

TOPEKA GAS

Break in Main Near Ottawa on Sunday.

All Afternoon the Topeka Pipes Were "Dry."

MUCH EXCITEMENT.

People on a Frenzied Hunt for Fuel.

Coal Men Rushed Deliveries During the Day.

RELIEVED AT 8:30 P. M.

But Has Continued Weak During the Day.

Temporary Main Built Around the "Blow Out."

At 2:30 today, I. G. Treleven, manager of the local gas company, made the following statement to the State Journal:

"I have been in communication with the superintendent of the work at Ottawa, who tells me that the repairs in the mains will be completed this afternoon. Of course no one can tell exactly how soon they will be completed, but in any event I feel safe in assuring the people that it will be done some time this afternoon. It will take about an hour for the pressure to be increased at this point. This, however, is certain to reach here by supper time."

At an early hour this morning, when the demand on the local supply was at a minimum, the pressure at the city limits was 32 pounds. During the forenoon the pressure had been reduced to 8 pounds and continued at this limit for the rest of the day, although it was slightly lower during the noon hour.

The big reserve in the tank at First and Monroe, which although small, makes considerable difference on occasions like today, was emptied at noon Sunday. During the night this was partially refilled and it will be emptied again should the needs of the consumers demand it.

For the first time in the history of natural gas in Topeka, the city was entirely without a supply for any purpose whatever on Sunday. The trouble was caused by a big break in the mains of the Kansas Natural Gas Co., a short distance west of Ottawa, in which a joint and several feet of pipe line were blown out.

The gas famine lasted nearly all day. It started about nine o'clock in the morning and continued until 8:25 last night. However the gas supply in the local mains in some instances was not exhausted until nearly noon.

Manager L. G. Treleven of the local gas company was notified of the break almost as soon as it had occurred. The information was immediately communicated to the State Journal office, which remained open during day and evening with an elaborate bulletin window for the benefit of the public, on which the latest information concerning the situation was immediately bulletined.

The same information was sent by the gas company to the telephone offices and to the churches. The break in the gas supply struck Topeka like a thunderbolt from an unclouded sky. At first the gas was at a maximum for several days, or at least sufficient to ward off complaints as to the supply. The day was a rather warm one for this time of the year. Housewives expected to cook their Sunday dinners with gas, the restaurants nearly all depend largely on gas, and the result was as bad as could be imagined.

There was not the inconvenience however that one would expect. The newspaper bulletins had caused the news to spread over the city and before the gas supply was actually shut off, nearly everyone was aware of the trouble.

As soon as the supply began to dwindle the office of the local gas company was swamped with inquiries. Seven extra telephone girls were detailed to handle the calls. And the calls at the State Journal office where the public has learned to come for the latest news were as numerous as an after election morning.

Hunted for Coal Burners. Those who have depended entirely upon gas for heating and lighting purposes were the worst sufferers from the famine Sunday. Had it been a "blue" Sunday matters might have been even worse. As it was every second-hand store in Topeka was raided for coal burners. The different coal dealers were forced to close their stores and coal delivery wagons into service. As soon as the news reached to the Topeka Ice & Fuel company, R. F. Hodgins and Vince Kaczynski, two of the proprietors called up their customers and notified them that small supplies of coal could be secured during the day. The Edison company maintained an open office all day by means of which many of the druggists and others were able to secure wiring for electric supplies which were installed in time to be used by night.

The hotel and restaurants suffered a great deal from the dearth of gas. Most of them use gas for their stoves and coal burners are such that coal could be substituted. The different coal companies got out their wagons and deliveries to the restaurants and hotels were the chief source of business for awhile. And these people had need of a lot of coal for their business was greatly increased by the lack of gas. People abandoned their homes and sought some of the public eating houses rather than eat cold meals in the seclusion of their own homes. The churches suffered from the gas shortage. Many of the smaller churches in the outskirts of town abandoned their services in the evening, although most of the churches were warm in the morning. However, all the downtown churches with the exception of the First Christian church were supplied with coal and other sources of heat. Many people who were cold in their own homes went to the homes of their neighbors who had left their homes Sunday evening. It was arranged by the gas company that as soon as the break had been temporarily repaired so that the pressure would again be resumed here, that the whistles of the Continental Creamery and the Santa Fe shops should be blown, and that the bell at the fire station would ring. The whistles and bells started in at 8:25 last night, and the sound was welcome one to the inhabitants of Topeka. The three blended together really made some music. The sound temporarily stopped the church service. Even the preachers stopped long enough to give their auditors a chance to hear the musical strains.

