

Weather: Rain and Warmer

WATERWORKS SITUATION REVIEWED IN DETAIL

How and means whereby the city shall own its water system is the all-absorbing topic of conversation in Washington, the News has gathered some facts for the consideration of the public.

The water plant was established about 14 years ago under a franchise from the city. The Water Company agreed to keep a certain pressure at all times and the city was to pay a rental for a certain number of hydrants. For several years this agreement was lived up to by both parties and no complaints were heard against the water company. Now was the city criticised for not paying the rents. During this period there were a number of fires which would have been far more destructive but for the convenience of an adequate water supply. As time passed demands upon the water company grew greater, the number of private consumers increased and as they increased the capacity of the plant was taxed to its utmost and the company soon found that it could not maintain the necessary pressure. A meeting was had between the Board of Aldermen and officials of the Water Company. An effort was made to devise some means of relief, but no satisfactory plan was reached and matters dragged along for some time, during which public sentiment was being moulded against the Water Company and a demand was being made that the city get in a plant and thereby be independent of the present company. Of course those who did most of this talking had not figured the cost and the returns therefrom. They were prejudiced and nothing would satisfy some but the scalp of the Water Company. During all this time there were numerous fires in the city, at some of which there was not a sufficient supply of water to get the fire under immediate control. The cause of the inefficiency of the water pressure was not altogether the fault of the company. The contract with the city calls for four streams of water through one hundred feet of hose, but as a fact at all fires of any consequence since the installation of the plant there has been from 5 to 8 streams, by overtaxing the capacity of the plant in putting on an excessive number of streams the water supply was depleted, and the efficiency of the plant reduced, without giving effective service at the fires. The fault lay primarily with the chief of fire department, who should have seen that here was only enough hose on to take care of the water supply.

The Water Company was asked to maintain a better pressure. They appeared before the Board and stated frankly that they could not maintain the necessary pressure at all times and suggested that certain improvements would be made if it was satisfactory with the city and if the proposition made was not what the city wanted, the company asked that the city suggest what it wanted done. Nothing resulted from this proposition. The officers of the Water Company have on numerous occasions reported members of the Board of Aldermen to bring the matter before the Board as to what would be required to put the plant in satisfactory condition, the company not being willing to put in a large amount of money with no assurance that what was done would be satisfactory. Knowing the hostile attitude of some of the Board of Aldermen, during February one year ago, Mr. Sprake made several attempts to have a board meeting called so that he could ascertain from a full board just what they would require, for some reason there was never a meeting called while he was here. He did manage after several attempts to get an audience with the Mayor and City Attorney, which meeting did not materialize anything looking to the adjustment of the differences, but on the other hand seemed to aggravate the situation and conditions remained as they were and the Board of Aldermen refused to pay the Water Company its monthly rental until now an amount of \$2,000 is due the Water Company. During this time the city has never ceased to use all the water it wanted from the hydrants or the drinking fountains, and the city hall, and for numerous other purposes. Thus the city desire to live either on charity or by force.

In granting the franchise to the Water Company, the City Fathers contemplated the idea of interest to be provided whereby it might acquire the water plant at the expiration of certain periods, one of these provisions was that the city should give notice of its intended acquisition of the plant and if the event a price could not be agreed upon, appraisers should be named, one by the city, one by the Water Company, and should those two not reach an agreement they should call in the third party, who would settle their differences.

Has the Board of Aldermen complied with the conditions which the city itself had imposed?

Notwithstanding the fact that there has been an increasing demand for public ownership of the water plant the Board of Aldermen permitted the time at which they should have given notice of intended purchase to pass without action on their part. If they wanted to acquire the plant in good faith why did they not live up to their part of the contract as they were asking the Water Company to do?

