

JOSSELYN PRESENTS FURTHER ARGUMENTS

President of Local Electric Company Writes to Mayor Lane of Failures of Municipal Street-Lighting Plants in Other Cities.

Portland, Or., April 17. Hon. Harry Lane, Mayor of Portland, Dear Sir:—The discussion aroused by your proclaimed position on the subject of municipal ownership of public utilities impels me to offer some additional data which has been gleaned from the recorded experience of other cities.

It is undoubted that the operation of all public utilities is a matter of real interest to the taxpayers and citizens of the community which they serve. Some of these are to be differentiated from ordinary commercial enterprises because they more vitally affect the public welfare.

Effective and efficient lighting of the streets conduces to public safety, reducing the danger in using the public streets at night from accidents due to defective pavements, collisions, etc., and from the acts of lawless persons. The street lighting system is in this respect an adjunct of the department of public safety.

Contracts Economical.

In providing light for its streets, parks, and public buildings, the city has the option of purchase by contract or of undertaking service at its own risk on rather uncertain estimates of probable cost. The contract plan assures a definite gross cost to the city, which is known and will be no more nor less for a certain period. The municipal ownership plan involves all of the risks and uncertainties of going into business on one's own account, except those due to bad debts, and beyond this is the necessity of making a large investment in order to embark in the undertaking.

Any contractor can effect economies in buying supplies and in handling his force of men and his equipment if he is doing a large business in a given locality. In a similar way, a corporation in the general lighting and power business can furnish street lights at a lower cost than if its sole business were street lighting. Such a general lighting corporation can utilize its plant and force in connection with other light and power service, so as to make a reasonable profit on street lighting at contract rates fully as low as the true gross cost for such service to a municipal plant which supplies street lights only. This situation tends to very materially reduce the fixed charges and operating expense for street lighting over the corresponding items of cost of a plant which supplies no electrical energy during daylight hours.

Those cities which established municipal systems 10 to 15 years ago entered the field when plants could be constructed for very much less than similar equipment would now cost, and when the rates maintained by private corporations for are lighting were 50 to 100 per cent higher than those existing in Portland today.

Regret Municipal Ownership.

The example set by Chicago in installing various municipal ownership plants was followed extensively throughout Illinois, with the result, according to reports recently gathered, that in almost every instance the citizens of the municipalities which operate their own electric lighting plants have cause to regret it. They have found the promises that municipal ownership would save money for the citizens were based on miscalculations or ignorance, and they have learned instead that they pay in nearly every instance a much higher rate than they had previously paid to private corporations or would now have to pay. Also the municipal service is deficient

in many respects and a cause of constant complaint. Elgin operated its own electric lighting plant for 16 years, lost over \$100,000, and then abandoned the plant when it was found impossible to get lights cheaper than \$106.73 a year. They now obtain private service at a far less cost.

Malone, finding that its lights were costing \$92 a year, and that on a moonlight schedule, sold its \$15,000 plant for \$8,000 rather than continue losing money. Rock Falls after investing \$12,000 and getting poor service at high rates, sold its plant. Springfield built an elaborate plant for \$75,000 and started on its career of municipal ownership auspiciously, only to discover that its lamps were costing \$113 a year, whereupon the plant was leased to a private concern. La Grange dropped \$50,000 in three years in its plant, awakened to a realization of the expense when taxes increased, and sold out. Sycamore found its municipal light and water service costing considerably more than that furnished by private corporations, and Quincy which established a small electric plant for lighting its courthouse found it cost \$400 more a year than light from a private corporation.

Syracuse's Investigation.

Last year the Syracuse, New York, council appointed a representative committee of citizens to investigate and report whether the city should own and operate a lighting plant for supplying gas and electric current, or either for light, heat and power. This committee spent eight months trying to ascertain what would be best for their city, availing itself of the best literature of municipal ownership and operation of lighting in six of the foremost and most successful public ownership cities of the United States, and gathered official statistics relating to municipal lighting plants in 22 of the largest municipal ownership cities of the United States. The committee signed and returned a unanimous report on September 3, 1907, the concluding words of which are as follows: "Your commission unanimously recommends that the city of Syracuse do not at the present time construct a municipal plant for lighting its streets, parks and public buildings."

