

DECLARES CITY NEEDS NEW ORDINANCES TO PROVE GAS SUPPLY CONDITIONS WORSE WITH GROWTH

Los Angeles Requires Higher Candle and Heating Power, Better and More Uniform Pressure and Sharp Inspection Service, Says Inspector Read in His Report

THE MAYOR'S COMMENT "I have asked Mr. Read to state the situation frankly and he has done so in his report" was Mayor McAlleer's comment on the cause of the gas report.

Gas and Meter Inspector R. L. Cabell Read has made a lengthy report summing up the gas situation in Los Angeles which he says will give adequate relief. Innumerable complaints have been made at the city about the inadequate gas supply in Los Angeles and the report shifts the responsibility on the legislative department.

Inspector Read says: "The work of this department comes under two headings: (1) inspection and (2) gas meter inspection. Under the head of gas inspection this department is required to test the candle power and heat value of all gas furnished to the city or its citizens at least once a week. The ordinance regulating these tests provides that the minimum illuminating power shall be not less than the illuminating power of sixteen standard sperm candles, each burning 120 grains per hour, when the gas is being burned at the rate of five cubic feet per hour under standard conditions; and that the minimum heat value shall be not less than 550 gross British thermal units per cubic foot of gas measured under standard conditions, one British thermal unit being the amount of heat necessary to raise the temperature of one pound of water through one degree Fahrenheit.

Comply with Law "The Los Angeles Gas and Electric company's gas shows an average illuminating power of 18.21 candles, which is 2.21 candles above the legal minimum; and the heat value of their gas is 610.08 gross British thermal units per cubic foot, which is 60.68 units above the legal minimum. "This company has not been in default at any time during the year in respect to the tests required by the ordinance regulating the same.

People's Gas and Coke Company "The gas furnished by the People's Gas and Coke company shows an average illuminating power of 18.24 candles, which is 2.24 candles above the legal minimum; also an average heat value of 606.15 gross British thermal units per cubic foot, which is 56.15 units above the legal minimum. "This company has not been in default in respect to either test required by ordinance, except on one day—October 10, 1906, when the heat value of the gas holder had gone loose and turned sideways, thus rendering it useless for the time being. The officials promised to remedy this low heat value as soon as they could repair their holder. They did not do so, and the test made the following day was above the legal minimum.

Meter Inspection "During the year there have been forty-seven meters tested on complaint of customers. Of these twenty-five, or 53.2 per cent, were found to be correct, which is taken to mean not more than 2 per cent fast or slow; seven, or 28 per cent, were found to be fast and 11 slow. The average error of the fast meters was 6.12 per cent fast, the fastest registering 17.5 per cent more gas than was actually passing. Of these eleven fast meters, five were between 2 and 4 per cent fast, one between 2 and 4 per cent fast, two between 4 and 5 per cent fast, three between 5 and 6 per cent fast, one between 6 and 7 per cent fast, one between 8 and 9 per cent fast and one between 17 and 18 per cent fast."

Read Has Troubles Inspector Read mourns his lot in bitter terms in one section of his report, saying: "This office has been flooded with complaints, demands and threats. I have been asked to do all manner of things, threatened with dire punishment if I did not afford some relief and abused for not being able to do anything. "In reply to all complaints I have stated that under no possible construction of the ordinance regulating this office could this office take any step which would afford the slightest relief, that relief, if any, could only come through legislative action on the part of your honorable body. The ordinances regulating this office only provide for the testing of gas furnished as to heating value and illuminating power, and the testing of meters complained of. Hence for any remedy for the present troubles the public must look to you for relief.

Breakdowns Only Starting "Having no authority to make a physical examination of the Los Angeles company's plant I have refrained from attempting to do so. But such an examination, if made, would be of doubtful benefit or utility under the circumstances. "The same causes which brought about recent breakdowns have existed all the time. It is these same causes which are chiefly responsible for the general dissatisfaction in the service and the numerous complaints in regard to high bills and incorrect meters. The meters are usually blamed for this, but in reality have little to do with it.

