bonds for a water works system. This was carried and the chair appointed Homer Tolleth, John F Baird and Arthur Ballard as such committee.

During the next few days this committee will call on as many tax payers as possible with this petition. It is hoped that it will meet with the enthusiastic support of every person and that the list of names will be so complete as to indicate that the people mean business.

Meridian must have a water supply. This movement is straightforward and honest, and every person is working with an eye single to Meridian's welfare.

Hurrah for the water works, and let's not have one vote against it! It will require a two-thirds vote at the bond election, but if the sentiment of Wednesday night's meeting is a criterion, this two-thirds can be secured without a doubt.

FOR WATER WORKS BONDS 120 AGAINST THE BONDS 8 VOTES

Friday February 18, 1910

The vote in Meridian last Saturday on the proposition to bond the village in the amount of \$20,000 to construct a water-works system carried by the overwhelming vote of 120 for and 8 votes against. There was the necessary two-thirds and 34 votes to spare. The

registration was 170, but nearly every available voter was at the polls.

### A BIG SUCCESS

The people of Meridian are to be congratulated on the happy outcome of the election last Saturday. The vote was decisive, being 120 for the bonds and only eight against them. In more ways than one it was a test election. It not only showed the harmonious sentiment of the people on the water works question, but also the spirit of progress which dominates the town. Had the election gone otherwise, an irreparable injury would have resulted. It would have been a serious setback to public enterprise and a frost upon the blooming hopes of the people. Making sure of pure and abundant water for all time to come is not only a splendid thing in itself, but the fact that the water works are to be built and owned and managed by the people concerned is something to rejoice over. The water will be furnished at cost, and it will never be poisoned by the taint of private monopoly and extortion. It is a big thing to have a fundamental principle endorsed by a community and at the same time decreed to be concreted into an industrial plant, to pour its blessings upon all the future generations. A great boost has been given to the faith of the people of Meridian in each other and in the possibility of securing the co-operation of her citizenship in favor of any needed improvement.

### TO PROVIDE A SCHOOL ROOM

Friday, February 9, 1912

A mass meeting of citizens was held in the old school building in Meridian Wednesday evening, which was well attended. The gathering was called at the suggestion of the school boards of District No. 33 and the rural high school, and they explained that a condition and not a theory confronts the Meridian schools, and that is to provide room next fall for the already crowded rooms. If anything is done in the way of building, it is explained, it must be started this spring to be of any benefit for the coming year.

W. W. Groves presided at the meeting and A. W. Garrett was the secretary. Chairman H. F. Neal and Wm. Moreland, of the high school board, and John Waggoner of the Meridian district, explained the needs of the schools.

It was brought out in the talk that of the four districts remaining in the rural high school district, two were petitioning to get out, following the lead of four other districts that have seceded. On account of the high valuation this year, especially of farm property, the high school tax has been an additional burden, and naturally the residents outside grasp at the suggested way of reducing their taxes by doing away with what some consider a luxury more than a necessity.

Chairman Neal and Superintendent Holt made an estimate of the probable expense of the rural district next year, showing that one half of last year's levy would be sufficient, as \$1500 had been expended for new books and apparatus alone, that would not be duplicated. The rural district now receives \$300 state aid for each teacher, and if the rural school is done away with, and Meridian simply maintains a high school, this help will not be available.

County Superintendent Miss Iva Wilson was present at the meeting and made a convincing argument for the rural school, and advised Meridian people to maintain it even if but one outside district remained loyal, and if this one district did not favor bonding now for the high school building, it would be better for the high school building project to drop, and instead for District 33 (Meridian) to bond and build a grade school, which would relieve the crowded condition, and would at the same time keep the rural school organization.

Secretary Waggoner, of District 33, also favored the grade school building idea, as he said there was doubt of the outside districts giving any help in building a rural high school. While the meeting resulted in nothing but a good natured discussion of the schools and the best means of relieving the situation, it apparently pushed one idea to the front, and that was that district No. 33 must meet the situation and solve the problem alone, without much help

from the outside.

It is probable that a campaign will be started for the calling of an election this spring to build a grade school, similar in size to the new building now used.

VOTE FOR THE SCHOOLS

no date (February 1912)

The Times has heard no good reason for not supporting the proposed bond issue for building a new school building. One point was not made clear in last week's article, and that was that the new building is not an addition but an annex to the present building. There are many good reasons why the new building should be built alongside the present structure, as one principal, one janitor, and one heating plant can be used, while to separate the grade schools would be to duplicate this expense.

