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Portland, Oregon, June 3-Special from Will H. Daly, Commis-sioner-The total interest and sinking fund charge during 1914 was $\$ 537,220$. The amount expended by the City of Portland for during the past four years was $\$ 2,994,099.79$.
It is safe to say that at least one-half of the foregoing expenditure for mains could have been deferred for at least five years un-
der a meter system. The rates are now higher than they should
be. by reason of just such construction extravagance as is referred
to in the foregoing. The installation of meters is an attempt to put a stop to just that condition of things, which it is expected will make a reduction of rates possible and at the same time provide an
arrangement by which each consumer can honestly pay for exactly what he gets, no more and no less. Under such system the care ful and conscientious user of water will not be compelled to pay
for the extravagance and waste of the other fellow, and will reeive a liberal supply of water for less money.
Under the present system, viz. -flate rate, it is necessary during this year and will be necessary to
penditure during the years to come.
The increase in the Sinking and Interest Funds during 1914 was approximately $\$ 25,000$ At such a rate of increase, within three manently increase the rates instead of arranging for a reduction of rates, which would be eminently right and proper
The charter provides that the water rates shall produce sufficient revenue to cover cost of operation, maintenance, interest and sinking funds. If this interest and sinking fund is increased in the future as in the past, there is no other alternative except to increase rates which should properly be reduced. The result would be that instead of securing a just and proper reduction for 90 per cent of the consumers, a permanent increase would be absolutely necessary
Sixty-three hundred and fifty-one (6351) inspections of flat rates services has resulted in a just and equitable increase in rates in 515 cases, being approximately 8 per cent. Properly assuming that further inspection will show the same result demonstrates clearly that from 8 to 10 per cent of the consumers are wasting water under the flat rate system, for which the other 90 per cent must pay. We are unable to see the justice of such an arrange ment. In addition to the money relief to the 90 per cent, a reduc tion of waste enable
The flat rete maty mecessy the tain the department, spreading the cost over the entire city of consumers, regardless of whether particular individuals (the 90 pe ent) get their money's worth and pay for the extravagant wast and carelessness of the other 8 or 10 per cent.
The city of Seattle has a larger supply of water (gravity sys. tem) than Portiand and now has 4 . 100 per cent metered during 1915.
The recorded experience of pro
engineers is in favor of meters and they andies and water works possible. The Cities of Chicago and New York refused to buy meters until a few years ago. Both of these cities are now installing them as rapidly as possible, Chicago arranging to manufacture its own meters.
The city of New York has just completed arrangements for a ing the city against further unnecessary expenditures by the in stallation of meters. The city of Chicago has an unlimited water
supply immediately adjacent to it and protects itself against un-

GRAUATION AND DEDICA- GITY PAPER IION AI GILBERT SCH0OL BUNGLES REPORT


## John Kramer Dies.

About seventy-five guests were prea
Refrebtments were served. Mrs
han F. Logan and Mre. Wm. Barton
Mrs. C. M. Chibholm, presided at
Ae punch bow. weeding trip Mr. and
After a oriet Richarde will rexide in TTooma,
Ars.

## Born, to Mr.

Mrs. Elizabeth Brown and Mise


## day evening.

reasonable expenditures for distribu
etc, by a general meter installation.
The test of meters canducted by the Bureau of Water Works ows that a meter costing $\$ 5.80$ (in small quantities) passed 241,600 cubic feet of water, enough to last a family at the minimum rate for 40 years. No repairs were required at this time and the meter was in good condition at the end of the test and apindicated above.
Fire Hydrants-the total number of hydrants installed in the ity of Portland is less than 5000,530 of which were installed during the last three months. In other words, over 10 per cent of were put in under our supervision and direction. This, I think, would impress most people as having been a very liberal installation of hydrants, especially in view of the fact that this city has more hydrants per thousand of population
city in the United States of similar size.

