

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1906.

GAS TROUBLES IN PORTLAND. The public of Portland cannot receive gas at a rate which will service as other cities. But it should, and the day is coming when it will.

The Legislature has granted to the Eastern stockholders and bondholders the privilege of charging the people of this city whatever rates of gas it suits them to choose to pay, and to give in exchange whatever quality of gas it suits the nonresident owners to make.

The city authorities have no control of this monopoly, but the next Legislature can give them the control that is necessary for decent treatment to the public.

This absence of authority is the source of the grief practiced by the gas company. Consumers complain against high rates, poor gas, faulty meters, extortionate charges, oppressive treatment, and other abuses; they go as witnesses before the special investigating committee of the City Council, to tell their troubles; they describe numerous shortcomings of employees of the gas company.

But these abuses are only effects; the cause is the people's lack of power to curb the monopoly. The people can get this power only from the Legislature, and the Council of Portland can petition the Legislature through resolution or memorial to let the people have it.

The committee's probe has made plain that the \$1.15 rate is extortionate, and the company has admitted the fact by promising reduction to 85 cents on May 1. The probe has shown that the penalty charged by the company for delinquent payments is exorbitant and the company has reduced the penalty from 25 cents a thousand feet to 10 cents, and will lower it to 5 cents on May 1. The probe has brought to light cases of arbitrary exactions whose evidence has been so conclusive that the company could not deny them. The probe has exposed secrets of stock-watering and bond inflation which the company could deny only by saying "None of your business" when asked to explain them. Tomorrow night, in City Hall, the committee will hear further testimony of the same kind.

The investigation has accomplished a great reform already; the price is to be reduced, the penalty has been diminished and the oppression has been lessened in other ways. But the source of the trouble still exists—the franchise which needs to be modified by the Legislature so that the people shall no longer be at the mercy of the company.

FREAK COLD SEASONS. The present weather conditions are abnormal in Oregon, but not by any means unprecedented. While in general, as shown by the records of the Weather Bureau in more recent years, and as preserved by the memories of pioneers of an earlier era, mild winters in the Pacific Northwest glide naturally into balmy Spring, there have been exceptions to this rule, one of which we are now experiencing though not enjoying.

Harking back to the Winter of '62, it is remembered that severe weather in February worked great hardship on the farmers of the Willamette Valley, and especially in the foothills, where the snow lay in drifts until well along in April, swept from the lowlands by sharp blasts, leaving the young wheat exposed and later throwing its roots, by alternate freezing and thawing, out of the ground. Fields were reseeded in the Spring, however, and harvest conditions were normal. Again in 1878 severe March storms prevailed in Eastern Oregon, and to a lesser degree in the Willamette Valley. The loss of stock on the prairie was excessive, as up to that time no provision for winter feeding had been made.

In March, 1882, snow fell to a depth of several inches in the Willamette Valley, accompanied by a temperature that was below the freezing point for several days. All went well with the crops, however, there being the usual fall abundance, both of grain and fruit. Again in 1888 a warm January caused the buds to swell prematurely; orchards bloomed bravely, and rose bushes and other plants sent out tender shoots of pink and red and delicate bronze. Winter, mocking the confidence he had entrusted in the vegetable world, turned treacherously upon his traces in early

February and gave vegetation a setback from which it did not fully recover until June. There were no roses for Decoration day that year, but later there was the usual abundance of bloom. It is well to remember in all of these instances that harvest brought, if not the usual abundance, at least an abounding plenty, and that no failure of crops, as incident to abnormal weather conditions in February and March, is recorded.

It is frequently said that the climate of Oregon has changed in the past fifty or sixty years. There is little warrant in fact for this assertion. There has been, as above shown, now and then a year in which abnormal weather conditions have prevailed for a time at one season or another. But this is nothing new, nor is it confined to the climate of Oregon or of the Pacific Northwest. The Oregon or of the Pacific Northwest. The Oregon or of the Pacific Northwest. The Oregon or of the Pacific Northwest.

Another pioneer is on record with similar reminiscences. These incidents, together with the records of later years, prove the simple fact that there is now and then a freak season in Oregon, but that it is not a serious consequence. In the main, however, year after year, balmy Springs have succeeded mild, rainy Winters, and to be in turn succeeded by growing, delightful Summers and fruitful Autumns. This is the full and well-attested record of Oregon's matchless climate.

