

# WATER USERS TO GAIN BY NEW PLAN, MAYOR'S BELIEF

## New Business Regime Which Marks Beginning of Year to Save Consumers \$30,000 in Twelvemonth, It is Said.

Today marks the beginning, not only of a new year in the city water department, but an entirely new business regime under which Mayor Hushlight believes the city will save at a conservative estimate \$30,000, and water users will save \$30,000 a year. The principal saving to the city will be made in the purchase of supplies, which will hereafter be under the direction of a purchasing clerk.

Thousands of dollars have been wasted every year in the past, it is said, in the indiscriminate buying of materials and supplies by numerous officials of the department. Hereafter all purchases will be made on requisition and all requisitions will be turned over to the purchasing agent, who will buy everything in wholesale quantities. The saving in this manner, it is estimated, will be not less than \$20,000 a year. Increased efficiency due to the establishment of a double entry set of books in place of the antiquated system now in vogue will also result in a saving of time and money.

### Consumers to Save \$30,000 a Year.

Consumers will save at least \$30,000 a year, according to conservative estimates of experts who have reorganized the water department. This will be effected by the establishment of pay stations. Heretofore all bills had to be paid at one of three central offices, and it is figured that at least 25,000 water users paid their bills in person. Estimating carriage of each person at 10 cents the saving would be just \$25,000.

Believing that every one of the 65,000 water users in the city will be interested in knowing just what has been done by way of reorganization, the experting firm of Whitfield & Co., which has the work in charge, has prepared the following detailed statement for the information of the public:

"On May 3, 1912, the water board of the city of Portland voted to have a new system of accounts devised and installed in all the offices and branches of the water department. The installation of this system is to begin on January 1, 1913, and will probably extend over a period of 90 days.

### Learning the Facts.

"A great majority of the citizens are water consumers, and it is desirable that they become familiar with such part of the new system as has to do with the paying of bills and other matters. It is also desirable that as many as possible become acquainted with the methods which have been devised for safeguarding the disbursing of their money.

The receipts of the water department from water sold and from the sale of bonds increased from about \$240,000 in 1911 to about \$2,200,000 in 1912. One report, dated April 17, 1912, which was made after a thorough investigation of the records of the department, showed conclusively the present system to be inadequate for a business of this magnitude. The defalcation of one clerk and the shortage in stock found in that examination also showed the entire lack of internal checks in the present system.

"It was to correct these evils that the new system was authorized. Among the major improvements which the new system is intended to furnish are the following:

"To make it necessary for at least two, and generally three, employees to work in collusion in order to defraud the city, thus reducing the risk to a minimum.

"To spread the work over the entire month so as to allow the same force to do more work, this being done by establishing three districts to be billed on the first, tenth and twentieth of each month. This provides for the reading of meters, billing, collecting and other work being equally spread over the month.

### Providing New System.

"To provide a modern and business-like double entry balancing system instead of the single entry set of books which has been in use since the present charter was adopted.

"To record not only what has been paid, but what should be paid to the city.

material is charged to some specific job.

"Remaining clerk, who will check up records at all of the branches.

"Three stenographer men, who will have actual charge of the stock at the various storerooms, and will issue same on proper requisitions only.

"In addition to these there will be three delinquent register clerks, who will act entirely as credit men to secure payment of delinquent bills. To do this they will keep complete data of chronic delinquents and will therefore be in position to deal justly with them. This work having their entire attention will therefore be done in a much more scientific way than at present. To some extent their positions will be new ones.

### New Equipment Installed.

"It has been necessary to install some new equipment, as the offices were almost entirely lacking in labor saving devices. In installing these the department has only followed the course of every successful business house throughout the country.

"The new records themselves are designed for the most part to last four years, and are much more voluminous than formerly. It is desired to have fuller information and more complete records.