The True Causes "The true causes for the great dissatisfaction which so justly exists with the present conditions of gas service in this city are the out-of-date system of manufacture and distribution in use by the Los Angeles Gas and Electric company and the apparent lack of desire on its part to make the necessary outlay to keep up with this enterprising city's progress, as well as the low standard of gas set by the city and the lack of any provision for compelling a uniform, regular and continuous service. "Sixteen candle power gas is a relic of the dark ages. With the materials here available and the progress made by the Los Angeles Gas and Electric company, to say the least, it would be gross negligence on the part of the gas-maker to allow the gas to fall below the city's standard. Such a

puny standard could only have been considered a good one in the infancy of the gas industry; now that it has attained man's estate anything less than twenty candle power and 650 to 700 B. T. U. would not be seriously considered by any self-respecting and progressive city. Even with sixteen candle power there should be from 600 to 640 B. T. U.

Gas for Heating "But since gas is being less and less used for lighting and more and more for heating purposes I would recommend a high standard of heat value rather than illuminating value. "In this connection it is well to remember that the illuminating power of Welsbach lamps is really due to the heat of the gas and not its illuminating power. "Any system of manufacture which can only turn out gas up to the present standard fixed by this city is hopelessly behind the times. The present system of distribution is inadequate to the needs of a city of this size, and will only become worse as time goes on, when we consider the phenomenal growth of this city and the lack of effort on the part of the Los Angeles Gas and Electric company to keep up with the same.

"Go into your kitchen any day in July or August and turn on full one of your stove burners and light it, first, between 2 and 3 p. m., and then again between 5 and 6 p. m., and see the difference in size of the flames you get in the two instances; in the latter case the flame will be quite small and weak. "If I ask you why this is you will say that the pressure is down. Most certainly it is down, but where, and why? You will probably reply that the pressure is down at the works, so many people are using gas that the company cannot keep the pressure up. This seems plausible, but it is not the truth. "The pressure is up to the normal at the gas works, and with the holders full and generators going to their full capacity, they have plenty of gas and are working the compressors at the proper speed to keep the pressure to normal height, which is probably as high as the pipe system will stand. If this were not true it would show bad business management on the company's part not to spend the extra money for additional compressors in order to largely increase revenue. "The pressure is down in the lateral main, from which your house service runs. The lateral main, when supplied with gas at a constant pressure, can only flow a certain definite number of cubic feet per hour. "So long as the total demand of all customers drawing gas from this lateral remains less than this quantity each one will get the proper amount of

gas at right pressure; as soon as the number of customers increases and their demands exceed this quantity, what happens? "There is only a definite amount of gas that can come out of the lateral, so each customer must get less gas than he requires in inverse proportion of the demand to the supply. In adjusting itself to this condition the pressure in the lateral and service pipes must fall. "Take, for example, a lateral pipe flowing 100 cubic feet of gas per hour, having services to fifty customers whose stoves burn fifty cubic feet per hour each; if twenty of these stoves were lighted they would take the full 100 cubic feet, leaving the lateral pipe incapable of supplying under the pressure at which it is fed; if all fifty of these stoves were lighted they could obviously burn 2500 cubic feet per hour, if they could get it, but, there being only 100 cubic feet available, each of the fifty stoves will get one-fifth of that amount, which is twenty cubic feet instead of fifty cubic feet, which it could use. "This would mean that it would take two and one-half times as long to burn the same amount of gas and therefore generate the same amount of heat. "If the matter stopped here it would only amount to the personal inconvenience of taking longer to do the cooking than was necessary; but it does not stop here. Suppose at the proper flow you were getting the best efficiency out of the gas, in useful heating effect, then decrease the flow to four-tenths its original value; that is, from fifty to twenty cubic feet, you would then get only about one-half the useful heating effect from the same amount of gas and it would take you five times as long to get the same useful heating effect, and in order to get it you would have to use and pay for twice the amount of gas as you did in the first place.