COLONEL L. L. HAWKINS. In the sudden death of Colonel L. L. Hawkins Portland and the entire Pacific Northwest have suffered a great loss. Though a careful and successful business man, Colonel Hawkins was first of all a man of public spirit. Essentially an "out-of-doors man," he was observant of all that was going on in the city and its environments.

Looking to the future, he planned and worked in the interest of our public parks; glancing backward, he was indefatigable in his purpose to wrest from the past such evidences of the life and growth and events of that shadowy time as could be obtained from Nature's own record, in rocks and fossils, and in the implements and instruments of a prehistoric time. With all this he had in the present a genial, alert and conspicuous temperament. The loss to the community in the death of such a citizen cannot well be assessed. It is above and beyond all computation in a financial sense, and is in its highest estimate outside of the social realm, upon which, however, it trenches painfully. It represents the loss of an earnest, useful man, a man moving in the public interest, along lines of practical and far-reaching usefulness, of a type too often overlooked by those who constitute the great working force of a busy, striving age.

Well indeed may the city mourn the sudden going out, in the prime of his years and the fullness of his endeavor, of this earnest, useful man. As the earth opens on the morrow to receive into her sheltering bosom all that is mortal of L. L. Hawkins, those who make the sacred consecration may fitly say:

Mother, a faithful son we bring thee here.

UNION FOR FARMERS AND ORCHARDISTS. The old complaint against the farmers, that their motto is "each for himself," is fast becoming obsolete. In its place is heard "In union is strength." For union invades every department of life on farm and orchard.

Never, in the history of Oregon, has there been so much of the farmer in the year now opened. Each week fresh incidents are chronicled, and until they are summed up in review the fact of a general progress along this line is hardly noticed. For progress it is, and on steps once gained there is no retreat.

In this way the tillers of the soil, in all their grades and pursuits, are most conservative men take part in the world's plan of associated action.

Hood River demonstrated that fruit-growers could combine, with advantage to all, in sale of their products under one name which identified the fruit with the place that produced it. At once followed the raising of the standard of the article sold from individual to uniform grade of excellence. Then ambition stirred the whole community to reach that standard. With the general beauty and high grade of the fruit the markets of the world were opened, buyers multiplied, prices rose and became steady as the improved preparation of the goods for sale, and wider commercial steps in handling the enlarged product, were justified. A typical instance of the benefits of associated action is before us.

Such an example should be followed is inevitable. The earlier steps—vastly improved care of existing orchards, and the creation of new orchards on approved lines—were from one end of the state to the other. Such measures stand, of course, at the very outset of the upward climb. So strongly has public opinion declared itself that ere long a foul orchard will disgrace its owner as much as a scabby flock of sheep.

County and local associations are spreading everywhere in Oregon. In the orchard world, then, the principle of association is already in full swing. Little attention has been given to the movement in Linn County for establishing a fruit-growers and gardeners' cooperative. It appears, from the Albany papers, to have been taken hold, and to have passed the dangerous stage of early infancy. This is another outgrowth of the same sturdy plant. That it should have been so late in adoption is accounted for by the very abundance of the products of orchard and garden. And the scarcity and cost of transportation have been the direct cause of waste and neglect.

It needs but little foresight, or imagination, to see the farmers' wagons waiting at every crossroad for the electric car. Those who so co-operated as to own and supply the canners, which process and converts the surplus produce from orchard and garden into

wholesome and marketable food, are doing good service to the whole community here, as well as to the multitude waiting, the world over, to be fed. For themselves it goes without saying that they have created a new source of great profit in the balance sheet of the farm.

So in the work of the dairyman. The first aim of their associations is to learn. They are practicing a new industry, where supreme excellence can be had, but where world-wide competition is in sight, and must be met. Of no use is it to have the best pasture, the best climate, the purest water, the largest markets in the world and the best cows, if the butter, cream, cheese and milk are not up to the highest standards for flavor, purity and comparative cheapness. The dairyman recognizes that to know comes first. But this one principle will lead them to the same success that the dairymen of Denmark have achieved by the same means.

In the growing of grain and of hops, in the raising of horses and all other breeds of stock, in the pooling of all products of the farm, the earlier steps in association are in evidence. These will be followed in due time by such linking together of individual interests through the whole range of production as is seen today in every other field of human action and endeavor.