BLEW OUT OFF.

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Didn't Stop at Once. That the gas supply did not give out as soon as the break occurred was due to the supply that was close to coal.

The pipe line which reaches Topeka branches near the Haskell Institute and this was shut off there to prevent the escape of gas into the street through the broken main at Ottawa. It was some time before this supply was exhausted.

Got Out Oil Stoves. Many Topekans got out their oil stoves Sunday only to learn that as the grocery stores were closed no coal oil could be secured. For the same reason those who were without coal oil and who had kerosene lamps were unable to have light in their homes.

One grocer on the East Side who has had a box of candles in his store for several years, sold a few to his customers for lighting purposes. Small boys might have reaped a fortune by carrying baskets of candles under their arms and selling them from house to house.

Used Storage Tank. During the noon hour the supply was increased a little by turning the big storage tank at First and Monroe into the mains. This revived many of the flickering burners and furnished a supply that lasted over a half hour, and the few who were wise were able to cook a small dinner without much inconvenience.

Some Amusing Incidents. Hard as it was to be inconvenienced by a shortage of heat and light, the situation was not without its humorous side. Early this morning a man was sprung on the stereotyped joke about fireless cookers.

One of the amusing incidents reported was one that fell to the lot of Harry Guthrie who lives at 12th and Mission street. Mr. Guthrie heats his home with a gas furnace. As soon as he heard of the failure of the supply he made arrangements with a friend of his who is a coal dealer for a supply of coal. Then he issued invitations to his neighbors to come to his house and keep warm. He arrayed himself in a pair of overalls, a big red sweater, and some gloves, and went to work on his furnace. A bunch of trash and other stuff of like nature was gathered together and burned for temporary heat while the furnace was being repaired. Guthrie worked well and kept the house well heated. During the afternoon the coal arrived, a whole ton. A goodly portion was then thrown into the furnace right over the gas burners. He placed his hand on the pipe leading from the furnace to the flue, when to his surprise he felt a lump of coal beneath his fingers, having been corroded by the gas. By this time the coal had been ignited and Mr. Guthrie had to get up to the roof to get the heavy smoke from the soft coal was filling the house, and Mr. Guthrie was forced to use his lawn hose and put water on the furnace. He spent some time in carrying out the coals and ashes. By the time this was completed the gas supply came back, and the furnace was rendered useless. The Guthrie family, however, spent the night in cold house. Today the pipe to the flue is being repaired.

One Sunday the official took things a little easier. He was better fixed than the average mortal as he had a pass for himself and family good on any portion of the city system. The family took the first train to Kansas City where they first riding back and forth between these two stations. The cars were well heated and lighted and the day was spent in comfort. Others resorted to different methods of keeping warm. In many instances whole families spent the day in the open air, some of them wearing coats of heat were employed. Many spent the day in the Santa Fe offices, and the different passenger stations of the city were filled with a full quota of visitors.

Around the newspaper offices much trouble was experienced. The linotype machine was used as a means of melting the type metal. The gas in the natural gas was brought into Topeka, the old artificial gas was used. The Trouble Today. Patrons of the Consumers Light and Gas company were notified last night that the gas would have to be shut off some time this morning while the connections on the main line were being made, and that work might take until evening or perhaps only a few hours.