The Legislature of 1911 enacted a law which requires municipalities to deal with water companies having franchises within their borders, should they (the city) desire to install a municipally owned plant. This law was passed for the protection of investors in this class of securities throughout the State. The Board of Aldermen of Washington were not willing to be bound by this law and they had the city attorney draw a bill and send it to the senator from the First District (not the Representative from Beaufort County) exempting Washington from the scope of this law.

And because Representative Rodman opposed the passage of this bill there was some talk of calling an indignation meeting to condemn this action, and this talk was by men of mature age who should be capable of dealing with a proposition of this character in an unprejudiced manner.

As will be shown by the following statement there is an unanimous prevailing among a majority of the Board of Aldermen that they are not willing to pay an appraised valuation for the plant, in other words they are not willing to give the Water Company a square deal such as they would like to have.

Several months ago, after repeated efforts on the part of officials of the Water Company, the Board of Aldermen agreed to get an engineer to go over the assets of the company with an engineer secured by the company. The city employed one of the best known engineers in the State, viz: Col. J. L. Ludlow, The Water Company employing the engineering firm of Geo. W. Fuller of New York, one of the recognized authorities on plants of this description. The report of Geo. W. Fuller & Co. showed a valuation of \$1,000,000. The report of Col. Ludlow showed a valuation of \$1,000,000. There being little difference in the estimate of the physical valuation of the plant. The difference in the estimate was caused by an allowance made by the Fuller Company for contractors profit which was not allowed by Col. Ludlow. This additional allowance by the Fuller Company being a just credit, as the plant was not built under contract, but by the company.

Mr. Wilcox, representing the bond holders of the water plant, met with the city aldermen, and after discussing the matter fully agreed to accept Col. Ludlow's figures as to valuation, and to deduct from those figures the cost of the present wells of the company, the gas engines, and pumps; total valuation of which would amount to \$1,000,000, and he went further and made the following proposition: Should the city not desire to purchase the plant at the appraised value of its engineer less the cost of wells, pumps, engines and lot, that the Water Co. would put in equipment to meet the requirements of the Gas Engineers' Association, which would mean an increased supply of water, a relocation of the wells and an extension of the system.

The Water Company did not require the services of a third arbitrator as provided in their franchise but they were willing to accept the valuation fixed by the engineer for the city, less the deductions for equipment which the city claimed it could not use. They did not urge the city to buy but were willing to sell in order to get an adjustment of the differences between the city and the company.

The News has been unable to get the figures above referred to and therefore is unable to publish them.

Mr. A. E. DePotis of Buffalo, N. Y., was registered last evening at the Hotel Louise.

MANY TRUST CASES NOW PENDING

Washington, Feb. 26.—When the present staff of "trust busting" officials of the Department of Justice make way for the legal agents of the incoming Democratic administration, a bulk of unfinished business will face the new comers.

There are many anti-trust suits, both civil and criminal, pending in the United District Courts for decision, because a docket of 157 cases in the United States Supreme Court.

Of the eighty-odd anti-trust actions brought under the first administration, twenty-five civil actions are now pending for decision in the courts. Eleven criminal indictments yet are to be concluded. Of the cases closed the government had a ratio of success amounting to about four-fifths. The aggregate amount of fines imposed and collected by the Department of Justice amounts to almost \$240,000. But two cases have resulted in jail sentences. The great aggregate of fines imposed and collected in one action was in the wire pool case when the defendants paid in fines \$128,700.

Just how many new anti-trust actions contemplated by this administration and left to the new administration to carry out is of course secret. It is said, however, that a number of investigations are going on, both civil and criminal. Information obtained by the government's experts preparatory to the institution of actions will be turned over to incoming officials along with the cases pending in the courts.

The government's docket at the United States Supreme Court is in good shape compared to what it was at the change of other administrations. Of the 157 cases on the docket, but one was originally filed in the Supreme Court. The remaining 156 are divided as follows: Criminal 48, injunction 1, bond 3, customs 1, land 21, tax 9, constitutional 6, Court of Claims 23, habeas corpus 12, trust 4, immigration 13, insular 5 and miscellaneous 10.