In another column is a statement from the school board explaining the absolute necessity for more room. The quarters used in the old school building cannot be counted as so much room, as the question of its being safe is constantly agitated, and the school board should not be compelled to keep classes there against their better judgment. The present grade school building has eight rooms, and there are nearly 400 scholars to be accommodated. An annex or enlargement of this building would solve the problem for room, and the board has figured that \$30,000 will be ample to build another building as large or larger in size, with extra rooms for classes and principal's office, and an up-to-date heating plant.

The school board is composed of some of our leading citizens and tax-payers, and the proceeds of the bond issue will be carefully administered and expended. Vote for the schools.

"It's Up to You"

The school board is compelled to have more room to accommodate the school next year. The present building is too small. Next year some pupils must be kept out of school for part of the day at least, unless more room is provided.

What are YOU going to do about it?

Friday March 1, 1912

There were 197 votes cast at the school bond election Wednesday. There were 118 votes for the bonds and 79 against, and thus lacked 14 votes to have the necessary two-thirds majority. There should have been an unanimous vote for the proposition, but as many were misinformed as to what the district trustees wanted, they voted against it with the idea that it was only a plan to increase taxes. It is admitted by the board that not sufficient time was given to educate the people to the need and importance of increasing the school capacity at this time. One of the best arguments in support of the plan was this: The outside districts in the rural high school are not satisfied with the accommodation in Meridian, and it was necessary to do something to encourage them to stay in and pull together for an up-to-date high school.

Meridian does not want to lose the rural school, as it is not only a help in making the school what it should be, but adds about \$1500 of state money to our credit each year. This would pay the interest on the bonds, and in reality the taxes would not be increased a cent if we had voted the \$30,000 bond issue, if we thereby retained the rural high school.

The proposition voted on Wednesday was as follows:

Shall the Board of Trustees of Meridian Independent School District No. 33, in Ada County, Idaho, be authorized to issue the negotiable coupon bonds of the district in the amount of \$30,000.00 bearing interest at the rate of 5 per centum per annum; said bonds to bear date the 28th day of February A. D. 1912, payable 20 years after date and redeemable 10 years after date, for the purpose of providing a schoolhouse and furniture, apparatus and fixtures, at Meridian, within and for said district?

Friday April 5, 1911

A mass meeting of the voters of Independent School District No. 33, of Meridian, was held in the old school building last Monday evening.

Mr. Groves was chosen as chairman.

The question of bonding for the erection of a new school building was discussed.

The need of more school room, more ground, heating apparatus, sanitary ventilation and toilet service was presented.

When built, the present building, which originally cost \$13,500 and upon which nearly \$5,000 more has since been expended, was thought to be larger than necessary.

At present, however, it has insufficient room for the grades, besides which the four rooms of the old building, and a rented room for manual training, are now occupied by the high school.

Mr. Fuller reported that there is a present enrollment of 80 pupils in the primary department alone; and the school board reported that it had been necessary to add one new teacher to the grades, each year in the past, and the prospect is that the grades will require two new teachers for the coming year.

It was also reported that the present toilet service is a menace to health, and is liable to be condemned.

Over three hundred children are compelled to crowd into these unsanitary buildings; this is conducive to neither health nor morality.

It was unanimously recommended that an effort be made to secure the block of ground north of the present school building, fronting upon Meridian Street, also that the plans and estimates and estimated cost of a building containing eight rooms on the first and second floor, with full sized basement for heating plant, manual training and domestic science rooms, and full sized room under the roof for gymnasium and assembly room be secured, four rooms of the new building to be occupied, at present, by the rural high school.

In the present year, 24 pupils will be graduated from the eighth grade of the Meridian school alone. Besides, there will be graduates from surrounding country schools.

Boise high school is already over crowded.

Where shall these pupils go?

ANOTHER SCHOOL ELECTION

April 1912

Another election is called for Tuesday, April 30th, to vote on \$35,000 bonds for a new school house and additional grounds, in Meridian. There should be no opposition to this, as every objection made by those who voted "no" before has been met, and it is believed that there will be no reason for opposition. The proposed new building will be some fifty feet or more from the other building, and will be large and commodious. Land will be bought north of the present building as a site, and the claim cannot be made that it is a mere addition to the older structure. It will be of solid construction, not veneered, as is the present building, and a first-class heating apparatus will be provided that will supply both buildings.

A MATTER OF REGRET

Friday, May 3, 1912

The result of the \$35,000 bond election Tuesday was a deep disappointment to many who had hoped that new quarters would be provided for the school children this fall. The vote was 212, and of this number 140 were in favor and 72 against the proposition. It thus lacked two votes to have the necessary two-thirds to carry. Twice, a majority of the citizens have asked that bonds be voted, and the former election was lost by 12 votes, and this by a smaller number.

