

GAS TRUST PUMPS AIR THROUGH METERS TO AID IN ITS HOLD-UP.

"Thinning" Process Used by Extortionists to Increase the Pressure, Cause False Indexes and Force the Public to Pay for Wind Instead of Gas.

Commissioner Monroe Is Fully Informed of the Shameful Methods of the Combine and Tried in Vain to Secure an Appropriation to Protect the Public from Further Robbery.

The fact that the Gas Trust pumps air into its mains to increase pressure on the meters has been known to Commissioner Robert Grier Monroe, of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, since he was appointed by the Mayor.

The Mayor encouraged Commissioner Monroe in this undertaking, but when his application for an appropriation came up before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment his request was turned down by a majority vote of the board.

THE "THINNING PROCESS."

The method of forcing air into the mains with the gas was explained to the Commissioner as the "thinning process." His informant, a man well qualified in the gas business, stated that in every city or State in which legislation is invoked against gas companies the "thinning process" is adopted as a means of "getting square" with the community.

MORE PROOF THAT TRUST EXISTS.

Denials of the existence of a gas trust are not taken seriously by the Fire Department. One of the most dangerous adjuncts to a large fire is escaping gas, which is liable to explode and do much damage.

IN CASE OF A LEAK OF GAS NIGHT OR DAY, NOTIFY INSPECTOR OF THAT DISTRICT OF THE CONSOLIDATED GAS COMPANY IN WHICH THE FIRE IS LOCATED.

Then follows a map of the Borough of Manhattan, which is divided into three districts by lines at Twenty-third street and Seventy-ninth street. Gas leaks at fires below Twenty-third street were to be reported at No. 153 Hester street; fires between Twenty-third and Seventy-ninth streets, at Fortieth street and First avenue, and above Seventy-ninth street at One Hundred and Seventh street and First avenue.

Below the map is the following: a prompt answer to telephone cannot be obtained, call up next nearest station of the gas company. An employee of this gas company is on duty at each light and day to receive telephone calls and messages.

WHY THIS PHILANTHROPY?

If the companies are not affiliated, why is the Consolidated so philanthropic?

The Consolidated Gas Company is the only gas company in the city that has a "service gang." This is the men that connect the gas mains in the various streets with the house supply pipe. They go out and tear up the streets to make such connections, and every gas company that does business must have such a gang, and yet the Standard and the New Amsterdam companies have no such men.

Before a street is asphalted the Consolidated "service gang" connects all the houses on the north side with its own main whether the meters in the houses are meters of their company or not. All houses on the south side are connected with mains of either the Standard or the New Amsterdam Company.

TYRANNY IN GAS RANGES.

Another instance of tyranny on the part of the gas trust is in its gas range business. There are dozens of instances where consumers have been fished out of money—bluffed out of their own rights—by the trust. It happens in this manner:

The trust put a range in your kitchen and charges you \$3 a year rental. You remain two months in your flat and move. You may not take the range with you, neither can you get any part of your money back. If you attempt to remove the range and keep it for the remainder of the year a warrant

SEND YOUR COMPLAINTS OF GAS EXTORTION TO THE EVENING WORLD.

The Gas Trust says there are no complaints of over-charge from its victims. To refute this statement The Evening World will print all complaints sent to this office. Each communication must have name and address of the writer, not for publication unless desired. Write only on one side of the paper.

GAS ROBBERS GET BOMBARDMENT OF COLD FACTS FROM CONSUMERS THROUGH THE EVENING WORLD.



will be issued for your arrest on a charge of larceny. No argument goes with the gas range man. He is just as formidable as the complaint clerk.

PROOF OF GAS ROBBERY FROM MANY VICTIMS.

Less He Burns More His Charges.

To the Editor of The Evening World: It is with many thanks that I saw the light you made in your valuable paper against the Gas Trust. I myself wrote to his office, No. 4 Irving place, complaining of being overcharged nearly 30 per cent. from Dec. 9 to Jan. 3, when I had to pay \$2.30, when my bills previously were in the neighborhood of \$1.50. We burned one jet in our dining room. We did not cook with gas and had plenty of coal. They did send us to investigate my complaint, but we had to pay the bill or have the gas turned off. The man they sent told me that the man that took the index made a mistake, but I would be allowed a rebate the following month. But the next month I had to pay \$1.60.