A NEW CHAPTER TO AN OLD STORY. Again disaster has visited a coal mine, leaving death and wreck in its wake, and again the wailings of mothers, wives and children are heard at the pit's mouth. The district of Courrieres, France, is the scene of this latest tragedy, the greatest, it is said, that has ever occurred in connection with coal mining in that country. More than 1000 miners perished as the result of the explosion that first wrecked and then set fire to the shaft in which they were at work last Saturday. Many blackened, unrecognizable bodies have been taken from the pit, but so recent is the recovery of every body so fraught with danger to the life of the rescuer from the flames and fumes and underground batteries.

The story is an old one, but it will ever be new, because it will never be finished. A chapter at a time is chronicled; the scene of the fresh recital being here and there, wherever shafts are sunk for the mining of coal. There is but little variation in these recitals. The conditions precedent to the disaster are everywhere similar, if not identical. Careful supervision has controlled them to a certain extent, else would coal mining at great depths be impossible; but the greatest care has not been able to insure against the occurrence of explosions of gas and fire-damp, ignited no one knows how, exactly, since no one in the immediate vicinity of the mine is supposed to tell the tale. Usually, it is said, the carelessness of a miner, who, having lived for years in the presence of danger, has come to minimize its possibilities, is responsible. Whatever the cause, the effect is the same. There is nothing to do but to make the best of conditions, repair and reopen the shaft and start a new mine.

Temporary relief for the families of those who perish in mine disasters is usually provided in this country by the operating company to whom the mine belongs, aided, in many instances, by public contributions. In a vast majority of cases the support of the family stops with the life of its head, and to help the dependents to help themselves is the kind office of practical philanthropists. Effort in this direction is not always rewarded by success. Hand-to-mouth habits of living are not easily corrected; thrift is not encouraged by the miners' wage system, and families thrown upon their own resources for a livelihood are not easily placed on their feet. But the effort to do this is at once commendable and necessary. Through it the stricken ones are enabled to bury their dead, and, facing the inevitable, find some way looking to self-support.

If there is a new element in the story of mining disaster, as chronicled in recent years, it is that infused by a wise philanthropy, that seeks to adjust to new conditions the problem of what shall we eat and wherewithal shall we be housed and clothed, on those whose dependence has been upon the earnings of the victims of disaster.

For the rescue of the families represented by explosion and death, frantic efforts to recover entombed and blackened bodies, the walls of widows, the sobs of mothers, the plaints of children, the horror that appalls the community, are but the duplicates of mining disaster throughout the centuries.

FORCED CULTURE. Mr. Luther Burbank, wizard of the vegetable world, is reported as having said that the salvation of the human race lies in applying to children the marvels which he has wrought in the vegetable world. He has combined, as is well known, the best points of vegetables and fruits of different types and strains, producing in the process wonders in the domain of agriculture and horticulture, reaching to some of the stances absolute perfection in size, flavor and color in his cross-productions.

Against the assumption that human beings could be improved and brought to perfection by diligent application of the principles which Mr. Burbank applies to planting and high culture—could science enter its protest. All the triumphs of forced culture, it is cited, are shadowed by the specter of enfeeblement and decay—the child of family and breeding, no less than the Kentucky thoroughbred. The Jersey cow, as aptly said by George Horace Lottimer, is held to many more than a thousand natural. The great Darwin himself pointed out, in one species, when forced into another environment than that to which the habit of centuries has accustomed it, tends to lose native vigor.

Following this idea, it is not improbable that Mr. Burbank's seedless apple, as the years go on, will require infusion again from the humble but normal parent stock, in order that it may escape extinction.

Much can be done and sadly needs to be done, says the writer first quoted, in the breeding of the human race. But he adds: "Perfection, if it comes, will be the result of breeding, not for points, but for the norm."

The truth is that all about us in the realm of every day's natural environment, lie opportunities which, with proper apprehension and diligence, might be turned into achievement and character. Wisdom will come, not in forcing strange and alien traits, but in

developing the tendencies that are common to us—all tendencies which lead to fair and, indeed, so far as we may yet discern, boundless achievement along lines that are not at variance with the normal facts of creation and reproduction.

