

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, COMMERCIAL CLUB OF OMAHA (snapped with Governor Carlson of Colorado)—Back row, left to right: J. M. Gillan, M. S. McFayden, Harry Steel, J. M. Harding, H. C. Hoel, J. R. Hyland, E. H. Benner, Robert H. Manley, Allan Tukey. Second row, left to right: J. T. Dysart, H. O. Wilhelm, Governor Carlson, Miss Lena Bellman, L. V. Nicholas, C. L. Sykes. Bottom row, left to right: W. S. Byrne, N. T. Thorson, J. T. McGuckin.



IRISH LAND BIG CONTRACTS

Mr. Redmond Sees to It that Some of the Plums Fall to His Country.

FARMERS NEEDED IN THE FIELDS

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.) DUBLIN, Ireland, Oct. 1.—Ireland is now at work on a large scale in the manufacture of munitions of war.

For several years past there has been only one large Irish factory of war material, Kynoch's, in County Wicklow. It is an off-shoot of the Birmingham firm of which Arthur Chamberlain, brother of the famous English statesman, was the head. But the necessities of the war have come over to Ireland and in County Wicklow it is an off-shoot of the Birmingham firm of which Arthur Chamberlain, brother of the famous English statesman, was the head.

The work is now well in hand, and no less than 216 firms in Ireland are engaged in it. Large orders have been placed in Dublin, and one firm has got an order for 2,000 pounds, a small figure on the general scale of this war, but a good deal of money for a city where employment is scarce and industry backward.

Several Cities Busy

Belfast, whose main activity in the war interest has been the increase in the output of shipping from its famous yards, has also gone seriously into the munitions business. Cork and Limerick, and even some of the smaller towns throughout the country are also employing all the machinery they can command in making shells or parts of shells.

CHINESE SMACK PAYS FEE

Officially Alderman Collects Marriage Cost from Pretty Celestial Bride.

Foo Bing Luck wanted a quiet wedding, so she and the bridegroom, Ginn San Lou, staid at home in the office of Ely Rosenberg, a lawyer of 28 Broadway, New York.

The ceremony was performed by Alderman Isaac Gutman in the presence of about fifty of Chinatown's notables. The bride was attended by her aunt, Fung Shee, while the witnesses were Emanuel Cohen and Chuc Ginn. Foo Bing Luck wore a heavy brocade light blue gown ornamented with large embroidered dragons.

"A kiss from the bride," replied the bride, who is exceedingly pretty, went to live at 31 Mott street in handsome apartments which Ginn San Lou just furnished.—New York Sun

REGARDLESS OF THE WAR IMPROVEMENTS GOING ON

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.) PARIS, Feb. 25.—The transformation of old Paris is not to be arrested by war. The president of the republic has just decreed the widening of the rue Valenciennes and the rue Croix des Petits Champs in the First Arrondissement, to give more air to the Bank of France.

Part of the old rue des Bons Enfants and all of the rue Bailly will disappear under this decree to give room for the extension of the bank. A new street will unite the rue Valenciennes and the rue Croix des Petits Champs beginning in the rue de la Harpe and ending in the rue de Valenciennes.

The cutting of the new street at that point involves the disappearance of the chateaux of Orleans, an important artistic and historic relic of old Paris, but the contract with the Bank of France requires the reconstruction in the facade of its new extension of all the parts of the old structure that have a historical or artistic interest.

Key to the Situation—See Want Ads.

Taft Is Glad. BOSTON, March 12.—Former President Taft, speaking on the Bourne doctrine at a dinner of the Unitarian club tonight, said he was glad a sufficient force of the United States troops was being sent after Villa.

That there is room for a considerable

COAL SOARS HIGH IN ITALY

Price Has Reached Almost Prohibitive Figure Now of Forty Dollars a Ton.

BEYOND REACH OF THE POOR

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.) ROME, Nov. 20.—Coal is \$40 a ton in Italy, and continues to soar. It went up \$10 a ton in one week. This has become a serious, and might become a decisive, war factor, so far as Italy is concerned, for coal is the fundamental element of Italian industry and commerce, moving the railways, running the factories and keeping up such public utilities as electric light and power plants, gas and water works, street railways and tramways, as well as for household heating and cooking, not only in Rome, but all over Italy.