The Supreme Court under the present administration has disposed of 1,411 cases.

Mr. C. S. Hewitt, representing Chesbro Brothers of New York, one of the best known firms of fish dealers in the country, will be in Washington for about a month.

JUDICIAL REFORM BILL PASSES HOUSE

Raleigh, Feb. 26.—The bill for reform in the jury system passed the House last night by a vote of sixty-eight to thirty-seven, after one amendment had been adopted and more than half a dozen others voted down. The amendment adopted was offered by Representative Doughton and applies to the provision for drawing special venire from the jury box. The bill as it came from the Senate provided that "whenever a Judge shall deem a special venire necessary, he may, at his discretion, or whenever either the state or defendant requests it," etc. The amendment strikes out the words "or whenever the state or defendant requested it," leaving it in the discretion of the Judge.

The following bills of local interest were signed by the president and were ordered sent to the Secretary of State:

To authorize the commissioners of Beaufort county to submit to the voters of the county the question of issuing bonds to make, maintain and improve the public roads of said county.

To authorize the city of Washington to issue bonds.

To authorize the county commissioners of Beaufort county to levy a special tax.

EMELIO MADERO KILLED BY REBELS

Mexico City, Feb. 25. Emelio Madero, a brother of the late president, has been shot and killed near Montevideo, according to reliable information received here.

With an escort of thirty-five men Madero, it is said, was attempting to join the Rebel holding Nuevo Laredo, when he was overtaken by troops sent by General Trevino. The reports do not indicate whether Madero was killed in action or was executed.

SHIPPING NOTES

The "Jupiter," of Philadelphia, Capt. B. H. Newton, owned by the F. W. Munn Co., is still taking on a load of lumber, having unloaded a cargo of fertilizer.

The "Barney" left this morning on her regular trip to Blounts Creek, under direction of Capt. Charles F. Venter, her regular commander, Capt. Ambrose W. Dixon, being in the Fowle Memorial Hospital with pneumonia.

The "Ocell," of Leechville, Capt. W. S. Rice, having discharged a cargo of country produce, is still taking on one of merchandise preparatory to the return trip.

The "Arcadia," of Yeatesville, Capt. Henries, is in port today.

The "Theresa," of Germantown, Capt. E. C. Midgett, is still in port taking on a cargo of merchandise, having discharged one of cotton seed.

The first boat, "Sterling," owned by Mr. C. H. Sterling of Washington, was lying in port this morning.

The "J. F. Morris," of Gaylord, Capt. George N. Sadler, is leaving this afternoon, having discharged her cargo of feed and cotton seed.

MR. MOORE SELLS OUT HIS FISH BUSINESS

M. E. B. Moore, who has conducted a fish business in Washington for the past 20 years, has sold out to Mr. John M. Swindell, brother of Mr. W. E. Swindell, of the Swindell-Fulford Fish Co.

It will be 20 years ago next May since Mr. Moore first entered the fish business in Washington. He has succeeded from the start, sometimes employing as many as 100 men or more. He used to own his boats, but found it better to let the men own them, and so has pursued this method in recent years.

At the time when Mr. Moore first went in business here there were only three other fish firms, namely, W. D. Davis, J. R. Wynne & Co. and W. E. Swindell. The first has long since left town, the second died just a few days ago while the third is still in business, being a member of the Swindell-Fulford Fish Co.

Mr. Moore was born in Pitt county, and came here directly from Greenville.

Mr. Swindell was born and raised eight miles below Washington, and has obtained most of his business experience in the office of his brother here.

At present, there are four fish firms in town, the Swindell-Fulford Fish Co., C. H. Sterling, S. P. Willis and John Swindell, who takes the place of Mr. Moore, retired.

