

THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

Report of Prof. Phelps Practically as Forecast in The Star—Recommendations.

Bearing out in every essential detail the story published in The Star on the day following the completion of his personal investigations in this city, the report of Prof. E. B. Phelps, the water expert, who recently made an exhaustive inspection and study of the Wilmington water supply, was received yesterday by Mayor P. Q. Moore from Surgeon General Rupert Blue, of the United States Public Health Service.

Just as forecast in The Star, Prof. Phelps, who is professor in charge of the Hygienic Laboratory, Washington, does not look with favor upon the proposition to secure the water supply from deep wells. He says that the proposition involves many elements of uncertainty. He finds that the present water supply is on the whole quite satisfactory, though several changes in the plant are recommended and their immediate adoption is urged.

As a result of a careful study of the present water supply of Wilmington and the possibilities of a deep well supply and other river supplies, the deep well project has been found to involve many elements of uncertainty and to be definitely lacking in that it would supply an undesirable hard water and the continued use of the river water is strongly recommended.

The present water supply, which is now operated in on the whole quite satisfactory. Every effort should be made to maintain the purification plant at the highest possible degree of efficiency and to this end certain changes seem imperatively necessary. The suggestion of communicating channels between the old and new sets of filters made by the chief engineer, Mr. John W. Sweeney, is an excellent one and should be adopted.

This will make it possible to utilize for the present time the entire capacity of the plant. The connections which are being made between the two sets of settling basins will also prove of great benefit. It would be still more advantageous if piping connections with the pumps could be so arranged that these two sets of basins could be used in parallel as well as in tandem. This would not only give the maximum time for coagulation but would allow the minimum horizontal velocity of flow through each basin thus permitting the most efficient sedimentation of any kind.

If the present source of supply is to be continued large coagulation basins will be found to be necessary to secure proper color removal without the use of an excessive dose of aluminum sulphate. At least two such basins should be provided, one on the other hand, the Northwest Branch project is to be adopted in the near future it is not deemed advisable at this time to undertake the coagulating basins. Further study of the latter project will doubtless indicate that the basins have at present sufficient capacity for the treatment of that water.

The foregoing recommendations should be acted upon at once in the interest of the health of the community and are irrespective of other projects. Whether deep wells or a new intake are to be investigated the present plant requires this minimum of attention to the protection of public health. It is believed that these steps are sufficient to properly safeguard health and other considerations are merely of personal preference or possibly of economy. It must be admitted, however, that the objections to the present system even under its most efficient management are such that if the people of Wilmington desire and can afford better water supply it is their right and privilege to be heard in this matter.

Of the various alternative projects that have been considered the extension of the intake on the Northwest Branch of the Cape Fear river is by far the most promising. It is recommended that the necessary engineering studies involving the cost of the East Branch siphon, the two miles of pipe line and the low life pumping station be undertaken at once. There are no serious engineering problems involved here and the necessary engineering studies can be made without unreasonable expense. At the same time it is recommended that chemical and bacteriological studies of the water of the canal alluded to be undertaken. These should be made with the object of determining the general chemical character of its chemical treatment; the hygienic characteristics of the water with special reference to determining whether or not any pollution from Wilmington reaches this point; and finally what saving in chemicals, sulphate of aluminum, soda ash and chlorine would be indicated by the use of this water. If, as I am sure, a very considerable part of the investment the project would certainly seem to be one worthy of consideration before the citizens of Wilmington a definite statement of the advantages that are possible and the cost of obtaining those advantages over the final outcome water in order that the final outcome may be decided after a full and frank discussion and upon an impartial presentation of all the facts in the case.

The writer wishes in conclusion to express his grateful appreciation to Dr. W. S. Rankin, secretary, and to Mr. Warren H. Booker, engineer, of the State Board of Health, for valuable personal information and various reports, laboratory results and other documentary material placed at his disposal; to the Hon. Parker Quince Moore, Mayor of Wilmington; to Martin S. Willard, chairman of the Board of Health, and to Councilman Wood and Superintendent Merrett, City Water Department, for many courtesies extended and especially for opportunities offered to meet representative citizens of Wilmington; to Dr. Charles T. Nesbitt, superintendent of health for having compiled for my study and also for having placed at my disposal the complete records of the Board of Health; and to George F. Catlett, the chemist and director of the laboratory who has given me every possible assistance in arriving at a knowledge of the facts and whose personal effort to simplify the duties involved upon me by the compilation of statistical data and analyses greatly reduced the labor of this investigation.

