

# Mayor Bryan's Campaign Pledges Fulfilled

It will come somewhat as a surprise to those who have read the misrepresentations in a corporation-controlled newspaper published in Lincoln that Mayor Charles W. Bryan was not carrying out his campaign pledges as the chief executive of the city, and not working in harmony with the other members of the city council, to read a summary of the progress that has been made during the first ten months of Mayor Bryan's administration. The following report was submitted to the city council of Lincoln on March 13, and was officially approved by the unanimous vote of the council.

Mayor Bryan entered the contest for mayor after he had failed to find another candidate who was willing to undertake a contest to shake the domination of the Lincoln Gas Company and other public service corporations from the throats of the taxpayers of his home city. Mayor Bryan also favored legislation in the interest of the wage-earners of the city, and believed that the adoption of the constructive program which he had outlined was necessary to bring to the capital city the growth and development to which it was entitled. Among the specific things that Mr. Bryan declared for in his campaign for mayor were the following:

Require the Gas Company to give the city one dollar gas or the city would put in a municipal gas plant.

Push the gas suit in the courts to recover the money illegally collected from the people amounting to about \$450,000.

The public to vote \$50,000 park bonds to bring the city park to the central thoroughfare of the city so as to be in walking distance for the wage-workers.

The public to vote \$50,000 for garbage disposal plant to improve sanitary conditions in the section of the city where its laborers reside.

To establish a free legal aid department so as to assist in making collections, settling disputes, etc., for persons unable to employ an attorney.

To establish free municipal employment bureau.

To arrange the public work at time of year so as to use labor during the dull season.

To protect the people against short weights in coal and other commodities.

To give Lincoln investors an opportunity to buy the municipal securities of their own city.

To merge offices of health officer and city physician so as to fix responsibility and insure prompt medical attention to all charity cases.

By reference to the report published below, enumerating the work already accomplished in the city during the past ten months, it will readily be seen that every one of the specific promises enumerated above have already been carried into effect, not only saving to the people of Lincoln thousands of dollars annually, but giving to the middle classes and laboring classes of Lincoln legislation, protection, conveniences and comforts that the people of but few, if any other cities, enjoy.

Mayor Bryan has not only carried out in the first ten months of his two years' term practically all of his campaign program, but there has been carried out under his leadership or upon his recommendation numerous other consolidations, re-organizations and new legislation in the interest of efficiency and economy in handling the business affairs of the city of Lincoln.

The report below, which has been officially approved by the unanimous vote of the city council, will no doubt be of interest to other cities that are operating under the commission form of government as it prevails in the city of Lincoln. The report is as follows:

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

To the Members of the City Council of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Gentlemen: in response to numerous inquiries for a statement as to what progress has been made in the way of legislation and departmental work during the past year by the city council and commissioners, I submit below a summary of progress made by the city authorities from May 1, 1915, to March 1, 1916, a period of ten months.

Reduction of the price of gas from \$1.20 to \$1.00 per thousand, saving to the people of Lincoln \$56,000 per year.

Suit won in Federal district court to compel gas company to return to gas consumers about \$450,000.00 illegally collected by gas company in overcharges. Case now appealed by Gas Company to United States Supreme court with every prospect of final decision in favor of the city.

People voted \$50,000.00 of park bonds and extension of Antelope park from J street to O street, purchase of needed property partly completed.

People voted garbage disposal bonds to the amount of \$50,000.00 and now plans under way for establishing a garbage plant to improve sanitary conditions in the city.

Established free Legal Aid department in interest of those unable to employ attorneys. 139 cases settled from September 1, 1915, to March 1, 1916.

Established free municipal employment bureau to assist the unemployed in finding work.

Arrangement of city work so as to give employment to labor at a time of year when there was the least demand for labor by private employers.

Enforcement of weights and measures ordin-

ances as a protection to the public against short weights in coal and all other commodities.

Giving Lincoln people an opportunity to purchase as an investment, over the city treasurer's counter, paving bonds issued by this municipality.