Mr. Moore has had many exceedingly interesting experiences in the course of his long career as a manager of fishermen. He says that not so many fish are caught now as when he first went in business, and that those which are caught are not so nice. While the river is continually being restocked by the government, he would advise citizens to take care that the fish are not thinned out. There is no reason why the quality and quantity of fish should not improve year by year if properly cared for.

Mr. Harold Moore, who has been conducting the fish business of his father, since the latter's health began to fail, will remain with his successor for the present.

The men who have been associated with Mr. Moore for so many years as buyers, fishermen, clerks, in short all who have come in contact with him in a business way, will be saddened that he has left the business.

But their best wishes follow him, even if business relations are severed, and they say with one accord that no one has ever better earned an honorable retirement by long years of successful achievement than he has.

Bishop Robert Strange Delivers Superb Lecture

WOULD TORTURE LORD HARDINGE.

Bombay, Feb. 26.—Hundreds of letters are being received by the newspapers from natives, apparently written with the idea of emphasizing their loyalty to the British government, suggesting various methods of punishing the would-be murderer of Viceroy Lord Hardinge, when caught.

One contributor thinks that a "good effect might be produced" if the remains of the bomb-thrower were to be distributed among the public museums throughout the country. Another, a Parsee, would have him "rolled for an hour each day in a cask studded with sharp-pointed nails, and salt rubbed in the wounds." After this treatment has continued for a year, he should be "brutally hanged."

AUTOMOBILISTS HAVE MISHAP.

Monday night a party of Washington auto friends had it demonstrated to them conclusively that the automobile has come to stay—that is, to stay stuck in the mud about 12 miles this side of New Bern.

Without a care in the world the happy little party, made up of Messrs. Will Clark, Allen Roberts, and Dave Hill chugged away from here to Mr. Clark's car to see "Officer 666," in New Bern.

As the town limits were left behind, a momentary shadow fell over the merriment of the three young men as they thought with pity of their unfortunate friends who were compelled to ride to see "Officer 666" in a dirty vulgaw train, don't you know, to mix with the common herd in a stuffy old parlor car, and breathe the unhealthy cinder-laden atmosphere. Eat this sad thought for their less fortunate friends was quickly banished and joy was unconfined.

But when "Officer 666" was still over 10 miles distant, something got wrong underneath the machine, and the usual tactics were employed to coax it to proceed just a little bit further. But the auto didn't seem to believe in going to the theatre anyway, and persuasion was in vain.

The party landed in Washington about one o'clock in the morning and if you ask any of them how was "Officer 666," you will doubtless receive the reply that it was very good.

For persons from 10 to 20 years of age, inclusive, whose literacy depends largely upon present school facilities and school attendance, the percentage of literacy is 10.7.

The total number of dwellings in North Carolina is 430,570, and the total number of families 440,334, indicating that in comparatively few cases does more than one family occupy a dwelling. The average number of persons per dwelling is 5.1, and the average number per family, 5.

MOTION PICTURES ONLY AT LYRIC TONIGHT

Exclusively motion pictures are the offering at the Lyric Theatre for the first half of this week, and they have certainly been meeting a warm welcome every night.

The pictures now shown at the Lyric are not only a class that are entertaining and amusing, but something that educates, and elevates as well as they have amusing value.

For Thursday night the main offering in vaudeville will be "Clem Hackney's" Marionette act. An act of this nature will be something new from what has ever been booked here before, it is a stage upon a stage and wonderful in its operation.

Mr. Hackney has played return dates everywhere booked and the reports on his act are very creditable. Mr. Hackney will make his first appearance here Thursday, and no doubt but what he will receive a warm welcome.

Mr. George M. Watson of Lake Landing is among the day's visitors.