Such a phenomenal rise in the price of coal has never before been known. To Italy the shortage is serious chiefly because Italy possesses no coal mines of its own at home or in the African colonies, so there is no outlook for getting a supply except from abroad, and the foreign supply is in the hands of the enemy or taxed to its utmost capacity for its own needs. While there was no war Italy needed no coal fields of its own, as the French and Belgian fields were near at hand. But now the French coal fields have passed into control of Germany, the ally of Austria, with whom Italy is at war. Similarly Austria stretches as a barrier between the Polish coal fields and Italy, so that about the only supply left for Italy is England, where the Welsh coal fields are hardly equal to the demand of England's own factories and navy, and its nearby ally, France, without also supplying Italy's needs. And so coal is mounting—\$8 some time ago; then \$10, then \$15, then \$20, \$25, \$30, and now \$40 a ton.

People no longer buy coal by the ton, but by the bag, and a bag of coal which can be swung over the shoulder costs \$7. This means, of course, that poor people can no longer buy coal and can no longer keep warm, except as the mild Italian climate may help them. But the climate does not help the railways and factories, and industrial Italy is the worst sufferer from coal shortage and excessive price.

There has even been talk, since Italy is not at war with Germany, of getting coal from Germany, and for the possible exchange of some other articles of mutual need. Importing coal from Japan is also being considered, but the transportation cost is so great that Japanese coal would probably not bring the price down much in Italy. Wood as a substitute is out of the question, for Italy's trees and timber supply is practically exhausted, and even bunches of twigs and fagots have become a luxury at high price.

The leading hotels at Rome have posted a notice stating that owing to the high price of coal the Association of Hotel Keepers has agreed to charge each guest 1 lira (20 cents) per day for coal heat and for the use of the hotel's coal.

American coal shippers have been urged to enter the Italian field. But scarcity of ships and the high cost of transportation—due to the danger of coal as a contraband of war—are said to stand in the way of relief from that quarter. So that one of the effects of the European war is to make the high price of coal a vital question for Italy, and the absence of any apparent remedy is even a more serious question.

The relations of the Americans with the French officers are excellent and in Pont-a-Mousson they are "adopted citizens."

"The Americans will have a good place in the history of Pont-a-Mousson," said a French officer of the division, "so that later on when our children realize it they may know they should perpetuate the gratitude we owe to them."

Many victims of the 300 and more of shells the town has endured owe their lives to the aid of the American ambulance drivers.

The general commanding the division recognized their work officially in the following citation:

"Sanitary section No. 2 of the American ambulance. Composed of volunteers, friends of our country, they, all of them, have not ceased to make themselves noticed for their enthusiasm, courage and zeal. Careless of danger, they have worked without respite to rescue our wounded, whose gratitude and friendship they have won." Signed: "The General Commanding."

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Bonded Warehouses For Canal Zone

United States and the republic of Panama is establishing bonded warehouses in the canal terminal cities. The subject has been discussed at recent meetings of the Panama Chamber of Commerce and it is believed that an active campaign to further the project will soon be started. The national assembly of Panama has already passed the necessary legislation authorizing the construction of the warehouses. It is necessary that the congress of the United States also pass such a measure.

From The Fremont Herald, Fremont, Neb., Friday, March 10, 1916.

EXPERT ALMERT PROVES MUNICIPAL PLANT A FAILURE

Exhaustive Report Shows That Light and Water Plant Has Run Behind \$42,131.05, and That Cash Overdraft Aug. 1 Was \$8,365.27

MANY PAGES OF REPORT SUGGESTING SAVING METHODS

The Plant Has Cost the Taxpayers \$627,062.20, and Replacable Valuation Is Fixed by the Expert at \$477,099.15—Accounts Receivable Show Miserable Collection Service, the Amount of Outstanding Bills Due Having Nearly Doubled in Two Years—Merchandise Account Shows Loss of \$10,000.00

The "bunk" which the board of public works of the city of Fremont has been handing out to the people in the past three annual reports has been proven a mass of lies. Through its official organ, the Fremont Tribune, it is today congratulating itself on the splendid showing which the expert auditor, Harold Almert, of Chicago, submitted to the city council last Monday night.

The contention of this newspaper that the city light and water plant has been run at a loss the past three years is fully proven by the cold figures of the auditor's report, and its charge of several years ago that the plant has never made a dollar of profit is also proven.