Consolidation of the offices of health officer and city physician under one head, so as to insure prompt medical attention to people financially unable to employ a physician.

Extension by express companies of free delivery zone to include practically the entire city.

Successfully resisted a raise in street car fares to school children, thereby saving about three thousand dollars annually to street car patrons.

Vested pardon power in hands of the mayor to prevent abuse of pardon power.

Sidewalk inspector placed under supervision of city engineer to promote efficiency.

Payment by city of premium on city treasurer's bond during time city treasurer draws no salary.

Employment of visiting nurse by city for benefit of needy.

Purchase of additional automobile for police department to enable it to answer two emergency calls at one time.

Reorganization of police department and bringing police of city and county into harmony so as to give better protection to the public.

City budget made up after an exchange of estimates between commissioners and after discussion and consideration of the relative merits of the items in each commissioner's estimate.

Enforcement of the milk ordinance to protect public health.

Put into effect double fire shift and added 13 new men to the fire department.

Require appointments of firemen to be confirmed by council, and also require a physical

examination of new firemen when employed, to protect city's interest in firemen's pension fund. Took fire department out of politics.

Built offices in old council chamber at 10th and Q streets for health department, to give department more room, to segregate the three public safety departments, to protect the public and to promote efficiency of department.

Built new jail kitchen to improve sanitary conditions of city jail.

Built new woman's ward in city jail as a humanitarian necessity.

Addition of 250 new customers of municipal light plant.

Addition of 91 new street lights at street intersections in residence districts.

Connected 395 water meters with municipal water system.

Amount of paving laid, season 1915, 4.58 miles.

Total cost of pavement, including grading, curbing, relaying sidewalks, etc., \$200,897.87.

Sanitary sewers constructed, 6.78 miles at a cost of \$22,949.50.

Sidewalks built, total length 11.31 miles, costing \$32,859.00.

Total number building permits 567, and estimate cost of these buildings \$1,706,049.00.

The system of purchasing material by the different departments has been perfected so that a record of each order is kept in the auditor's office.

Arrangements have been made so that laborers in the employ of the city are paid at their work, instead of losing time to come to the office after their pay.

In submitting the above summary of work accomplished and progress made by the commissioners and through their various departments, it is fitting to add that this splendid record of achievement has been accomplished by complete co-operation on the part of the members of the council and working in the utmost harmony for the progress and development of the city of Lincoln.

CHAS. W. BRYAN, Mayor.

Officially approved by Lincoln City Council March 13, 1916.

## MAYOR BRYAN'S REPORT APPROVED

The city council yesterday afternoon approved Mayor Bryan's report of the activities of the commission in the last ten months since the shift in administration. As a result, the five-page account of actual and legislative improvements made in the city will be spread on the minutes of the council. It is said that the departmental reports of activities will supplement the mayor's statement.

Every movement connected with the city's growth and development in the past ten months since the mayor was elected to office has been carefully recorded. The number of miles of paved streets and the building permits were included with the reduction in the price of gas and the many changes in the public safety departments.

Whatever the mayor's intentions may be, the material filed yesterday will make excellent campaign stuff for the mayor to use before the primaries, and possibly afterward if the fates remain with him. The fact that the report may be found on the city records is worth while referring to. Few will be able to deny that the mayor played an important part in many of the improvements which were actually made.

Very little was said about the report in council meeting. The commissioners had already given their approval, and on a motion from Mr. Dayton it was formally approved. It is thought that the report will be printed in pamphlet form later on for distribution.—Nebraska State Journal, (Rep.) March 14, 1916.

Admiral Badger is certain to be grilled by the magazine and editorial column generals and admirals. He said the other day that the only trouble with the American fleet is that it is not big enough for all possibilities, but that "it is a good fleet, well drilled, well equipped and well organized." As the writing admirals had put it in the scrap heap some time ago, this is a direct challenge of their knowledge that they can not ignore.

The claim of the liquor manufacturers that prohibition does not prohibit is not buttressed by the figures of the internal revenue department which accurately reflect the condition of the liquor market. There was a falling off in revenue for the last fiscal year of 25 million dollars.