CONCRETE BRIDGE ASSURED

Seaboard and Coast Line Given Until February 1st to Begin Work on the Structure.

One of the briefest sessions on record was held yesterday morning by the City Council, when the one question before the body for consideration was disposed of in less than five minutes. Adjournment was then taken until next Monday morning at 10 o'clock, when the question of municipal lighting will be gone into again at the request of Councilman Wood, who has expressed dissatisfaction with the proposed settlement of the matter. The session was brief yesterday because of the fact that it was Christmas Eve.

The session was presided over by Mayor Moore and all members of Council were in attendance except Councilman Chadwick. Present also were City Attorney Bryan, Capt. Thos. D. Meares, the clerk, and Hon. John D. Bellamy, who appeared for the Seaboard Air Line Railway in the matter of the proposed new bridge over the railroad tracks on Fourth street, at Hilton. The present wooden structure is to be replaced with a modern concrete structure, and is to be paid for jointly by the Coast Line and Seaboard. Mr. Bellamy said that this had been definitely decided upon. However, it will take at least a month to assemble the materials and he asked in behalf of the railroads that the ordinance adopted some weeks ago with reference to railroad tracks crossing streets at a certain depth, be suspended until February 1st. The request was granted, following which Council adjourned.

Members of the Council, the city attorney and the city clerk each received a Christmas remembrance—a handsome necktie—from Mayor Moore. They expressed to the mayor their sincere thanks for his kind remembrance. Souvenir pocketbooks and knives—gifts of the Coca-Cola Bottling Works—were also distributed among members of the Council.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR WILL HAVE CHRISTMAS SERVICE.

Following Usual Custom Will Have Exercises Today at Noon.

Following the usual custom and in common with other commanderies throughout the world, Plantagenet Commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar, will today at noon spend half an hour in a beautiful Christmas service in its assembly in the Masonic Temple. It is expected that the service, which begins at 12:30 P. M., will be largely attended. The following circular letter has been sent out by the commandery: "On Christmas Day throughout the world at 12:30 o'clock, over a quarter of a million Knights Templar will spend a brief half hour in their Christmas observance service.

"This is one of the Templar customs that has been observed by the men and will add to your value in the world. "Plantagenet Commandery, No. 1, will meet at the assembly in the Masonic Temple and you are cordially invited to be with us. No uniform will be required as we are limited to 30 minutes. This 30 minutes will add to the pleasure of the other 23 1/2 hours.

"Don't fail to come and bring your Sir Knight visiting the city that you can reach." The season's greetings and a toast await you.

THE RECORDER'S COURT.

Justice Tempered With Mercy Exercised Yesterday by His Honor.

Sarah Perly, colored, was before the Recorder yesterday charged with assaulting Bessie Moore with a knife. Bessie had been hurt for there was a wound on her left wrist which evidently had been done with a knife. The circumstances clearly indicated that Sarah had done the evil deed. She was found guilty of the offense, a serious one, but when it developed that she had only on Wednesday had an uncle to die and that her mother was dangerously ill, judgment was suspended upon payment of the costs. There were scores of those same negroes who are alleged to have raised much cash around 11th and Market streets. They were found guilty of the charge, but judgment was held open until Friday morning. The bond named in each case was \$100. Willie Flynn and Robert Jones couldn't give bonds and went to jail. Frank Howard and John Henry Bernier were more fortunate in being able to do so and did not have to go to jail.

CLOSING EXERCISES.

