

CALL HALT WHEN CITY DISAPPROVES WATER EXTENSION

Blames Council for Failure to Approve Issuance of Bonds.

Failure of the common council at its meeting of the committee of the whole last Monday night to act favorably upon an ordinance to permit the city to issue bonds at an interest rate of five and one-quarter per cent has resulted in bringing to a sudden stop the activities of the city water department that were directed along the line of the city's expansion.

At Wednesday morning's regular meeting of the water board a sweeping order was issued to Supt. James N. Luther to make no further effort to carry out the requests in the many petitions now before the board asking that extensions be made in the water service.

The reason assigned by the water board for the drastic action is that as the water works treasury is practically depleted and no further extensions and permanent improvements can be made until the money is provided for paying for material, labor and other expense that enters into laying of water mains where service is not now being enjoyed. It is declared that the water department is now being operated by the revenue that comes from the sale of water. Under present conditions the operation can be continued so long as expenses can be held down but a promise out to employees for a raise in salary cannot be fulfilled until either the revenue can be increased or money is provided from another source, declare the board members.

Want Salary Increases. The water board says it has before it a request from practically every department of the water works for salary increases and the requests have been held in abeyance in anticipation of the board's treasury being replenished. The consulting engineer has recommended that \$150,000 be expended on the two pumping stations in order that the efficiency of each be brought to the highest point to take care of the present situation and the increased

service that will come from extensions being made. Conditions at the central station, according to the board, already call for the buying and installing of a new pump to replace one that has given way and without the money that would come from a bond issue the improvement cannot be made. Test wells have been drilled in the southwestern section of the city in the hope that an additional supply of water may be found and the expense of that work must be borne from a fund other than that created from the sale of water, says the board.

Recently the board advertised for bids for pipe or water mains and received a bid that warrants the making of a contract but with adverse action by the council no contract can be made. The whole program of the water board, it declares, is checked by the action of the council in delaying the passing of the ordinance that would sell bonds at a slightly increased rate of interest. The department says it will finish such work as it has started and await future action of the council in the hope that the requests and demands of property owners may be met later when the department has been enabled to procure the money that is necessary to cope with the present situation. The board says

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that the entire matter of keeping up with South Bend's program of expansion so far as the water board is concerned rests with the common council.

Major Has Confidence. Mayor Carson said Wednesday morning that he has confidence in the council, and that he believes that it will ultimately give its approval to the proposed bond issue. "While we will be delayed for two or three weeks, I believe the council will act favorably on the ordinance," said the mayor. "The members of the council have the city's welfare at heart, and I believe that they will act for the best interests of the city."

TO SELECT MANAGER. By United Press. NEW YORK, May 5.—Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood at a conference here today was expected to make a definite decision in the controversy between Col. William C. Procter and Frank Hitchcock, as to which is supreme in his campaign organization.

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