The school board expresses a deep disappointment, and state that there will be a serious handicap in taking care of the scholars that will ask to attend school this fall. The directors of District 33 state that they cannot accomodate high school pupils in either of the school buildings, as all the room will be required for the grades. It seems to be up to the rural high school district to hunt quarters for themselves. This can only be done by renting vacant rooms around town.

The Times believes those who voted against the bonds Tuesday made a serious mistake, as it means that no new quarters will be provided for a year at least. As far as higher taxes is concerned,

this action can only result in a direct tax being levied to meet the temporary needs, and this tax will be higher than the amount of the interest on the bond issue.

Besides, the sentiment, as expressed by those who twice voted down the plan to provide additional quarters, is discouraging to those who are endeavoring to provide a high school in the Meridian district that will attract and keep our students at home. The action of Tuesday is practically saying to all those over the eighth grade that they must seek other schools- in Boise or elsewhere- if they wish to pursue the studies found in an up-to-date school, and that, notwithstanding that the district has an assessed value of \$1,500,000, we are too poor and tax-oppressed to provide quarters for those who wish to advance beyond readin, ritin and rithmetic.

VOTE FOR THE BONDS

Friday June 21, 1912

Another effort will be made next Monday to carry the \$35,000 bond issue to build a new school house in Meridian. Twice, the majority of the people have said they favored the bonds, and the will of the majority should rule. There is no reason on earth to oppose the bonds, as the interest will make the taxes no higher than if temporary quarters are provided. There are 425 children in the district, and room in the school houses for 375- which means 50 scholars will not be properly housed this winter. This is counting in the old school house, which many consider unsafe. Without the old school house, at least 100 scholars are unprovided for.

The cheap veneered brick building, known as the "new school house," would not be considered a credit to many of the country districts of Ada County. An idea of the elegant accommodations of this building is understood when it is known that 400 children are compelled to use two small, unsanitary closets, with no better fixtures than are found in the rear of the average hotel. Some day the sanitary officers will come down from Boise and the toilets will be condemned.

One [?] and a third will pay the interest, figuring the district

at a valuation of \$1,270,000.00, on the proposed bond issue. The extra tax will amount to about \$2.40 on the average 40 acre farm. What better investment can we make than to provide good schools? Let us not send word outside that Meridian votes to defeat a worthy enterprise. Vote for the Bonds!

MERIDIAN'S PROGRESS for the YEAR JUST CLOSED Friday December 27, 1912

The year 1912 has been good to the Meridian community in many respects. We have been blessed with bountiful crops on the farms and ranches and the health of the community has been uniformly better than any year in the history of the settlement.

Our three physicians, Dr. H. F. Neal, Dr. C. L. Dutton, and Dr. P. L. Payne all report a remarkable absence of typhoid diseases, and in town this is credited to the improved water system, as a fine deep city well has taken the place of the shallow unsanitary private wells throughout the town. Before the new water works was completed, especially during the fall and winter of three years ago, there were numerous cases of typhoid fever, with several deaths, while this fall the doctors report that there is not a single case in the corporate limits.

GOOD PURE WATER

The city water system, which has cost about \$35,000, has been extended, and the mains now cover the entire village, with 135 patrons. The patronage has been beyond expectations, says Mayor J. M. Anderson, and the receipts do not only pay running expenses and interest on the bond issue, but a good sum is turned back into the treasury this year. Credit for much gratuitous labor in getting the water works to its present satisfactory state is due to the Mayor and Councilmen E. F. Sims, Charles Pickett, Ed Hartman and W. A. Palmer. They have also had charge of equipping the town with new cement cross walks, and forty have been put in. These, with several [?] make a sum total of street improvements nearly equal to all previous years put together.

The roads in town and country have been especially good this

fall, and part of this is no doubt due to the grading done by Street Commissioner Downey, for the town, and County Commissioner Crawford, for the country.

### THREE FINE SCHOOLS

Meridian is especially proud of the schools, and three school buildings will be equipped to take care of the many children in this neighborhood, the third being the fine new high school building, located in a commanding position, and which can be viewed by all those coming into town from the north, east or west. It is being built by District No. 33, but will be used not only for the grades, but Rural High School No. 1 will find accommodations there.

The new building will be ready for occupancy this spring, and is designed by Architects Tourtellotte & Hummel, of Boise. About \$30,000 is being put in the building, and the elegant block of ground was secured at an additional cost of \$2,500. The basement story will have manual training and domestic science rooms, the second floor four class rooms, each 32X23, and the top floor three class rooms, a study room and superintendent's office.