Pupils of Miss Mary L. Alderman Have Christmas Celebration. Yesterday morning at 10 o'clock the pupils of Miss Mary L. Alderman had an interesting Christmas celebration at her home, No. 12 North Fifth street, the occasion marking the close of the Fall term. There were appropriate exercises consisting of music, recitation and other interesting features following which came the Christmas tree. Capt. W. P. Monroe was Santa Claus and well did he act the part. Indeed, the children were convinced that he was really Santa himself. Many beautiful presents were distributed.

MR. C. E. WILLIAMS DEAD.

Passed Away at His Home in the City Yesterday Morning. Friends learned with sorrow yesterday of the death of Mr. Chas. E. Williams, which occurred yesterday morning at 2 o'clock at his home, No. 805 Chestnut street, after an illness extending over a long period. He was 55 years old. He is survived by a wife and four children all of whom will have the sincere sympathy of a host of friends in their great loss. The funeral will be held this morning at 11 o'clock from the residence. The interment will be in Bellevue cemetery.

The Collectorship. In conversation with a Star representative yesterday, State Senator John D. Bellamy stated that he is very much surprised at the Washington news to the effect that Col. Walker Taylor has been appointed Collector for the port of Wilmington and insists that before appointment is made, both our Senators and Representatives will give a hearing to him as he has much to say concerning the collectorship of this port.

Every possible assistance in arriving at a knowledge of the facts and whose personal effort to simplify the duties involved upon me by the compilation of statistical data and analyses greatly reduced the labor of this investigation.

REDUCTION IN POWER RATES

Tidewater Power Company Made Interesting Announcement to Customers Yesterday.

Announcement of a reduced rate for electric current for power effective January 1st, was made to their customers in a letter yesterday by the Tidewater Power Company. The rating of 7, 5 and 2 1/2 cents per kilowatt hours is changed to 7, 5 and 2 cents, while a change is also made in the number of kilowatt hours that must be used in order to obtain the lower rates.

A Tidewater official stated yesterday that it was decided some time ago to make the reduction on January 1st and that the present action of the company had nothing whatever to do with the company's order at a recent meeting of the City Council to apply the rates for electric power now in effect in Raleigh and Goldsboro, if a majority of the users of electric current here desire it.

The question of applying the Raleigh and Goldsboro rates will be submitted to the customers of the Tidewater Power Company within a few days. The rates now in force for power are 7 cents per kilowatt hour up to 21 kilowatt hours per horse power per month; 5 cents per kilowatt hour for the next 63 kilowatt hours per horse power per month; and 2 1/2 cents per kilowatt hour for all current in excess of the above amount. The reduction now made is in the number of kilowatt hours in order to secure the lower rates and a reduction of a half cent per kilowatt hour for all current used in excess of 80 kilowatt hours per horse power.

Following is a copy of the letter mailed to the customers using electricity for power: "Dear Sir:—We beg to advise you that on and after the first of January there will be a reduction in the rate for electric current for power. These rates will be as follows: "7c per kw. hour for the first 20 kw. hours per horse power per month, which constitutes the minimum bill. "5c per kw. hour for the next 60 kw. hours per horse power per month. "2c per kw. hour for all current in excess of the above.

"Less a 10 per cent cash discount if paid before the 10th of the following month. "TIDEWATER POWER CO." WILL MAKE STRONG FIGHT.

Committee Collecting Data of Light-house Depot Proposition.

A meeting of the Chamber of Commerce committee, composed of Col. John Van E. Meares, Messrs. Lacy Hunt and E. P. Bailey, was held yesterday afternoon in the rooms of the Chamber to discuss the proposition of securing the location of the government light-house depot for the sixth district near Wilmington. The committee recently went to Washington to present the matter before Assistant Secretary Sweeney, Department of Commerce, and are very hopeful of being successful in landing the building in this vicinity.

The committee has been promised a copy of the arguments of the different cities asking for the project before the officials of the Department of Commerce. Mr. Sweeney has promised the Wilmington committee that he will send a printed report of the different hearings before him. The committee has not yet received this report, and as the hearing is a general hearing is now only a short time off, being set for next Monday morning, a request was sent to him yesterday afternoon that he forward it at once, if possible.