"At the Albina branch office there are approximately 15,000 consumers, necessitating 20 ledgers. At the city hall branch office there are about 14,000 consumers, necessitating 19 ledgers, and at the East Portland branch office there are about 28,000 consumers, necessitating 35 ledgers, with about 750 consumers in a ledger. As these are loose leaf books, the binders should last indefinitely and the ledger sheets will last for four years, whereas the present books, though much fewer in number in use at one time, are bound books, the 11 line books having to be replaced and rewritten every year, and the 11 cash books renewed every three months. It appears then that in four years under present methods at least 224 bound books would be completely used, under the revised system practically the same number of books would be used, with good and valuable binders remaining on hand to last for many years, and the records kept giving information and checks which cannot be compared with present records. Furthermore, with the very limited space in the present books, it is impossible to record very important data.

"As the income records, which are virtually the sales books, are of light canvas construction and will be used considerably, only 375 accounts are entered in each. Hence twice the number are required as in the case of the ledgers.

"Relative to the sending out of bills, we beg to state that this was done for several reasons.

"First—by so doing it will be possible to reduce the number of delinquencies, as the majority of consumers are delinquent simply through thoughtlessness. By reducing this number the cost of collecting will be correspondingly reduced.

"Second—it appears to be only just to the consumers. No business house would expect payment without first rendering a bill.

"Third—in order to establish pay stations it is necessary to send out bills, since it is only by such means that the various pay stations would know how much to collect.

"Relative to the cost of sending out bills at present all flat rate bills are made out by hand when the consumer calls at the office and the meter bills are also made out by hand, except at one office, where the address only is entered on the addressing machine. By the new method all flat rate bills (which constitute about three fourths of the total) will be made out on the addressing machines, again including the rate and date. This machine will print several thousands in an hour, and can be run by a boy at small cost instead of requiring that they be written out by clerks who receive much higher wages. The meter bills will all be addressed on the machine. It is therefore evident that the cost of making out bills will be less than formerly.

### Will Mail Bills.

"As to the cost of mailing same, the meter bills, as formerly, will be mailed, and will require 2 cents postage, so that cost will remain the same. Estimating the number of flat rate consumers to be 42,000, the cost of mailing these bills will be about \$400 per month, as frequently several go to one address. By using what is known as a penny saver envelope, the envelope can be sealed but sent for 1 cent postage.

"By having pay stations, however, the department will be able to receive all money paid at the water offices with the payment to the express company, estimated at least one half of their time as cashiers. One-half the combined salaries of these clerks was \$14,520.00 per year, which will considerably more than offset the cost of postage, the salaries of the three new cashiers, and also the payment to the express company, estimating that at \$4100 per year. This figure is based on the estimate that \$820,000 will be collected in 1913, and that one half, or \$410,000, will be paid at pay stations. If this is an offset, the great convenience to the public of being able to pay near home will then be entirely without cost to the department, and the saving of time and carriage to the consumer will be without cost to the consumer or the department.

The saving to consumers in carriage and postage alone would be many thousand dollars annually, not taking into consideration the saving of time. At least one large city even sends out collectors from door to door to deliver the bills and collect for same.

"We have communicated with the water department of the city of Seattle, where this system of collecting through pay stations is in use, and find that they are entirely satisfied with it.

"Instead of there being a charge of 50 per bill against the consumer, as in most cities above noted, the charge is to be 1 per cent of the amount collected, and is to be paid by the water board. If all bills are equal this would probably average about 1c on every bill so paid. However, the larger bills will be paid by checks direct, so probably the cost per bill will be less than 1c.

### Saving to City.

"We have positive knowledge that at least one public service corporation is finding that it costs them over 30c on every dollar collected through their own pay stations, and our estimate after careful examination, is that it would cost the city at least 30c for every dollar collected through its own stations, taking into consideration the cost of looking after the bonds, establishing new stations, collecting the money daily from all stations, and assuming the loss by worthless checks, etc. It would not seem that the American Express company could make any money under this arrangement. The benefit to them will, of course, accrue through increased money order and express business. We would note some of the provisions of the contract as drawn up by the city attorney:

"One hundred and fifty pay stations are to be established, giving a station to every 133 consumers.

"Bills may be paid at any hour during the day or night, when said stores are open to the public.

"Collections are to be made from all pay stations and turned over to the water department daily.

"Company is to sort coupons into street order.

"Company is to give bond of \$5000.

"Company is to stand all loss by reason of errors in collecting or by reason of accepting worthless checks.

"Contract is for one year.