The Remedy "The remedy for this inadequacy of the distributing system is greater pressure or larger mains. This will give a more uniform and regular pressure at all times, which is all that the city needs in this respect, the means adopted by the gas company to accomplish the desired end being of secondary importance. What the city needs more than anything else is some provision for enforcing a regular, uniform and continuous service, and the sooner taken in hand the easier it will be of accomplishment. "The city should have an ordinance providing that all gas companies should maintain continuously to all its customers a regular and uniform service

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WANTS LAW ENFORCING UNIFORM GAS PRESSURE

Gas and Meter Inspector R. Cabell Read recommends that the council instruct the city attorney to draw up an ordinance covering the following points, with his assistance as to technical details:

First—Providing for the maintenance of a continuous regular and uniform gas service with governed pressure in the consumer's pipes of not less than one inch nor more than three inches water pressure, with adequate penalty for non-fulfillment.

Second—Providing for a minimum illuminating power of twenty candles and a minimum heat value of 650 B. T. U., with proper penalty for non-compliance.

Third—Providing that the purity of the gas be such that it contains not more than twenty grains of total sulphur and five grains of ammonia in all forms in 100 cubic feet, and that there be no sulphureted hydrogen present, with proper penalty for violation.

Fourth—Providing compulsory testing of all meters before being put into service by any company, at the company's expense, and the testing of meters on complaint of either customer or company at the fees before mentioned, and providing that it shall be unlawful for anyone to place or keep a meter in service which has been tested and found incorrect; a meter to be deemed correct when it is not more than 3 per cent fast or slow when working at its regular capacity.

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Undertakers Hold Banquet The Funeral Directors association of Southern California met at Levy's last night at their annual banquet and talked over the general affairs of the undertakers. There were about thirty present, and action was taken to urge the legislature to enact laws regarding embalming and shipping of bodies to conform with the laws of the east.

Soldier Died James Brown died at his home, 1075 West Thirty-sixth street, yesterday, following a long illness. Mr. Brown was aged 70 years and a member of Bartlett Logan post, G. A. R. The funeral will be held Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the chapel of Orr & Edwards, Rev. J. P. McKnight to officiate. The interment will be at Rose-dale. Mr. Brown leaves a wife and one daughter, Mrs. Roy Kellogg.

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CHIEF DONS HIS NEW UNIFORM



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Mayor-elect Harper Pays Visit to Head of Department and Sees Deplorably Crowded Condition of Jail

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EXOL VIRTUES OF RECENT INVENTION

USES OF TELEPHONE ARE EXPLAINED

Members of State Independent Telephone Association Banquet and Are Introduced to New Instrument

Members of the State Independent Telephone association participated in a banquet and a talk on the utility and prospects of the telephone and the exemplification of the instrument at Levy's last night. Twenty-seven officials and manipulators of the telephones of Southern California gathered at the banquet table, exchanged stories and enjoyed the festivities. E. L. Swaine, president of the association, presided. The main speaker was J. C. MacSpadden, general manager of the American Telephone company. After thanking President Swaine for the courtesies extended him and his associates, Mr. MacSpadden said: "The question of the hour is what is a telephone? The word itself is coined from the two words, telegraph and telephone, since it partakes of the nature and enters into the field and uses of both, making the two instruments complete and broadening their field of usefulness many fold. "Words fall me to properly express myself, and I therefore would much rather that the instrument would speak for itself. But I wish to say that what has already been done by a few great electrical instruments like the telephone, telegraph, wire and wireless telegraph can be done again, and the possibilities of electricity as applied to the industrial world is yet in its infancy. "Sees Great Future "When we consider that there are 10,000,000 telephones in the United States, most of which must soon be equipped with the telegraphone and that the mechanical graphophone and phonograph will be entirely superseded and the \$70,000,000 taken in by both these instruments during 1905 must all come to the telegraphone, as will all the business of the stock ticker and that all telegraph instruments must also be equipped, some idea can be had of the broad field of usefulness of the telegraphone, and yet the half has not been told. "Now is the time to come in on the ground floor and reap its advantages. The investment of \$100 in the Bell telephone at its inception has paid \$200,000 in dividends. The Edison electric advanced from \$100 per share to \$4000 in one year. This is startling in comparison to ordinary industrial securities today, but an easy realization for another great electrical invention, as great if not greater than anything which has heretofore been produced in the world is the telegraphone. "Arthur Gordon, special representative of the American Telephone company of New York, placed a telegraphone on one of the tables, and exemplified its use, repeating a simple paragraph into an ordinary transmitter, following which each of the guests heard the reproduction of the paragraph through an ordinary receiver.

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