Manager Treleven of the local gas company said concerning the prospect for today's supply: "I can not state for certain whether the gas will be entirely shut off or not, nor how long, thought it will probably be for but a short time. A large force was sent out this morning to locate the break this morning installing the new main north of Ottawa. They were forced to wait until today as no lights can be used around the work. As soon as an electric light is sufficient to touch off an explosion. The gas has been supplied through a six inch pipe laid around the work at day's end. This will be in operation until the main is ready for connection but is run under a pressure of only 75 pounds while the big main was a 16 inch pipe operated at a pressure of 250 pounds. We hope that enough gas will have been forced into the mains to prevent the disconnection of the temporary pipe and the connection of the big main. Yesterday morning the supply held up for two hours after the break and it is quite likely that the break will run without an extra hour today. There is no doubt as to a perfect repair of the main."

Order for 5,000,000 Cartridges. Philadelphia, Jan. 18.—Orders have been received at the Frankford arsenal in this city, for the manufacture of 5,000,000 rifle cartridges. This order, with those on hand, will keep the arsenal busy day and night until the end of the fiscal year in June. The arsenal has been working day and night since September.

GAVE THE NEWS.

State Journal Bulletin Service on Gas Situation.

People, Eager for Information, Crowded Sidewalk.

WARNINGS ARE GIVEN.

Gas Users Notified to "Close the Valves."

Then Told to Listen for the Signal Whistles.

With a desire to serve the public the State Journal early established a bureau of information to answer all questions of interested citizens relative to the gas situation, and thousands of anxious householders were thus kept informed of the situation Sunday.

Superintendent Treleven of the gas company at once realized the importance of giving the bad news of the break in the gas mains to the public. He called up the State Journal about 9 o'clock Sunday morning and asked that the news be announced by bulletin that within a very short time the supply of gas would be practically exhausted. He conditionally requested that the citizens be warned to turn off the burners as soon as the gas supply failed, in order to guard against possible danger to life from escaping gas after the repairs to the big main had been completed.

Immediately upon receipt of this information Superintendent Treleven, this office called up "information" on both telephone lines and announced that this paper would furnish information relative to the gas supply.

Over the long distant telephones a concise report of the exact nature of the accident was secured direct from Superintendent Treleven. He conditionally requested that the citizens be warned to turn off the burners as soon as the gas supply failed, in order to guard against possible danger to life from escaping gas after the repairs to the big main had been completed.

Director T. B. Jennings, of the weather bureau, was called up for information concerning the condition of weather for the remainder of the day and night, and a weather bulletin was posted. Also a warning was given from Jesse Shaw, superintendent of the city water works, directing householders to use all precautions to prevent the freezing up of the water pipes in their homes.

Employees of the business and editorial rooms were busy during the day and four telephones were necessary to handle the calls of anxious citizens seeking information. The newspaper, from the morning until the sounding of the signals about 8:30 in the evening. During the entire day the sidewalk in front of the newspaper was crowded by citizens reading the bulletins posted for their benefit in the front windows.

The following bulletins posted were the following: Topeka Without Gas—Caution: Close Valves. A serious accident has happened at Ottawa to one of the principal gas mains of Topeka. The gas supply has blown out. Superintendent Treleven said to the State Journal at 9 a. m.: "I have just received the news that Topeka is likely to be entirely out of gas within half an hour. I wish you would caution consumers to turn off their burners immediately, so that when the gas supply returns it will not escape into the houses. I have not received particulars but presume it may take five or six hours to make repairs and resume supply of gas."

Topeka Not the Only One. Lawrence, St. Joe, Atchison and Leavenworth are also without gas on account of the break in the main.

T. B. Jennings says this morning: "The weather will remain partly cloudy, with but little change in temperature."

Signals. When the gas pressure returns warning will be given by ringing fire bell and blowing Santa Fe and Continental creamery whistles. Gas Will Not Be Turned on Between 9 p. m. and 6 a. m.

Should the gas supply return before 9 p. m., warning will be given and gas will be turned into the mains at once. However, if the pressure should not return until after 9 p. m., the gas will not be turned into the mains until after 6 o'clock Monday morning on account of the danger of its escaping into rooms where people are asleep.

Drain Water Pipes. Supt. Jesse Shaw of the city water works says: "To avoid any risk of water freezing in the pipes tonight, householders should turn off the water in the cellar and drain the pipes."