"To recapitulate: The convenience and saving to the consumers by reason of sending out bills and having pay stations is entirely a net saving and will, in the final analysis, not cost the consumer nor the department 1 cent extra.

"Any consumer can pay his water bill if it is not delinquent at any of the 150 pay stations or at any of the branch offices of the water department, regardless of where the consumer lives.

"The city will have a system which will do as well for the coming city of 2,000,000 people as for the present city of 225,000.

"The saving resulting from the new system should greatly exceed the initial cost plus the added maintenance cost.

### Districts Are Divided.

"The territory of each of the three branch offices of the water department has been subdivided into three districts.

"About January 2, 1913, the consumers using flat rate water, who live in districts No. 1 will each receive a bill for one month in advance as usual, and the consumers in that same district using metered water, will each receive a bill for one month in arrears as usual.

"About January 2, 1913, the consumers using flat rate water, who live in districts No. 2 will each receive a bill for the first ten days in January only and on January 11th will receive another bill for one month in advance. The consumers in that same district, using metered water will receive no bill on January 2, but on January 11 they will receive a bill for 1-3 months in arrears. Beginning with January 11 all consumers in district No. 2 will receive their bills on the 21st of each month.

"About January 2, 1913 the consumers using flat rate water who live in districts No. 3 will each receive a bill for the first 20 days in January only and on January 21 will each receive another bill for one month in advance. The consumers in that same district using metered water will receive no bill on January 2, but on January 21st they will each receive a bill for 1-2-3 months in arrears. Beginning with January 21 all consumers in districts No. 3 will receive their bills on the 21st of each month.

Respectfully submitted,  
WM. WHITFIELD & CO.  
"Accountants and Auditors."

### Neapolitans Would Rule.

Naples, Jan. 1.—This city is out with three candidates for head of the new Albanian state, which it is expected will be formally established by the powers as a result of the Balkan war against Turkey.

All three of the candidates are descendants of the great Albanian hero, George Castriota Skanderbeg, who died in 1478. They are Don Juan de Aladro Castriota, a Spaniard by birth; Maroshe Giovanni di Carliotta Castriota, a descendant of the son of the patriot, and Baron di Folcaccia.

According to official statistics just published there were among 916,063 employees in Pennsylvania industries last year 1309 fatal and 49,663 minor accidents, a total of 60,971.

Louisiana has readmitted her children to the stage.

# NEW YORK GOVERNOR WALKS TO CAPITOL, AVOIDS ALL CEREMONY

## Sulzer's Inauguration Rivals Jefferson's in Simplicity—Military Escort Declined.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Albany, N. Y., Jan. 1.—Former Congressman William Sulzer was inaugurated governor of New York today, the ceremonies being marked by an entire absence of display.

"I am a plain man," Sulzer told the inaugural committee, "and I want my inauguration to be as simple and unostentatious as possible."

His request was heeded. Sulzer delivered his inaugural address from the capitol steps as thousands of persons were unable to gain admittance to the building.

"If these citizens think enough of me to turn out in this number to hear my address," said Sulzer, "then the least I can do is to see that they hear it."

The governor's voice was strong enough to carry to the outskirts of the crowd.

### Walks to State House.

Governor Sulzer and his predecessor, John A. Dix, and their staffs, left the executive mansion at 11 o'clock. Seventeen carriages were waiting to transport the party to the state house, but Sulzer ignored them, and insisted that all walk. The party was escorted by 300 friends from Sulzer's congressional district. When the marchers reached the capitol they found big delegations from New York city and Brooklyn awaiting them.

Prominent among the gathering at the state house were General Rosalie Gardiner Jones and her suffragette pilgrims, who had walked from New York city to Albany to place in the governor's hands a "votes for women" petition.

The governor received the petition in the assembly chamber. After Bishop T. B. Burk of the Catholic church, had delivered the invocation, Sulzer was formally greeted by retiring Governor Dix. Chief Justice Cullen of the state supreme court, administered the oath of office. Sulzer then delivered his inaugural address from the capitol steps.