The committee was thoroughly representative and was composed of the following men: Chairman, Charles W. Snow, wholesale druggist and banker; William H. Warner, banker; John A. Mathews, manager Sanderson Steel Co.; John H. Barr, vice-president Smith Premier Typewriter Co. and former professor of mechanical engineering at Cornell university; Adam Volles, president Cigar Makers' union and official representative of the Trades and Labor Assembly; George W. Driscoll, attorney; Peter Eckel, president Eckel-Nye company; and Professor D. E. Hawkins, professor of political economy at Syracuse university.

The method pursued at Syracuse was simple and founded in common sense, very different from the impulsive guesswork and spiteful prejudice shown in some American cities in approaching questions involving public service companies.

Startling object lessons on the subject of municipally operated lighting systems can be derived by a cursory examination of the bare facts relative to the numerous municipal lighting plant failures which form costly chapters in the financial history of so many American cities.

The Eastern Stockholders of the Reed French Piano Manufacturing company have authorized me to buy 10 or 20 acres of unimproved land within the city limits suitable for immediate subdivision. See Mr. Reed, secretary of the company, at Sixth and Burnside.

ownership as applied to that city, says: "Comptroller Metz doesn't believe that the city can save money by running its own lighting and paving plants. He said yesterday that so long as he is in office he will vote for no more municipal ownership schemes. He is satisfied from reports of the cost of running the lighting plants that the city already has in operation, and of such municipal ownership experiments as the Staten Island ferry, that municipal ownership in this city costs more than it comes to."

Borough President Ahorn wants a municipal asphalt paving plant and the trustees of the New York public library want an electric lighting plant for the new library building. Mr. Metz, to whom the applications have been referred, will not report either of them unless he is compelled to do so by the majority of the board. He intimated that his refusal to report is a result of the municipal ownership fetish he had the mayor behind him. He says that with its own plant for lighting the Museum of Natural history the city pays more than five times what it would cost to buy the current.

"Private company can get better results," Mr. Metz said, "than can be obtained out of a municipal plant. It is not bound down by any such restrictions as the light law. The officials of the company see to it that there is no waste or loafing, because it is a commercial project there is more efficiency than if it were a private concern. If the finance department was a commercial house as it really ought to be, and was under the system which prevails in large financial houses the department would cost the city just about what it costs now."

These considerations apply to conditions as they exist in Portland as well as in New York, Syracuse and the other American cities which may be mentioned. Yours very truly,

B. F. JOSSELYN,
President Portland Railway, Light & Power Company.

CHINA PARLIAMENT AT Y. M. C. A. TODAY

Missionary Bible Will Speak on Present Conditions in the Orient.

The men's meeting at the Y. M. C. A. this afternoon at 8:30 is to be addressed by F. W. Bible of Hang Chow, China. Mr. Bible is one of the men who has cast his lot with that great empire of the east, and is helping to plant Christian civilization there. His subject is the "Resurrection of China." His address will not be given over to the telling of extraordinary incidents but he will speak of the great problems that are before the people of China, and will suggest some of the most advanced ideas as to their solution.

At the close of Mr. Bible's address, he will conduct an hour open parliament. During this time any one may ask any question that may come to his mind concerning China and the work being done there by missionaries.

Besides the address of the afternoon, a children's chorus of 20 voices of the First Christian church Sunday school, under the direction of Miss May Vale, will sing some special Easter songs, and Charles H. Gray of Chicago will sing a special solo.

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INSULT, CRY PENINSULANS

Development League Adopts Vigorous Denial to McKenna's Statement.

At a meeting of the Peninsula Development league held last Thursday evening, the following resolutions were adopted:

"Whereas, There recently appeared in the columns of The Journal a communication signed by Francis J. McKenna, in which the statement was made, in commenting on the recently proposed improvement of Portsmouth avenue, that 'There was not a man who had done anything for the peninsula worthy of mention, who was in favor of the proposed improvement' and

"Whereas, The said improvement was thoroughly discussed by all the commercial bodies on the peninsula, and by the Peninsula Development league, a federation of all such organizations, and was unanimously indorsed by them; and

"Whereas, The said organizations are composed entirely of home builders and property holders, who pay taxes for such public improvements, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the statement of Mr. McKenna is basely false and a direct insult to the taxpaying residents of the peninsula, all of whom favored the improvement of Portsmouth avenue, except Mr. McKenna and a few other selfishly interested parties, whose interests in the community are limited to their own personal holdings.

"Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of this meeting, and that the president and secretary be and they are hereby instructed to forward to The Journal a signed copy, accompanied with a request that they be published.

Peninsula Development League.
"WILLIAM L. WINCHELL, Pres.
"GEORGE J. PERKINS, Secy."

QUITS RAILROAD WORK; TOO MUCH GRIEF IN IT

Son of President of Rock Island System Gives Up Ambition of Years.

Denver, Colo., April 17.—"I have given up my ambition to become a railroad man," said Benjamin L. Winchell Jr., son of President Winchell of the Rock Island road, who is in the city.

"My father talked me out of it. He convinced me there is too much grief connected with a railroad man's life. Young Ben has abandoned plans which he has cherished for more than 16 years. He took a course in an engineering school, worked in the Baldwin Locomotive works six months, and spent the greater part of his life on the railroad lines learning the business.

"Of course," said Winchell Jr., "I had always planned to be a railroad man. But I am going to be connected with the sales department of a wire company."

There is a story that Winchell Jr. gave up his ambition to be a railroad man because of unreasonable and exasperating demands frequently made upon the elder Winchell by politicians.

The weavers' union of Fall River, the largest textile union in America, has withdrawn from the United Textile Workers of America because of the increase in the per capita tax from 13 cents to 15 cents.

Silk and Linen Suits

These charming silk suits emphasize the fact that our styles are absolutely correct, representing the best tailoring; that our goods are of the most superior quality, and our prices extremely moderate; in fact, emphatically low, considering the high quality-standard we resolutely maintain.

Modish Linens

In these beautiful suits rational economy is combined with artistic designing in interpreting the early summer modes. They are in all the new shades—light green, blue, tan, linen, brown, lavender, etc.—prettily trimmed in contrasting linen bands and embroidered collars. There are jacket suits, overblouses or jumper suits, and princess effects. Prices \$60.00 down to

\$10.00

Newest Silks

The tailored jacket suits and the overblouse or jumper styles, are particularly attractive in the new rajah, taffeta, Maria, messalines, etc., effectively trimmed in satin bands, the new passementaries, braids and laces—in all the lovely new color tints, stripes, mingles and cream. Prices \$75 down to

\$18.00

CREDIT IF DESIRED

You have the privilege of having all your purchases charged to your account, remitting in weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly payments, as convenient.

EASTERN OUTFITTING CO.

The Store Where Your Credit is Good CORNER WASHINGTON AND TENTH

"AS GOOD AS WHEAT"

Is generally accepted as a guarantee of highest quality—but

APPLES ARE BETTER THAN WHEAT

A 10-acre tract set to apples or pears, under irrigation, will produce unusually big profits. These profits increase steadily after 4 or 5 years, giving a home and independence.

This has been proven repeatedly in the famous Hood River, Yakima and Wenatchee Valleys, and now land prices are "way up" there, but even with high valuations, the orchards are returning large profits.

There was a time when land in these valleys sold for very low prices, but that time has passed.

Now is the "beginning of things" at "PALOUSE ORCHARDS," in the Washtucna Valley, Whitman county, Washington, in the heart of the famous Palouse wheat country. The price today is \$150 per acre, with perpetual water right. We have abundance of water supplied by gravity flow. Soil and elevation are peculiarly adapted to raising fine quality fruit.

Transportation is by the O. R. & N. R'y. and will be increased by two more competitive railroads, thus giving unusual shipping facilities in three transcontinental lines.



WITH WATER AND RAILROADS the rapid development of the Washtucna Valley is assured.

The new townsite of PALOUSE FALLS is being platted and will become an important commercial center.

We know what the future has in store for this community and back up our sales with the following guarantee. Read it:

"At the end of one year, if this property has not increased in value at least 33 1-3 per cent, we will cheerfully refund the money paid, with 8 per cent interest."

If we can do this, and we can! How can you afford to let the opportunity slip by? Grasp it! There's big money for you, even if you only buy to hold, and don't improve your purchase.

The land must increase in value as improvements in and around the community progress.

OUR PRICE WILL BE ADVANCED SHORTLY, so if you want to benefit by present figures, get in NOW.

We have beautifully illustrated booklet, free for the asking. Call or write for it.

The Palouse Irrigation and Power Co.
Local Office, Hooper, Whitman County, Wash.

PORTLAND 246 Stark Street
OFFICE Ground Floor