New York gamblers and clergymen have perfected an alliance for the purpose of abolishing racetrack gambling, something which the officers of the law seem unable or unwilling to do. Gambling in all forms is a pernicious vice, but the racetrack and seven-up games, more suicides, embezzlers and defaulters than all other forms of gambling combined. The clergymen's alliance will probably be successful, for the American spirit of fair play will not permit the prohibition of one class of gambling, while more pernicious vices are openly indulged in. We had a local example of this fact last year when an overzealous county official was industriously raiding pinhole and seven-up games and at the same time was refusing to stop racetrack gambling. Racetrack gambling was stopped by the Sheriff, but by the men whose pinhole and seven-up games had been interfered with, Human nature is much the same in Portland as it is in New York.

The latest story of the oily generosity of John D. Rockefeller is to the effect that he will give \$1,000,000 to the National Youth Courts. If the source from which this \$1,000,000 comes can be carefully concealed from the juveniles who might profit by the use of the money, some good may be accomplished with it. If, on the contrary, it becomes known to the juveniles that taints money is behind the institution established for the purpose of guiding them to a better life, the court will cease to be an influence for good. The millions of John D. Rockefeller have made their presence felt in too many courts already, and it is to be hoped that their blighting influence will not fall on the Juvenile Court, a comparatively new institution, which has accomplished much good.

The Ameer of Afghanistan is a resourceful man, and apparently does not believe in protracted trials of the culprits whom he suspects of plotting against him. The commander-in-chief of his army led a revolt against him, seized him and the Ameer promptly sent him and had him blown from a cannon in full view of all of the rebels. Similar treatment was given to a number of other ringleaders, and, according to a dispatch from Pashawar, "the army is now quiet." This method of punishing subjects for political offenses is not new, but its use in the day of twentieth-century civilization indicates that Russia is hardly entitled to first honors for unique, barbarous punishment inflicted on those who are not in accord with the policy of those in power.

Einar Mikkelson, the explorer, is at Victoria negotiating for a schooner with which he expects to set sail to the Far North. Unlike most of the Arctic explorers, Einar is not in quest of the north pole, but expects to find a large island in the Far North. As other explorers for several centuries have been cruising around the vicinity in which this mysterious island is supposed to be located, without finding it, a discovery at this late day would hardly prove of great value. A frozen island in a locality so inaccessible that it has not yet been reached would hardly prove a very great prize, even if it were found.

Einar would find it more profitable and comfortable to sail south and discover an island which produced coconuts, guano or something of marketable value.

Pacific University has sustained a severe loss in the burning of Herrick Hall, the young women's dormitory which was destroyed by fire. The construction of this hall marked the beginning of the second era of this pioneer university. It was built in 1882 and has been an important adjunct to the work of the school for nearly a quarter of a century. The homes of citizens of Forest Grove have opened hospitably to receive the students burned out of houses and homes, and the friends of the university will be glad to know that college work will proceed without interruption.

New Jersey has an insurance investigation in prospect which includes a street railway, a gas and a steam railroad investigation as side shows. Senator Dryden is to play the part of Mr. McCurdy. It will come off, if Everett Colby can induce the New Jersey Legislature to give the order, but "if" in this case is a very big word. A nice, comfortable investigation by a committee of the United States Senate, with Dewey for chairman, would be vastly more pleasant to the citizens of this state.

The Journal of that city, now being engineered by a former resident of this county, who went to Portland with a show-bag and lifted several thousand dollars from the pockets of millionaires, franchise-grabbers, is now being used as the mouthpiece of the plutocrats, although ostensibly conducted in the interest of the "people." When the gas trust was attacked by the Oregonian, it was brought to light who the real owners of the Journal were, as the Journal was carried into a deplorable state of bankruptcy and the spoils of the Republic were being divided.

After getting control of valuable franchises and becoming emboldened in the abuse of the privileges granted them, the owners of the gas company and the Consolidated Railway Company and other companies carrying valuable franchises and practicing extortion and graft, sought to control the politics of the state by subsidizing a daily newspaper in Portland. Care was taken to keep in the background the real supporters of the orange policy, which was first to pursue a daily onslaught upon the Oregonian, and pose as a representative and exponent of the "man with the hoe." The dupery of the press was soon brought to light by the Oregonian, which after two long years of forbearance, published the names of the stockholders and exposed the combined schemes to obstruct the law and the Republic.