Jacksonville is making a strong fight for the place as is also Savannah and Charleston. Other cities wanting the depot are Miami, Fla., and Brunswick, Ga. These cities have all sent delegations to Washington and presented fully their reasons for wanting the depot. Next Monday delegates from all these cities will attend a general hearing before Mr. Sweet at Washington when an opportunity will be given for them to discuss the matter in a general meeting.

NEW BANK BUILDING.

Bids Will be Opened Saturday for Murchison's New Home.

Bids will be opened Saturday of this week for the handsome 10-story office building and home to be erected by the Murchison National Bank on the site of the old Cape Fear Club building at the northwest corner of Front and Chestnut streets, according to statement yesterday by Mr. Kenneth M. Murchison, the well known New York architect, who has charge of the plans for the new structure. Mr. Murchison has been here since Saturday and has been enjoying several days' outing at the Orton Plantation in Brunswick county. The work of excavating for the foundation is going right ahead and is being done by the John Henry Miller Co., Inc., Baltimore, which firm has also a bid to construct the building. It is estimated that earth will have to be removed for 36 feet below the street level, to bed rock. The firm that has submitted a bid for the construction of the building is the Amsterdam Building Company, of New York City, which concern has many large contracts in the North.

PRIZES ARE AWARDED.

Pupils of Schools Who Received \$5 Gold Pieces for Work. Some time ago the New Hanover Transit Co., exclusive developers of Carolina Beach, offered a prize of \$5 to the student in each of the schools of the city who would write the best composition on their attractive resort. A number of very creditable essays were submitted in the contest, but those who received prizes of \$5 each were Miss Helen Prease, Union School, \$5; Miss Minnie Louise Perdue, Hemenway, and Mr. H. O. Wolf, Cape Fear Academy. The promoters of the new beach have every reason to feel proud of the splendid results of the contest. Miss Perdue who won one of the first prizes yesterday was also a winner in the contest recently conducted by Messrs. Wilder & Metts.

GIVE PRETTY SOUVENIRS.

Coca-Cola Bottling Works Distribute Attractive Gifts. According to their Wilmington custom, the Messrs. Hutaff, of the Coca-Cola Bottling Works, have distributed to their friends and patrons attractive souvenirs consisting of a wallet, purse and knife. While the gifts of this popular business concern for the Yuletide season are always pretty those given this year excel anything that they have distributed before. The Messrs. Hutaff are always progressive and for this reason their business has grown rapidly from year to year.

HAPPY YULETIDE SEASON

Formal Opening of Christmas Celebration With Community Tree Last Night.

After many days of anxious waiting by the little folks, Christmas is here with all its attendant joy and good cheer. Old Santa Claus started out early last night on his rounds and before the sun rises will have distributed presents of all kinds to millions of children in the United States. By common consent the day will be given over to enjoyment and pleasure and in Wilmington will have the general air of Sunday with the exception of popping firecrackers here and there.

All day yesterday great crowds of people thronged the streets rushing hither and thither, buying presents for loved ones and making final preparations for the happy Christmas season. There were many visitors in Wilmington from other towns who came for the purpose of shopping and trading. The merchants did a splendid business, although they state that the butchering of the pig will be below the usual mark. The express and parcel post traffic was tremendous and showed that the giving of Christmas presents is growing more popular.

Early in the afternoon the Christmas spirit had begun to manifest itself with the shooting of firecrackers, the blowing of bugles, the jangling of cow bells and the various kinds of noises that youthful America has been able to devise for making a noise. Today will be quieter, however, and will be very much like Sunday.

Public offices and business houses will be closed during the day save only a few stores that perhaps will open during the morning hours to give their customers an opportunity to exchange goods for other sizes, if they so desire, or to give some forgotten shopping list a chance of purchasing a belated Christmas present. For the next week or so the city will be given over largely to the gaiety incident to the glad holiday season.

The college boys and girls are home for the holidays and this brings added joy to many. They will add much in enlivening the social life of the city. Then, too, it is the season when busy persons take a few days off to visit relatives. It is Christmas, the time when people want to get together and recall old times and forget for a while the troubles and sorrows of life.

