

MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

Standpipe Has Been Put in Shape—Improvements in Light Plant—Everything Going O. K.

Alliance, Neb., October 14, 1919—To the Hon. Mayor and Members of the City Council—Gentlemen: I herewith submit my report covering the activities of this office for the month ending October 14.

Water Department.

The Stand Pipe has been scraped both inside and out, and has been given two coats of indestructible graphite paint. New ice breakers were put in to replace the old ones which were entirely worn out, and the tank has been covered with a heavy plank top leaving only a man-hole through which to enter and take care of any overflow. This has been double screened. All danger of birds and insects getting into the tank have now been eliminated, and the stand pipe is in condition to last for many years. A close examination however revealed two broken legs on opposite sides of the pipe but these should give no trouble.

I have placed an order with the Hendric Blothoff Mfg. Co. for twelve Ludlow fire hydrants to replace all of the old ones in the paving district. All are equipped with secondary gate valves and are for attaching to six and eight inch mains. Each hydrant has two 2 1/2 inch hose connections. No delivery can be made for sixty or ninety days. Along with this the necessary pig lead, cast iron tees and fute have been ordered. I have also opened correspondence for four modern sanitary drinking fountains of the most approved type.

The city now has on hand plenty of Trident and Keystone meters, curb betes, curb cocks and lead flange corporation cocks to take care of the immediate needs, but these will soon be used up if the present rate of building continues.

Throughout the city there are a few leaking fire hydrants. Just as soon as help can be obtained these will be repaired.

I have again taken up the matter of a new bronze barrel for the city pump that is now out of commission. This big Unitweller pump will be set and placed in operation just as soon as this arrives. Mr. Newberry has correspondence showing that due to strikes it has been impossible for the manufacturers to produce it. It is important that this well be put in shape as soon as possible, and I have personally got behind the matter and will crowd it along.

Sewers.

On October 3 the sewer line in the rear of Newberrys Hardware Store became clogged causing an overflow along the line. This was immediately opened with the use of sewer rods and considerable digging. It is now in good condition. The trouble was caused by an overflowing grease trap at the Lowry and Henry garage. Since that time I have had all of the grease traps and catch basins in the restaurants, hotels and garages in-

spected, and where necessary the owners have been notified to clean them. Regular inspections will now follow on the 1 of each month.

Light and Power.

The new unit at the plant consisting of a 300 H. P. Skinner Uni-Flow Engine with direct drive A. C. current has been set up and turned over to the city by the Merkle Engineering Co. Since that time we have made small adjustments, and have been breaking it in slowly. It is now giving good service, and is by far the best engine in the plant. A marked decrease in fuel consumption is noted when this unit is carrying the load. By the end of this week the engine will be ready to run almost constantly. In connection with the water heater a 4 inch heater is yet to be put in and water connection to the boiler made. Delays in obtaining valves and in getting the railroad to cut and thread a large nipple. This nipple was not cut according to instructions and is too short. Although it works a small extract of steam constantly escapes, the job will have to be done over. All other units are in good condition, notwithstanding the fact that they have had no rest in years. A small amount of trouble came up with the big Louis engine due to a break in the exhaust, one end of the cylinder refused to take steam and it was a rush first to locate the trouble and then to make repairs. It was deemed best to get help from the railroad shops. This I did bringing over Mr. Morimon for the afternoon. The whole matter had to be disposed of in a few hours, for the reason that Mr. Merkle of the Skinner Engine Co. had the new unit apart and we could not use it to meet the capacity. After a strenuous afternoon all went well.

The automatic well motor has been removed from the city call to the switch board at the plant, in order to show the up town voltage at all times. In its place a Westinghouse meter has been set up.

I have ordered a car load of splendid butt treated cedar poles. We need these badly as the city is entirely out. The car contains 100 poles with 6 inch tops and 25 and 30 feet lengths. Latest advices are that the car is at Sand Point, Idaho, and may be detained there several days.

I have on hand plenty of 7.3 and 8 wire for line extension and use, and also have an ample supply of electric meters on hand to meet increasing building conditions. It will be necessary to purchase a few transformers for the outlying districts in order to give the people service.

Since September 17, forty two wiring applications have been made and all of those buildings have been wired and the greater portion connected. The load is gradually increasing all over the city. There have been about thirty new services turned on during the past month.

Beginning at the alley in the rear of the City Hall a new line was extended East approximately 1,600 feet and a transformer put in place at the end.

A new alley light has been placed in the rear of the Lowery and Henry garage on the electric light pole. This had been much needed on account of the dark condition in the

alley. The electric line between Emerson and Platte on the alley between 4th and 6th streets was extended some 1,000 feet. A new line was also run to the Pest House which are now served with electric lights. In addition to all of the above there has been the usual light and water meter readings, service connections, water changes, etc.

We are now busy running a third wire to balance up the phases. This third wire was extended from West 2nd street to the Newberry Bldg. today, and will be continued until the phases are nearly even.

The water heater was connected up today and will be put in use at once.

All of the windows at the plant have been fixed for winter. Over 100 broken panes were put in and others set. The wood work is also being given a coat of paint, and the plant is receiving a general cleaning.

Streets and Alleys.

Some little attention has been given the streets after the storms by dragging and grading. The Cleveland tractor has been fixed and considerable use of it has been made. I have had the grader repaired and expect to use it some on Box Butte. This street requires a lot of attention.

Police Department.

The Police Department has been established in new quarters in the basement of the City Hall. The room was entirely cleaned, plastering repaired, walls calstined, wood work painted, floors fixed up with linoleum and new lights. A Police Headquarters sign. A 500 watt red light has been put up over the First National Bank for the use of the department. The curfew ordinance is now being enforced, and the curfew rings every evening. Unsanitary conditions are being investigated and offenders ordered to clean up. The automobile ordinance is being enforced so far as possible, and it may be some little time before people can be educated to drive slow and with lights burning after night in the city. However considerable progress has been made.

City Park.

The crushed stone at the City Park has been used in building a walk along the south side near the fence, and the park generally is being cleaned and put in shape for the winter.

Winter.

All of the pipes at the Cemetery have been drained and the tank and windmill disconnected for the winter. All of the tools and equipment have been stored and looked up. The north entrance steps have also been repaired. Later the name of the cemetery should be placed over the main driveways at the gates.

Crossings.

I have ordered several new crossings constructed. One at Emerson and 3d, and two at Emerson and 4th and Third, and two at Emerson and Fourth. There will be two or three more crossings to have put later, all of which I will take up with the contractor. Some of these will be on the east side.

(Continued on page 4.)

Fortunately, not every soap box is a party platform.

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Schedule

| Alliance to Antioch | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| | a. m. p. m. |
| Leave Alliance | 7:30 3:45 |
| Leave Hoffland | 8:20 4:35 |
| Arrive Antioch | 8:35 4:50 |
| Antioch to Alliance | |
| | a. m. p. m. |
| Leave Antioch | 9:35 5:30 |
| Leave Hoffland | 9:55 5:45 |
| Arrive Alliance | 10:40 6:30 |

John Wallace

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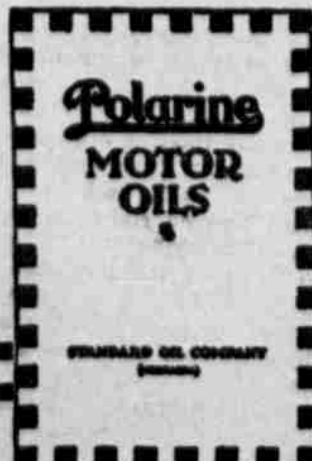
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