Bills More than Doubled.

To the Editor of The Evening World: I, too, am one of the poor, unfortunate victims of the Gas Trust. I take from the Consolidated Gas Company and my bills heretofore have been anywhere from \$1.10 to \$1.60. My bill for December was \$2.90 and for January \$3.10. I am positively sure we never burned any such amount of gas. Feeling I could not afford such a gas bill I bought two lamps to use in place of gas, but it seems that no matter how much I try to economize in this line my bills are steadily increasing.

AN UNFORTUNATE VICTIM.

To the Editor of The Evening World: My gas bill averaged \$1.30 per month, but it has been increasing until it has reached \$4. TRACY MARTIN.

Robbed and Left in Darkness.

To the Editor of The Evening World: I am also a gas victim. In October my gas bill was \$2.00; November, \$3.60; December, \$5.20. We only have light burning in the kitchen, so you see such a charge is robbery. On Dec. 25 they turned off our gas without notice. We had our receipts, but when I went to the office the only satisfaction I got was the statement that it was a mistake.

Bills Have Gone Steadily Up.

To the Editor of The Evening World: I, for another, have had bills presented to me on a continual jump—one higher than the other—since I commenced using gas last August. I complained to the Harlem office, both by letter and in person, for two months, and I could not get any satisfaction. Finally I refused to pay a bill of \$3.50 until I received a new meter, and after a long and continued argument about red tape business on their part I managed to get it, with a small reduction in my next bill. I know that I do not consume any more, if as much, gas as present as I did when I first commenced, and still my bills increase in size.

Overcharged, but Compelled to Pay.

To the Editor of The Evening World: I read in your edition of Feb. 26 a Guaranteed Cure for Piles. I wish, blind, bleeding and protruding Piles. No cure, no pay. All druggists are authorized by the manufacturer to refund the money where it fails to cure in four or five days. No application fee and no return. It is the only safe remedy sold on a positive guarantee, no cure, no pay. Price, 25c.

statement of Robert A. Carter, secretary of the Consolidated Gas Company, that he has received no complaints from consumers for overcharge for gas. Carter's statement is utterly false. I myself wrote to his office, No. 4 Irving place, complaining of being overcharged nearly 30 per cent. from Dec. 9 to Jan. 3, when I had to pay \$2.30, when my bills previously were in the neighborhood of \$1.50.

Why Mr. Alexander should have had the meter removed by the company, examined and tested on their premises, rather than away from their influence, I don't know. I will give you a few examples, which speak for themselves: July to August, 29 days, at \$1.15; August to September, 31 days, at \$1.20; September to October, 31 days, at \$1.25; October to November, 31 days, at \$1.30; November to December, 31 days, at \$1.35; December to January, 31 days, at \$1.40; January to February, 29 days, at \$1.45.

No Faith in Inspectors.

To the Editor of The Evening World: My bill for gas, alleged to have been consumed between Jan. 20 and Feb. 18, is 50 per cent. higher than for the same period of last year. I am a victim of the Consolidated Gas Company. I have protested several times against this robbery without result. During the last Legislature I endeavored to have a law enacted making it mandatory on the part of the gas companies, upon application of the consumer, to furnish air meters ranging from 25 cents to \$1 or up to \$2 if necessary. Such a law would greatly lessen the steals.

Isn't This a Hardship?

To the Editor of The Evening World: My gas bills have ranged as follows: December, 1932, \$1.49; January, 1933, \$1.90; December, 1932, \$1.90; January, 1933, \$2.74; January, 1933, \$2.74; February, 1933, \$3.50.

Victim of Two Companies.

To the Editor of The Evening World: There has been an increase of fully 40 per cent. the last two months in the bills of the Consolidated Gas Company, for no apparent reason whatever. The last month I shut off the use of several gas jets, but this didn't shut off the gas company's bill one iota. So much for the Consolidated Gas Company.