At 6 p. m., Supt. Treleven said: "A temporarily pipe line has been built around the scene of the accident and Topeka will have gas in about an hour. The supply will continue during the night and until after breakfast time Monday morning, when it will be shut off for a short time to make the repairs permanent."

Threw 400-lb. Casting 175 Feet. Ottawa, Kan., Jan. 17.—Noon.—A blowout in the natural gas pipe line occurred this morning two miles north east of Ottawa at the prospector office of the Kansas Natural Gas Co. The explosion made a hole 16 feet square and destroyed a considerable portion of the 16 inch cast iron main. One piece of the valve weighed 400 pounds was thrown 175 feet. The telegraph and telephone wires which pass over the place were destroyed. No one was hurt. Officials of the Kansas Natural Gas Co. state that repairs will be made and gas supply resumed before daylight Monday morning.

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MERCURY IS RISING.

Sun Still Obscured and Conditions Are Not Pleasant.

All indications to the contrary notwithstanding the mercury has risen steadily since 9 o'clock this morning. The atmosphere is still with dampness and this has given rise to the suggestion that the mercury has been dropping. No assist in the effect a piercing breeze has blown from the southwest at the rate of 12 miles an hour. The forecast indicates fair weather tonight and Tuesday and a cooler conditions prevailing in the eastern part of the state and colder conditions Tuesday in this section of the state. The sun has not shown a minute today and the conditions have been very disagreeable. The following were the temperatures since 7 o'clock this morning: 7 o'clock.....25 11 o'clock.....26 8 o'clock.....25 12 o'clock.....26 9 o'clock.....25 1 o'clock.....25 10 o'clock.....25 2 o'clock.....29

KANSAS MAN HURT.

In a Wreck on the Mo. Pac. in Eastern Colorado.

Pueblo, Col., Jan. 18.—Four persons were slightly injured and a score of others narrowly escaped death or serious injury in an accident that occurred last night at 7:05 o'clock, on the Missouri Pacific railway, two miles east of Pueblo. A small station in eastern Colorado, six miles from Boone. The exact cause of the accident has not been determined but it is believed to have been caused by spreading rails.

The injured are as follows: Martin Tessick, Bingham, Utah, sprained right arm. Mrs. Mary Ehrlich, Longmont, Col., slight injury to left side. Miles Harvey, Iola, Kan., back sprain. John Kersley, Greeley, Col., slight injury to right side.

The train was eastbound No. 4 the St. Louis express from this city and was running at the rate of 35 miles an hour, when the accident occurred. The tank of the engine, which was No. 5523, left the track derailing a train of six cars, which went over into the ditch, the engine remaining on the track. None of the train crew jumped or made an attempt to save himself and none of the crew was hurt, the injured being all passengers.

That none was killed or seriously injured was considered remarkable considering the fact that the wrecking had met death and serious injury. Wrecking crews have been sent to the scene of the wreck and it is expected that the tracks will be cleared by this afternoon.

Traffic over the road is delayed about 20 hours and passengers for the east are being detained from this city. The following statement of an incident consisted of E. R. Lockhart engineer, C. A. Black, conductor and Edward Easton, fireman.

CAMPAIGN IS OPEN.

Equal Suffrage Mass Meetings Are Held in Chicago.

Chicago, Jan. 18.—The contemplated mass meetings of a campaign for an equal suffrage plank in Chicago's proposed new charter have begun. At the first of these, Mayor Brand Whitlock of Toledo, president of the national representative of the league at Springfield and said:

"Chicago is not governed by the citizens of this city. It is ruled by a Springfield by a set of political representatives of corporations who know nothing and care less about the needs of the municipality than they care during and immediately prior to the election. The only way to get things right is to elect a city council and who are content to barter their rights for small gratuities such as seats in street cars and theater tickets."

WANT HIM TO STAY IN.

Depositors and Bankers United in Opposing Stensland's Release.