In apology for taking notice of what the Ladd paper has had to say about it, The Oregonian in a recent issue says: "The Oregonian daily set, being the virtually only one of its kind in the state, it began only two years earlier, and by Mr. Ladd himself, through his newspaper, and it was continued by and through his newspaper till The Oregonian concluded that forbearance on its part was no longer required. But it seemed to attack or retort on Mr. Ladd's hired men. It dealt with Mr. Ladd himself."

Democrats in Multnomah County have "invited" candidates the same as their brethren in Umatilla, in Lane and in the state at large. Fortunately, Republicans can keep the primary law inviolate; their candidates do not need to be "invited."

THE SILVER LINING.

By A. H. Ballard.

"Life is a funny proposition after all."—George M. Cohan in "Little Johnny Jones." It's a long, long trip.

Mark, we tread the path but once; We make full many a slip, And we often play the dunce.

There are days of dreary measure, There is sunshine and there's rain, There's certain kind of pleasure, And there's lots and lots of pain.

As we struggle and we travel, Let us dance while yet we may; Let us sing as we unravel Life's mysterious, winding way.

Our dancing and our singing May cheer our fellow-men; Our voices may be ringing Where sadness just has been.

We know not what the morrow Will bring, or take, or lend; It may be joy or sorrow— Or it may be the end.

I believe it has a meaning, This sheer uncertainty; We're standing or we're leaning, Whichever it may be.

If we controlled the beauties Of sky and earth and man, If we prescribed our duties, And laid out all the plan—

And we could view our station Only a day ahead, We'd spoil the whole creation And wish that we were dead!

To make a meeting gladder, To make strong hearts arise, To make a parting sadder, To make great love the prize;

To make a friend the truer, End trouble of any size, To make the heavens bluer, Life is one long surprise.

Do you want peace of mind? Be square. One lie involves many other lies, and then a whole lot of truth-telling—and the last is awful.

Man's Yearning. The sweetest thing in the world found yet Is the coveted dollar we didn't get.

Say "Twenty-three" to a woman, and she'll think you are complimenting her on her age; but it won't go with soubrettes, my boy; it won't go with soubrettes.

Definitions. (Tips on the Race of Life.) PARTNER—One who distracts you. HAT—A man uses what he calls a hat as an airtight cap to produce baldness; a woman uses what she calls a hat as an ornament with which to decorate her hair.

REVERIE—in the case of some people it is the time of the relative's lives. HELPFULNESS—a woman who spends your money.

GROCER—the man who charges you with other people's supplies. DOG—An animal superior to man.

FIDELITY—the name of an ancient insurance company that defrauded people; secondarily, it has come to be a general term meaning all the stuff and nonsense and hypocrisy contained in promises between two or more persons.

ARM—a part of the human body the function of which is to lounge. COMPLEXION—Anything bought by a woman to cover up a fruit-cake face.

DESPAIR—That's just before she picks up another fellow. TIRED—the way your girl feels often, but never tells you of it until she gets ready to say skiddoo.

GAS GRAFT AND OTHER GREED. Pilot Rock Record.

The trend of public opinion toward the slow but sure growth of the inherent right of the great array of breadwinners to curb the rapacity of corporations and franchise-grabbers has been conspicuously brought to light in the fight now being made by the Portland Oregonian in the interest of the gas consumers of this city.

The Oregonian is an extremely conservative newspaper in its tone and the State of Oregon, where it is read by every intelligent reader and every one regarded as the ablest edited newspaper in the city, has its influence second to no other newspaper in the West, because of its reliability and the dependence that can be placed in its statements of fact.

It is always sure of its footing before it takes an advanced step, and while not always a mold of public opinion, is nevertheless a trustworthy mirror of the public mind. For 50 years The Oregonian has witnessed the growth of the gas trust in Portland, and for 30 years has kept an eye on the pockets of its stockholders.

With the growth of Portland, the trust has grown in insolence and abuse, and was laying its plans to continue this abuse for all time until a paper was called by The Oregonian, resulting in an investigation into the graft practiced by the corporation, authorized by the City Council, which has brought to light many interesting facts.