The Herald is now going to give the official statement as set forth, not only by the board of public works, but by the auditor's report itself, and the people may judge for themselves whether or not the Herald has been telling the truth, or whether the board of public works has deliberately lied to them. Here are the figures taken from the statements of the board of public works of the PROFIT made by the plant for the last three years:

For the year ending—
July 31, '13—Electric \$26,566.31
Water 3,262.25
July 31, '14—Electric 22,317.50
Water 7,782.62
July 31, '15—Electric 1,782.62
Water 64.75

Total claimed profits, 3 yrs. \$72,746.08
Here are the net profits—or losses—for the same period of time, as reported

Table with columns for Year ending August 1, 1913, 1914, 1915. Rows include ASSETS (Physical Property, Stores and Supplies, Accounts Receivable, City of Fremont, City of Fremont), DEFICIT, CASH OVERDRAWN, LIABILITIES (Notes Payable and Warrants, City of Fremont, City of Fremont, Accounts Payable, Taxes Accrued, Unbilled Installation Work, Depreciation Accrued, Depreciation Accrued, Misc. Accr. Liabilities, Surplus), and Total.

(1) These amounts represent service rendered to other municipal departments by water and light department, for which no specific payment has been made.

(2) These amounts represent funds raised by taxes specifically levied for the use of municipal water and light departments.

(3) These amounts represent cost to taxpayers for water and light plant, excepting specific tax levies covered by note (2) and subject to reduction by amounts indicated by note (1).

INCOME, OPERATING EXPENSES AND FIXED CHARGES

ELECTRIC DIVISION
Year Ending July 1913 July 1914 July 1915
Gross Income from Operation \$51,168.14 \$56,915.67 \$66,555.24
Operating Expenses \$24,159.18 \$29,025.60 \$31,990.89
Distribution Expenses 6,833.16 7,633.97 7,133.58
Consumption Expenses 900.00 853.31 903.30
Commercial Expenses 3,582.74 3,845.05 2,733.76
General Expenses 3,007.97 3,264.76 3,990.15
Total Operating Expenses \$38,533.05 \$44,722.49 \$46,741.02
Gross Profit from Operation \$12,635.09 \$12,193.18 \$19,814.22
Other Revenue—merchandise, appliances, etc.—Loss 4,306.10 3,817.02 2,413.13
Net Income \$ 8,328.99 \$ 8,376.25 \$17,401.09
Fixed Charges—Depreciation \$10,702.42 \$11,063.27 \$11,506.91
Taxes 2,748.02 2,892.05 3,488.74
Interest on floating debt 7,372.84 6,926.13 6,496.64
Total Fixed Charges \$20,822.28 \$20,881.45 \$21,492.29
Net Loss \$12,503.38 \$12,505.19 \$ 3,909.70

WATER DEPARTMENT
Year Ending: July 1913 July 1914 July 1915
Gross Inc. from Oper. \$19,345.44 \$20,428.06 \$21,076.86
Operating Expense—Pumping Expenses \$ 4,400.65 \$ 6,201.90 \$ 4,521.15
District Expenses 398.77 501.79 1,012.04
Commercial Expenses 891.41 520.00 611.25
General Expenses 896.88 1,050.80 1,185.87
Total Operating Expense \$ 6,387.71 \$ 8,274.49 \$ 7,330.31
Gross Profit from Oper. \$12,957.73 \$12,153.57 \$13,746.55
Other Revenue 241.51 153.37 184.17
Net Income \$13,199.24 \$12,306.94 \$13,930.72
Fixed Charges—Depreciation \$ 3,358.54 \$ 3,416.06 \$ 3,855.65
Taxes 2,000.80 2,317.55 2,687.29
Int. on floating debt 4,337.36 4,609.70 4,460.59
Total Fixed Charges \$ 9,696.70 \$ 10,343.31 \$11,003.53
Net Profit \$ 3,502.54 \$ 1,963.63 \$ 2,927.19

That The People May Know

Observe that the plant has cost the taxpayers of Fremont to date, the enormous sum of \$627,062.20, and that the cost to replace the plant is \$477,099.15. Note the loss in the merchandise department of the electric division—\$10,427.25 in three years' time! Some one has had a royal benefit in this account, and the taxpayers are paying for it!

Look at the bills receivable account—bills due the city for light and water service rendered. In 1913 the amount owing on this account was \$12,224.67, the next year it was increased to \$16,877.53 and for the year ending July 31, 1915, the outstanding sum of \$23,060.71, which is practically 26 per cent of the total annual revenue of the plant!