Last year I was using gas from the Standard Gas Company. During the summer I was away and my apartments were closed. No gas was used whatever, but the charges went merrily on. Then when I moved and asked for the return of my deposit, which the company demands to protect itself against the non-payment of bills, I was told to take a seat. After waiting three-quarters of an hour a clerk, with the air of a czar, returned the deposit minus what he saw fit to take out. After looking over the items of the bill I called his attention to the fact that no interest had been allowed on the deposit, as they had promised. They had had the money almost a year, but with a haughty becoming one in his high station, the clerk replied: "We don't pay interest unless you use the money a full year."

Victim of Two Companies.

To the Editor of The Evening World: I wish to add my complaint with the thousands of others that have appealed to you in the matter of exorbitant gas bills. It has always been my belief that you would take up this all-important question, as the gas companies pay no attention to individual complaints, but must take heed when the greatest of New York's papers takes up the cudgels in defense of American citizens.

We have had our gas bills advanced more than fifty per cent. without using any more gas. In fact, we have economized some money, but the bills came bigger and bigger.

When complaint was made at the office no attention was paid to it, surly and discourteous treatment at the hands of the clerks was all that one could expect. I have had the money ready. When I wrote to the manager, stating the case, I got a note saying "the next month the meter would be right itself; it was clerk's error."

To the Editor of The Evening World: After the man took the meter index I asked him what the bill would be. He said \$1.50. I have always done this so I could have the money ready. When we got the bill this time it was \$4.50. I wrote to the manager, stating the case. I got a note saying "the next month the meter would be right itself; it was clerk's error."

To the Editor of The Evening World: I have complained to the Consolidated

Gas Company about excessive bills. The superintendent promised to investigate. A man called. He found my meter all right. I had a private concern to test the meter, and it was found to be fast. I notified State Gas Meter Inspector Alexander to test the meter. Without notice from me the Consolidated Company removed and replaced the meter by another. In a few days Mr. Alexander sent me a certificate that the meter was correct.

Why Mr. Alexander should have had the meter removed by the company, examined and tested on their premises, rather than away from their influence, I don't know. I will give you a few examples, which speak for themselves: July to August, 29 days, at \$1.15; August to September, 31 days, at \$1.20; September to October, 31 days, at \$1.25; October to November, 31 days, at \$1.30; November to December, 31 days, at \$1.35; December to January, 31 days, at \$1.40; January to February, 29 days, at \$1.45.

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NEWS OF THE BUSINESS WORLD.

PENNSYLVANIA'S GREATEST YEAR

Road's Gross Earnings Reached the Sum of \$112,663,330, an Increase of More than \$11,000,000 Over 1901.

\$8,118,860 ONE INCOME.

After spending over \$12,500,000 in re-alignments of grade and alignment for additional tracks, piers, yards and other terminal facilities and the abolition of grade crossings, the Pennsylvania Railroad, in its annual report, issued last night, shows an increase in its net income for the year 1902 of \$3,553,833 over the prosperous year of 1901. This is a striking refutation of the statement frequently made by the pessimist that the pendulum of prosperity is now swinging from the high mark.

The gross earnings of Pennsylvania, which is the greatest artery of trade in the United States were during 1902 \$112,663,330 for the main line east of Pittsburgh and Erie alone, as compared with \$101,329,795 in 1901, a gross increase of \$11,333,534.

For the entire system of 10,783 miles the gross earnings reached the huge total of \$219,849,961, an increase of \$21,222,885 over the previous year. The cost of operating the road during 1902 was \$40,929,517, as compared with \$35,317,912 in the year preceding. This increased cost of operation was to some extent caused by the increase in wages which the company made to its employees during the year. This amounted in some instances to as much as 10 per cent.

The great wealth of the Pennsylvania corporation is shown by the announcement that the company holds in its treasury securities of other corporations to the value of \$25,948,825, from which it is receiving an income annually of \$3,118,860.