The Journal of that city, now being engineered by a former resident of this county, who went to Portland with a show-bag and lifted several thousand dollars from the pockets of millionaires, franchise-grabbers, is now being used as the mouthpiece of the plutocrats, although ostensibly conducted in the interest of the "people." When the gas trust was attacked by the Oregonian, it was brought to light who the real owners of the Journal were, as the Journal was carried into a deplorable state of bankruptcy and the spoils of the Republic were being divided.

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Also Galloway and Cochran. Roseburg Review.

Candidate Hawley informs the Review that he does not ride upon a railroad passenger car. Glad to know it. Toose and Hinton, what have you to say for yourselves?

WHY GIRLS GO TO COLLEGE?

Philadelphia North American.

A mother who took a house within sight of the campus of one of the larger coeducational universities of the Middle West, where her daughter had entered as a student, writes the Independent to the effect that she has seen a number of notices of the distractions of the college societies. The picture is one of strenuousness that seems to surpass even that of the "frats."

According to the Inter-fraternity contract—the mother speaks of these college student societies as "fraternities" and "rushings" and "rushings" and "rushings"—it appears that "spikings" and "spikings" are terms covering all methods of competition among the fraternities for desirable members. The articles of war were framed with a view to reducing the rather alarmingly large expense of landing new sisters.

The following list of the daughter's entertainments during the ten days of the "rushings" season is taken from her diary:

Tuesday morning—Alpha Gamma girls called to take me to swim; they invited me to drive again in the afternoon. Wednesday evening—Luncheon party at Mrs. F's, a Sigma alumnae. Thursday morning—Dinner with the Sigmas during chapel period.

Thursday evening—Big Gamma dance, at which all the fraternity men were present. Friday night—Sigma dance. Saturday morning—A number of Gamma girls called to take me to swim.

Saturday afternoon—Gamma reception to the student alumni and freshmen girls being "rush" on the campus. Sunday morning—Dance given by the Delta Nu (men's) fraternity, to which many of the freshmen being "rush" were invited.

Monday afternoon—Gamma called. Tuesday afternoon—Sigma reception to alumni and girls in the "rush." Wednesday evening—Dinner party to the girls they are "rushings." Wednesday afternoon—The formal invitations to join their societies were sent out simultaneously at 3 o'clock by the fraternities.

Ellen—the daughter—finally put on the Sigma colors, but it appears that the mother's slight evidence of anxiety influence. It was an ordeal on Ellen's part for something to wear, a thing before unheard of in that family.

The next day there was an invitation from one of Ellen's fraternity sisters to assist her at the first of a series of small card parties which she was to give to her favorite men's fraternities.

At the end of the week the social pace seemed to be increasing in speed rather than diminishing. There were football games, big formal dances of men's and women's fraternities, and "spreads" for newly won members, and "spreads" by the "spikes" themselves.

At the end of the fifth week the mother could see that Ellen had had any time for study, and the girl had lost five pounds under the social pressure.

It was Ellen's father who solved the problem by making a social rule that one evening a week was all that was to be devoted to dances, and that 12 o'clock was the dead line in the matter of the social university.

Ellen thought she faced social ostracism under the rule, but her fraternity sisters made allowances for necessity and voted her father a brute.

Incidentally the mother relates an illuminating incident of how a fraternity member boasted of having voted six times for a brother who was a candidate for the university presidency. The same method was justified on the score that it was necessary to keep a "barb"—presumably alert for barbarian, or plebeian—out of the university.

The mother says that the corporation shall have full power and authority to erect and maintain the necessary works, plant and appliances for the manufacture of gas, and that the corporation shall have the right to lay and maintain mains without municipal permission.

"In studying this subject it was demonstrated to my satisfaction, and to the satisfaction of the corporation, that it is possible to supply the city with gas at 30 cents per 1000 cubic feet and money made on the basis of the corporation which is in the hands of the city. The subject has been digested from every standpoint. We see the purpose of the gas trust is philanthropic scheme, nor is it a measure to fight existing corporations from any selfish purpose. We will enter the field, as outlined for the purpose of the subject, that the profit is awaiting us as soon as we get the right to serve the public on the lines mapped out."

The corporation proposes that the corporation shall have full power and authority to erect and maintain the necessary works, plant and appliances for the manufacture of gas, and that the corporation shall have the right to lay and maintain mains without municipal permission.

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