Chicago, Jan. 18.—The state board of pardons will meet at Joliet tomorrow and it is expected to pass upon the application for release of the penitentiary of Paul Stensland, former president of the Milwaukee Avenue State bank and convicted wrecker of that institution. An element of the situation which may work against Stensland will be the fact that thousands of former depositors are emphatically against the freeing of Stensland. The members of the board of Chicago as a rule are opposed to release with only twenty-eight months of imprisonment.

LEHMAN AT HEAD.

Labette Man Chairman of Important New House Committee.

One of the most important of the committees announced in the house by Speaker Dolley today is the new committee of Labette in the chair. Upon this committee will fall the task of deciding on the justice of all miscellaneous claims—claims where really knotty problems must be solved. There will be no precedent by which this committee can guide its members, but they will weigh the evidence and decide as they think just and right in the case. The speaker has selected an able and experienced set of committee men to handle the difficult work that will be sure to come before them before the 1909 session has adjourned sine die.

ROOSEVELT DECLINES.

Says He Will Take No Part in the Tariff Discussion.

Washington, Jan. 18.—President Roosevelt today declined an invitation to attend the National Tariff Commission convention to be held at Indianapolis, February 15, stating that he did not desire to interfere in a question which should be and would be settled by his successor. The president added that he had several times expressed his opinion in favor of a general tariff commission.

WATCH IS FOUND.

Mr. Lambert's Timepiece Taken From Copeland Ruins.

Case Blackened by Fire But Not Melted.

BOUGHT IN EUROPE.

Was a Present From Wife on Christmas.

Clerk Wiley Tells of Measures to Awaken Guests.

David Tipton, the Emporia man who is searching the Copeland hotel ruins today, recovered the watch which belonged to I. E. Lambert. The watch was found by G. W. Baskerville, a Topeka man, who also found the charred remains of the Emporia lawyer. The watch was found near the spot where the body was found. It is a hunter's



Watch Which Belonged to I. E. Lambert Taken From the Copeland Ruins Today.

case of solid gold and was bought by Mrs. Lambert last fall at Geneva, Switzerland, while she was abroad. It was given to Mr. Lambert as a Christmas present and though it is blackened by the fire the monogram on the outside case and the inscription inside can be easily read. The chain and locket are also intact.

Clerk Wiley Explains. W. W. Wiley, clerk on duty the night the Copeland hotel burned, has made the following statement of an incident during and immediately prior to the fire: "I was making out bills about 3:40 in the morning and was almost in front of the switch board when the telephone rang. I answered it immediately and L. R. Baker, who was assigned to room 126 said that he detected the odor of smoke and asked if the hotel was on fire."

"I told him that as far as I knew that it was not but that I would investigate. I called two bell boys who were standing at the end of the counter talking and one of them went to the top floor of the building immediately, using the elevator and the other one went up the stairs. I went to the elevator shaft but could see nothing to indicate a fire and went to the dining room and all was dark but not the slightest odor of smoke or indication of fire."

"It seemed but a moment and I heard one of the bell boys cry fire and I called central over the telephone and asked her to call the fire department. I held the receiver to my ear and a little later asked her if she had called the department. She replied that she had and that the department was on its way and a moment later the fire wagons commenced to arrive."

"I stepped to the elevator shaft to see if I could locate the fire, but could see nothing and returned to my desk and attempted to call the rooms by telephone. Before I could call any one the switchboard lit up and all the globes were red. I suppose that was when the wires burned off in the rear of the building for I could get no one over the telephone."

"All possible haste was used by myself and the bell boys in notifying the guests and people were pouring out of the hotel by the time the fire department arrived which was not over a minute or so after the alarm was turned in. Senator Stannard and Representative Lehman were the first to come down stairs and at my request they each carried out an arm load of overcoats."

"Some man fainted and a woman cried that her husband was in the room and then the rush down the stairs began. I took the hotel register and the guest cards and the money came down stairs and started across the street to the Y. M. C. A. building and even then I could see no flames and but little smoke. I lost two coats, my gloves and my hat in the mix and I feel that I did all that was possible for the escape of the guests. There were 82 guests registered the night of the fire and there was ten or fifteen employees of the hotel in the building."

HUGHES ON WAR PATH.

Councilman Will Lead Movement to Revoke Gas Franchise.