STOCKS ACTIVE, PRICES WAVER.

Bank Statement Gives Stimulus to Dealings, but Recoveries Made Are Not Held by All the Issues.

NEW YORK CENTRAL DOWN.

Stocks, while quiet and easy in the early dealings in the market to-day, grew more active and gained new stimulus on the bank statement, which was better than expected. The uncertainty of the fate of the Aldrich bill continued as a bear factor.

Considerable pressure developed against New York Central, which sold off 1-4 points in all. United States Steel receded 1 per cent. after opening unchanged. Missouri Pacific was offered freely in large lots but yielded only 1-4 point.

Wabash, Amalgamated Copper, Rock Island and others lost 3-8 per cent. Pennsylvania was relatively firm, holding throughout a nominal fractional gain. There were a number of transactions in Metropolitan Street Railway at advances of 1-2 to 3-4. Bonds were quiet but steady, with scattered sales.

Rock Island sold off on the expectation that the capital stock would be added to the Frisco purchase. Metropolitan opened higher and probably reflected a little pressure on the shorts.

Wabash preferred opened firm, but there was some very good selling on the idea that the stock necessary for absolute control had all been bought and that consequently the price of the minority stock would ease off, as there seemed to be no reason to make it worth the present price on the earnings or even the Pittsburgh prospects.

New York Central was heavy on the expected new financing, and more so as the money market did not seem likely to be at all favorable for further operation.

The traders were pleased with the Pennsylvania report. It reflected some strength in that stock and those of its controlled roads. There was a general recovery after the issue of the bank statement, but the prices ran off again at the close of the market.

Table with columns: The Closing Quotations, Open, High, Low, Close. Lists various stocks and their prices.

BANK STATEMENT HELPS STOCKS.

Figures Better than Expected, a Decrease in Loans Being Shown, when Increase Was Looked For.

The bank statement to-day, while not favorable, was so much better than was generally anticipated that it stimulated the market to a limited degree. There was a decrease in loans when an increase was looked for and the decrease in deposits was less than expected.

The statement, which includes the figures of five business days, was: Deposits... increase \$52,400; Loans... decrease \$71,900; Circulation... increase \$4,700; Legal tenders... decrease \$71,900; Reserves... decrease \$4,700; Surplus... decrease \$3,083,775; Etc. etc.

The banks report an excess of legal requirements of \$5,961,850, as compared with \$3,041,676 last week and \$9,975,000 a year ago.

CURB TRADING QUIET.

Northern Securities, Marconi and United Copper Favored Issues. Trading on the curb was quiet and normally unchanged to-day. Northern Securities sold at 100 1/2, Marconi at 87 1/2, and United Copper at 30.

SHORT LINES FOR GOULD SYSTEM.

St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway Will Issue \$20,000,000 of Bonds.

WALL STREET CHAT.

G. Lee Stout and G. Lee Stout, Jr. have been admitted to the Stock Exchange firm of A. O. Brown & Co. G. Lee Stout was formerly president of the Merchant's Fire Insurance Co. of Newark, N. J. His son was the Stock Exchange member of E. O. Schuyler & Co. and has held a seat on the big board for the past six years.

James J. Hill is on his way to this city. He has intimated to several of his friends that he will take a trip to Europe as soon as he has attended to his interests here.

Edingham Lawrence, a broker in outside securities, has purchased a seat on the Stock Exchange for \$51,000.

The firm of Adams, Kellogg & Mason has been dissolved by mutual consent.

Benjamin G. Talbot has withdrawn from the firm of John H. Davis & Co. to become chairman of the Stock Exchange.

Carroll D. Wright, Commissioner of the National Bureau of Labor Statistics and a member of the Anthracite Strike Commission, visited the street to-day.

COTTON BOOMS TO TOP PRICES.

Bulls Boost Values to Highest Notch in Ten Years with One Exception, and Market the Scene of Much Excitement.

BIG PROFITS IN THE RISE.