VALUABLE STATISTICS ON N. C. POPULATION

Washington, D. C., Feb. 26.—The composition and characteristics of the population of North Carolina, as reported at the Thirteenth Decennial Census are given in an advance bulletin soon to be issued by Director Durand, of the Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce and Labor. It was prepared under the supervision of Wm. C. Hunt, chief statistician for population. Statistics of color, nativity, parentage, sex, state of birth, citizenship, age, literacy, school attendance, marital condition, and dwellings and families are presented. They are grouped as follows: For the state and counties, for cities of 25,000 or more, for cities of 10,000 to 25,000, and for places of 2,500 to 10,000. A previous population bulletin for North Carolina gave the number of inhabitants by counties and minor civil divisions, decennial increase and density of population, and the proportion urban and rural. That and the forthcoming bulletin cover all the principal topics of the population census except occupations and ownership of homes.

Voting and Militia Ages.

The total number of males 21 years of age and over is 506,134, representing 22.9 per cent of the population. Of such males, 70.7 per cent are whites and 29 per cent negroes. Native whites represent 70 per cent of the total number and foreign-born whites 0.7 per cent. Of the 2,396 foreign-born white males of voting age, 1,439, or 43.7 per cent, are naturalized. Males of militia age—18 to 44—number 392,192.

Literacy.

The Census Bureau classifies as illiterate any person 10 years of age or over who is unable to write, regardless of ability to read.

There are 291,497 illiterates in the State, representing 18.5 per cent of the total population 10 years of age and over, as compared with 28.7 per cent in 1900. The percentage of illiteracy is 31.9 among negroes, 12.3 among native whites, and 8.3 among foreign-born whites. It is 13.3 for native whites of native parentage and 3 for native whites of foreign or mixed parentage.

For all classes combined, the percentage of illiteracy is higher in the rural population than in the urban, 19.8 as compared with 12.5. For each class separately, also the percentage in the rural population exceeds that in the urban.

DANIELS MADE CABINET IN ALL PROBABILITY

Washington, D. C., Feb. 26.—It was stated positively last night in high congressional quarters closely identified with the incoming administration of President Wilson, that the following cabinet appointments had been determined upon definitely:

Secretary of State, William Jennings Bryan, of Nebraska.

Secretary of the Treasury, Wm. G. McAdoo, of New York.

Postmaster General, Albert S. Burleson, of Texas.

Secretary of the Navy, Josephus Daniels, of North Carolina.

The foregoing names and positions are said to have advanced entirely beyond the state of conjecture of gossip and become finalities in the forthcoming cabinet list. Other places in the cabinet are said to be reasonably settled with the exception of the portfolios of war and agriculture.

Do What You Have To Do To-day.

Do not say "business tomorrow" for this phrase carries with it the threat of lost opportunities. The man who first said that he ruined his life by failing to open a letter giving warning of a conspiracy against him.

Do what you have to do today; do your buying today; take advantage of the opportunities The Daily News's advertisers offer you today. The cause of the particular buying opportunities they offer you in their advertisements today may be uncommon conditions. If you pass by these opportunities to secure exceptional value, high quality, and remarkable prices, you are not doing your duty to yourself and your family.

Your failure to spend a few minutes each day on the advantages present by The Daily News's advertisers buries in the place where it hurts most in these days of high cost of living—the pocketbook.

Make your motto "business today," not "business tomorrow"; read the advertisements in The Daily News closely and constantly today and every day.

MAKE YOUR OWN CLOTHES

That's exactly what any woman may do for herself and children if she gets and follows the styles illustrated and described in the eight-page May Manton Fashion Supplement to be distributed free with every copy of next Sunday's New York World. Besides this valuable guide to fashionable clothes and how to make them there will also go with next Sunday's World a sixteen-page Joke Book. And don't forget the Sunday Magazine, a twenty-four-page compilation—sixteen pages in colors—of fiction and other articles of more than ordinary interest. Order the Sunday World today.

The friends of Capt. Ambrose W. Dixon of the "Barney," plying between Washington and Blounts Creek, will regret to learn that he taken he was taken ill Saturday evening and carried to the Fowle Memorial Hospital, where his case was diagnosed as pneumonia.