One of the chief attractions about the former inaugurations has been the flash and glitter of the military display. Heretofore (until Governor Dix's inauguration, when they refused to come) Squadron A of New York city, with their gay trappings of yellow and blue, astride their dashing horses, had been the heroes of the march. Then there were the navy, army and military companies and several companies of artillery until old Albany's streets rattled and clattered and resounded with martial tread and music that it was impossible to resist.

Belgium's iron industry has developed until that country is the largest per capita consumer of pig iron in the world, the United States ranking second and Germany third.


Journal Want Ads bring results.

# We Are Now Located in Our Temporary Quarters

## 133 Tenth St.

Between Washington and Alder  
(2 Doors South of Our Future Permanent Home)

### Where We Will Be Pleased to Meet Both Old and New Customers



# Emporium's January Wind-up Sale

## Every Coat, Suit, Dress and Outer Garment Reduced

WE DON'T hesitate in quoting the regular and reduced prices in this decisive January garment event, which begins at Portland's Emporium tomorrow. For the values stated are in every instance our famously low marked prices, at which every garment sold right through the season. The original tickets, written in ink, all remain. Remember, our big stock is all new, up-to-the-minute merchandise. Styles that will be worn into the early Spring. If you have the slightest garment need, you can't afford to miss this great January Wind-Up Sale at the Emporium. Prepare to come tomorrow early.

### 487 Suits Grouped in 4 Lots!

Plain tailored and semi-dressy models, in mixtures, chevots, diagonals, corduroys, velvets, etc. Every size.

Our \$16.50 and \$17.50 Suits	Our \$21.50 and \$22.50 Suits	Our Famous \$19.50 Suits	Our \$24.75 and \$27.50 Suits
\$10 <sup>95</sup>	\$14 <sup>95</sup>	\$12 <sup>85</sup>	\$16 <sup>65</sup>

Our \$30.00 Suits for \$19.85 | Our \$35.00 Suits for \$23.35 | Blue Serge Suits Radically Reduced.

### 512 Winter Coats in 4 Groups

Every stunning Coat new this season! Beautiful long-hair chevots, great-wale boucles, chinchillas, double-faced cloths, mixtures. Also serviceable Black Broadcloth and Cheviot Coats.

One lot 44 Coats originally up to \$15	All \$14.75, \$15.50, \$16.50 Coats	All \$12.75 - \$13.75 Coats at	\$19.50, \$21.50 and \$22.50 Coats
\$5 <sup>55</sup>	\$12 <sup>85</sup>	\$9 <sup>98</sup>	\$14 <sup>95</sup>

All \$24.75 Coats for \$19.75 | All \$30.00 Coats for \$24.85 | All \$35.00 Coats for \$28.75

### RAINCOATS HALF PRICE

Natty English cloth-top Raincoats, with raglan or set-in sleeves. Gray and brown home-spun effects, with waterproof inner lining.

\$16.50 Raincoats	\$ 8.25	\$21.50 Raincoats	\$10.75
\$19.50 Raincoats	\$ 9.75	\$24.75 Raincoats	\$12.40

### The Dresses

Smart tailored styles in all-wool serges of navy, black, brown, etc. Also panamas, whipcords, white serges, silks, etc.

All \$12.50 Dresses	\$ 8.75
All \$14.75 Dresses	\$ 9.95
All \$16.50 Dresses	\$11.55
All \$19.50 Dresses	\$13.65
All \$22.50 Dresses	\$15.75
All \$24.75 Dresses	\$17.35
All \$27.50 Dresses	\$19.25

### Silk Waists One-Half Price

Broken lines collected in stock-taking. Silks and chiffons, in all shades. Marked \$7.50 to \$15, at exactly 1/2 PRICE.

### White Coats Reduced

\$17.50 White Coats	\$13.25
\$19.50 White Coats	\$15.95
\$24.75 White Coats	\$19.75
\$30.00 White Coats	\$23.75
\$32.50 White Coats	\$26.35

### Caracul Coats

\$14.75, at \$11.75	\$22.50, at \$16.50
\$17.50, at \$13.95	\$24.75, at \$19.75
\$19.50, at \$15.95	\$30.00, at \$24.85

### SUITS, COATS, DRESSES, WAISTS

# EMPORIUM

## PORTLAND'S

124-128 SIXTH STREET, BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND ALDER

Great Millinery Clearance Continues