General J. W. F. Hughes, councilman from the Sixth ward, was among the hundreds of spectators who viewed the

hallways, where people can get at them. This had been done at the Copeland. There were escapes in front and at the rear. There were no halls extending to the north side of the building, so there were no escapes there. It would do no good to have iron ladder escapes in the private rooms because few people would think of unhooking their door to the room, and, in consequence, only the parties in the room would be benefited. No hotel in the country is required to have an iron ladder fire escape leading from every room, for it would be practically impossible to enforce such a regulation."

HE CALLS NAMES.

Willott of New York Attacks Roosevelt in a Speech.

Full of Vituperation and Severe Criticism.

SAYS HE'S A GARGOYLE

And a Tyrant But Always to Be Laughed At.

A Solecism, a Mixed Metaphor.

Vivants an Impossibility.

HOUSE IN AN UPROAR

He Is Voted Into Silence by 126 to 78

But Not Until He Had Almost Ended His Speech.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Characterizing President Roosevelt as a gargoyle and as the pigmy descendant of Dutch trades people, and charging him with having "established a court in the White House which would have delighted the heart of Alexander Hamilton," Mr. Willott of New York, in the house of representatives today, made one of the most bitter attacks on the chief executive ever heard in that body. Mr. Willott took for his theme "the passing of Roosevelt," and in a speech of great length, dealt with numerous of the president's acts since he came into office and scathingly denounced them.

After declaring that in the face of all sorts of conditions Americans were possessed of a universal sense of humor, Mr. Willott said that to such a people "it must be confessed, a chief magistrate who has himself no sense of humor, moving like a horse tethered over the hay field of American activities; stirring up every drying blade of once green grass, to let it fall dry, before the wind of his bitter orations; wrestling in agony of spirit with Noah Webster and our glorious English tongue; taking a fall out of freedom of speech, and freedom of press, as did our uncivilized ancestors at Lexington and Bunker Hill."

Mr. Willott gave a brief biography of Mr. Roosevelt, beginning with his experiences as a cowboy, down to the present time, and accused him, in his early manhood, of having had preposterous notions of having himself Secretary Long, of being "a warrior alone in Cuba," of having won the governorship of New York by a mere hook, and of having, in his later life, to avoid race suicide, can not be an unmixed nuisance.

"He plays the tyrant, to be sure, but he is a tyrant who fears the carnival tickler. He sees things that he has a bad smell, but the fresh breeze of capitol hill does not let the odor linger."

"He tries our patience, but he is always good-to-laugh-at. Thank Heaven for the things that make us laugh. Without them we might as well be raw, untaunted Anglo-Saxons, making much of Magna Charta, bellowing about an effete bill of rights or even ready to fight for freedom of thought, freedom of speech, and freedom of press, as did our uncivilized ancestors at Lexington and Bunker Hill."

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"He boasts of Irish blood, but no historic Irishman would have treated an ally as he treated Mr. Harriman. He exults in a strain of the old Huguenot blood, but he has not the honor to fly into a passion and lash the horse of a timid young girl whose only offense is inadvertently passing the royal party in a public highway."

FORAKER'S DENIAL.

Will Not Become Attorney for Discharged Brownsville Soldiers.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Senator J. E. Foraker, in a signed statement today, set at rest the story that after his retirement from the senate, March 4, he would become the counsel for the discharged negro soldiers of the Twenty-fifth infantry. The story, he says, is untrue and he adds that he could not accept such employment should it be tendered. Both Senator Foraker and Bishop Johnson deny all knowledge of any fund being raised for the purpose of defending the Brownsville soldiers.

DUE TO BAD AIR.

Pneumonia Causes Death of 150 in One Week in Chicago.

Chicago, Jan. 18.—One hundred and fifty people died of pneumonia in Chicago last week—the largest number recorded for a similar period since May of last year. An impure air, the health department declares, in its weekly bulletin, is responsible for this condition.

Weather Indications. Chicago, Jan. 18.—Forecast for Kansas: Fair tonight and Tuesday. Warmer tonight and colder Tuesday.

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