And how much of the \$23,060.71 is collectible? The expert has no knowledge. He was unacquainted with local conditions. He had no way of determining whether 10 per cent or 50 per cent was collectible. It is safe to assume that a large part of the outstanding bills can never be collected. There's an item which some day will have to be charged up to loss account.

The plant has overdrawn its credit with the city to the amount of \$5,265.37 in cash, and yet it has \$23,060.71 of accounts with which to help out the cash drawer. Lovely management! And outstanding warrants drawing good interest, too. Beautiful management!

If you were overdrawn at the bank for \$5,000, and had \$23,000 of bills due you, would the bank "call" your overdraft? You'll guess yes.

Member Peter Nelson, of the board of public works, tried to ascertain from the expert how soon the board could break even. He inquired:

"Just one more word, Mr. Hamilton: the plant must make up approximately \$30,000 before it gets even. Is that it?"

Mr. Hamilton said: "\$21,000 represents the deficit for the last three years."

"What I am trying to get at," said Mr. Nelson, "you figure six per cent on the \$30,000 present value and then add the taxes?"

"Yes, sir."

"That would be approximately \$30,000," said Mr. Nelson.

"Yes, but you have to make up that deficit that you started out with, first, which would be approximately \$42,000."

"You figure the present value at \$30,000 and six per cent on that?"

"Yes."

"And we have a deficit every year?" inquired Mr. Nelson.

"Yes," said Mr. Hamilton, "the last year being the smallest of the last \$2,000."

"If we have to pay \$30,000 before we are even, that is a pretty big handicap. It takes a mighty good business to do that," said Mr. Nelson, and he might have added, it takes mighty good business men to do it.—Advertisement.

The Fictitious Coal Salesman

With most of us the grim necessity of purchasing coal is no joke. Yet a Boston man found at a coal emporium in that city a chap who managed to induce a degree of facetiousness into the transaction.

"How much is chestnut coal?" timidly inquired the prospective customer.

"That depends," said the salesman. "A 15 cent extra if you order it in bulk, and you 50 cents extra."—Everybody's Magazine.

By Almert, the expert. The losses are in black figures in the right hand column:

1913—Electric \$12,504.39
1914—Electric 12,303.19
1915—Electric 5,093.73
Total Loss \$29,901.31

1913—Water \$3,502.54
1914—Water 1,263.43
1915—Water 2,927.19
Profits 5,265.38
NET LOSS \$11,500.90

In other words, there is a discrepancy of \$24,765.94 in the board of public works' statements, they having accepted as true and correct the report of the auditor, and the discrepancy is made up as follows:

Total profits according to board of public works \$72,746.08
Net loss, according to expert report 21,500.96
Total \$94,247.04

A slight difference, indeed. This feature of the statement simply shows the woeful deficiency in bookkeeping methods at the city plant.

What stands out boldly and incontrovertible in the accepted report of the expert, showing a net loss for the plant the past year of \$21,500.96.

The city light and water plant is a financial failure. By the reports of the board of public works, which have been quoted by advocates of municipal ownership all over this country it has been made to appear that the Fremont municipal plant is a gigantic success. Now that an expert has completed the labor of six months, and his report has been duly accepted, and he is so doing by the Fremont board of public works, it is shown to be a failure from the profit viewpoint. Further, the report of the expert shows that the plant has never made a dollar in its existence, and that there is no prospect for it so doing until a radical change has been made in its methods and its management.

On this page is printed the complete balance sheet of Expert Almert. To those who have the faintest knowledge of bookkeeping it will be easily understood. To those who do not understand the methods of bookkeeping the Herald has endeavored to throw light on the figures by various references thereto.

The report of Mr. Almert is incorporated in a volume of 150 pages. It would be impossible to set forth all the features of the report in this issue of the Herald, but it will continue from week to week to further enlighten the public which is now showing the greatest interest in the subject.

It took ten pages of the report for Mr. Almert to tell the board of public works things that would be helpful in correcting the errors heretofore made. Thirteen pages are given up to classification of accounts, and two of those pages suggest a condition which should be corrected by the board speedily. Ten pages are given over to an exhibit of errors made by the bookkeepers of the plant. Pages 74 to 91 are given over to errors which were found on customers' ledgers, and this would be very interesting reading matter were the headings of the accounts given in the exhibit, with number, for the mistakes, so-called, will readily indicate who seemingly profited by the blunders. Then there are pages of details of inventory, followed by the reports of earnings and losses, and the balance sheet which appears herein.

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