Unfortunately, the weather man could hold out little hope last night for a clear day. His forecast was rains for today with cooler weather for tonight. He holds out brighter hopes for tomorrow, however, when he says there will be a clearing, but too, he may be surprised today by the sun beaming forth unexpectedly for he has been known to make mistakes. But after all it is Christmas, the day that makes Christmas; it is the spirit that counts and Wilmingtonians have this to an eminent degree.

The formal beginning of the Christmas celebration in Wilmington was marked by the Community Christmas on the postoffice lawn last night. An account of the dazzling rain many were kept away, but a large number overcame the elements and gathered around the immense cedar, beautifully decorated with scores of electric lights and Christmas cards, and with carols and hymns. The tree, given by Rev. J. S. Crowley, was surrounded by a large star, emblematic of the Christmas tree, and was a pretty sight and fittingly represented the idea of Christmas.

The Salvation Army yesterday distributed among the poor families of the city 990 packages of Christmas necessities which will today afford a bountiful repast to many who would otherwise be deprived of a Christmas dinner. The afternoon at the Seaman's Bethel, corner Front and Dock streets, dinner will be served by the Salvation Army to the nameless young men and young women of the city followed by a Christmas tree for the little folks.

This morning a division of the Yoke Fellows Band will take to the main convict camp in the county the East Wilmington a variety of gifts for the convicts. Mr. R. A. Burnett, superintendent of the county roads, will lead the procession, but a large number of the unfortunates when they receive the donations of candies, fruits, and other good things, Christmas cards provided for them. Another division of the Yoke Fellows will go to the camp on Acorn Branch on a similar errand. According to the usual custom of the convicts will be provided with a Christmas dinner and will be given the day for rest and recreation.

And at the county home Christmas will be celebrated with an appetizing dinner that has been provided by the good people of Wilmington. Yesterday afternoon Rev. F. B. Clausen, Mr. E. B. Huntington and others took several automobile loads of turkeys and other things that go to make up a Christmas dinner out to the home so it could be prepared for the sumptuous presents that will be served. For the seamen who are in port a bountiful dinner of appetizing food will be served tonight in the Memorial Hall of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church. The arrangements for the dinner are in charge of Mr. T. C. Findley, and he is assisted by the members of the Christian Endeavor Society and the Seaman's Friend Society.

All the churches either have had or will have within the next few days appropriate exercises commemorative of the Christmas season. Christmas trees will be the means of bringing to the children of the various Sunday schools sumptuous presents. Some of the churches have already had their Christmas trees.

The worthy aim and purpose of Wilmington people is to see that every family in the city has some remembrance of the happy Yuletide season. The whatsoever Circle of King's Daughters yesterday distributed over 100 packages of fruit, candies, toys and other articles among the poor of the city. Other organizations have performed similar errands of good cheer. It is the happy Christmas season when all should be glad as indeed everyone in Wilmington seems to be.

CHURCH SERVICES TODAY.

Several Local Churches Will Have Appropriate Christmas Sermons. Christmas services at St. John's church will be a celebration of the Holy Communion at 7:30 A. M., followed by morning prayer and the Holy Communion at 11 A. M. Special music. The Christmas tree for the Sunday school will be given in the Parish House Friday night at 7:30 P. M. Christmas day service will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran church at 11 A. M. A programme of special music will be rendered by the choir. The Rev. F. B. Clausen will preach. Topic of sermon "Emmanuel." At 5 P. M.

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

The PEOPLES SAVINGS BANK On the Corner of Front and Princess Streets

A Merry Christmas To All! The Wilmington Savings & Trust Co.

Sunday school will hold its Christmas service in the church. A fine programme will be rendered by the children and there will be a number of addresses by both white and colored men of prominence in the community. The colored ministers of the city are lending the committee every assistance in its preparation for the reunion. Generous donations have been received from a number of citizens, making possible the reunion and the attendant feast of good things to eat.

THE C. W. POLVOGT COMPANY "The Store That's Always Busy" And Their Staff of Salespeople Wish Their Many Friends and Patrons a Merry, Merry Christmas! Yours Very Truly, THE C. W. POLVOGT COMPANY WILMINGTON'S SHOPPING CENTER