Boomed by the reports of the heavy rains that have been inundating the Southern belt, cotton to-day reached the highest price seen in two years, and with the exception of 1901, the highest prices in ten years. It sold on the floor of the Cotton Exchange during to-day's session from 2 to 2 1/2 higher than yesterday's extreme prices.

March cotton said at 10-16c, and May at 10-13c. This is half a cent higher than the level on Wednesday and a cent and a half higher than the level a month ago.

March cotton sold during the summer at seven and a half cents a pound, so that to-day's prices represent a gain of two and three-quarters cents a pound in the value of cotton.

To-day's figures are causing a great jubilation in the South, for five years ago the planters were glad to get five and five and a half cents for their cotton.

There was little or no change in the speculative cotton on the floor from the excitement prevailing for the past two or three weeks. The bull crowd is still in control of the market and will be until the weather in the South improves so that cotton can be moved.

Though at times cotton was freely offered, as soon as the bull clique began to prove its support the market prices shot up quickly. Profits on cotton held by the New England crowd in this city are regarded as greater than anything made in staple speculation in many years.

Outside of the weather conditions the primary cause of the advance in cotton is to be found in the comparatively short crop this season. The failure on the part of the spinner to procure their supplies earlier has also been a co-fact factor in booming the price of cotton.

STOCKS STEADY IN LONDON.

Louisville and Nashville Exceptions, but Wabash Strong. LONDON, Feb. 28.—Money was much wanted in the market to-day and rates were somewhat easier, owing to Government disbursements. Dis-counts were almost at a standstill.

Business on the Stock Exchange was irregular. Consols were depressed, owing to the fact that the market was more active, but the interruption of the telegraph lines Northward caused some confusion. Wabash was 1 1/2 and irregular, Louisville and Nashville being especially depressed on the new loan market. The market for cotton was better tone. Rio Tinto opened with a better tone, but relapsed. Kafirs and De Beers hardened.

LOST SON AND CHECK.

Mr. Zimmerman Thinks the Lad Has Gone West to Be a Cowboy. Matthew Zimmerman, a blockmaker, of No. 261 Fortieth street, Brooklyn, notified the police to-day that his fifteen-year-old son John disappeared yesterday after cashing a check for him for \$10 on the Eighth Ward Bank. Mr. Zimmerman has been talking about life on the plains and expressed a desire to become a cowboy. He believes he has gone West.

Young Zimmerman is five feet tall, weighs eighty pounds, has light brown hair and blue eyes. He was dressed in a light gray suit and overcoat and wore lace shoes and kid gloves.

Henderson Not to Join Firm. At the office of Simpson, Thatcher, and the late Thomas B. Reed was a member. It was again positively stated this morning that there was no truth in the rumor that Henderson would be to come to New York and become a member of that firm.

A FEELING.

Good Food Makes It.

No one so well knows the delicious feeling that comes from being well fed as the one who has suffered and then found food that really would digest as nourishment.

Change a lady of Latrobe, Penn., writes: "Some years ago I had an attack of nervous prostration and, my vocation of music teacher being very trying, the nervousness affected my digestive organs so much that food could not be eaten without great distress."

This had been my condition for years. About four years ago I had a heavy cold that went to the weak parts and caused catarrh of the stomach. I took bottle after bottle of medicine, but nothing seemed to help.

"I was always hungry and unsatisfied, but nothing gave me strength, and finally I could not even take a sip of cold water without pain and vomiting. Food distressed me so that I would throw up mouthfuls of slime and mucus."

"Well, I had reached that stage of not caring much to live and still not quite sick enough to die when I finally was induced to try Grape-Nuts. The food worked like a charm, and I felt as if I had a little hold on life. That was the beginning of the end of my sickness. The nervousness gradually left me and I became entirely cured of that dreadful disease, nervous prostration. I soon regained my usual weight and more, and have more color in my cheeks than I have had in years, and I give Grape-Nuts the credit. I could eat them three times a day. They are invaluable to me."

"With a breakfast of Grape-Nuts and cream, a roll, some fruit and cup of Postum Coffee I feel better and stronger than on any other food I am better able to stand work." Name given by Postum BATTLE CREEK, MICH.