

### City Light Rates High Enough, Say Ex-Councilmen

Ure and Zimman Assert Power Company Not Entitled to Street Lighting Rate Increase.

The Nebraska Power company is not entitled to the increase in street lighting rates it seeks, according to two former commissioners, Harry B. Zimman and W. G. Ure.

Zimman goes as far as to state that the rates could be cut, instead.

H. B. Zimman, secretary treasurer of J. L. Brandeis & Sons, was city commissioner prior to two months ago. His department included supervision of the street lighting. Mr. Zimman expressed himself yesterday on the subject of the proposed new contract street lighting ordinance prepared by the Nebraska Power company and now pending before the city council for action.

**Seeks New Contract.**

"In December, 1921, I notified Ward Burgess and W. L. Robertson of the Nebraska Power company that the street lighting contract had expired," said Mr. Zimman. "I told them that I would like to have an agreement incorporated into a contract that would fix the prices of street lamps, present number installed and not to cost more than the amount allotted for 1922, \$142,000. Mr. Robertson said Mr. Burgess was out of the city and when he returned he would open negotiations. A few weeks elapsed and during the latter part of January Robertson asked me to agree to increase lighting efficiency of the lamps by changing the illumination unit from 400 to 600 watts. My reply was that there was no necessity to add one-third to the lamps; that it was inexpedient and impracticable on account of the fund limitation. I also urged an early agreement as to price to avoid a deficit.

"Evidently Robertson gathered from my remarks that a reduction in street lights must take place in order to come within the appropriation of this year. He said he would confer with higher officials and let me know their decision. I also informed him that no payment would be made for street lighting until I knew what price would be made; that I could not authorize the payment for services at a rate that would create a deficit. So, for a period from January to this year to the time I resigned on October 1, the company received no money. A few days after I left the city hall the company was paid \$132,000 in back monthly bills for street lighting.

**Favors Reduction.**

"In the proposed contract ordinance the company is asking for an increase from \$31 to \$38 per year for method No. 1, which means the 400-candle power lamps on suspension brackets or on mast arms. There are about 3,300 of these. My investigations, made before I left the city hall, with assistance of the city electrician, showed that the rate should be reduced from \$31 per lamp to \$27.50. The \$31 rate has been paid for a period of more than 10 years, and the company has been reimbursed for the cost of the equipment on that basis. It is my judgment that even to continue the \$31 rate for another five years would be extremely generous to the company, to say nothing of the proposed increase to \$38 per lamp per year, as asked in the proposed ordinance.

"The city electrician and I agreed that the 400-candle power lamps or ornamental poles and with underground equipment should be reduced from \$36 to \$22. The company is asking for an increase from \$36 to \$50. We also agreed that the twin 400-candle power lamps on ornamental posts and with underground equipment should be reduced from \$68, to \$58. The company is asking an increase to \$80. We figured decreases on the other methods on which the company is asking increases.

**Firm Asks Increase.**

"The 100-candle power lamps on ornamental posts are now charged for at the rate of \$20 per year. In this class of street lighting, the property owners paid for the equipment. We figured that \$15 per year would be a fair charge for these lamps. The company is asking an increase from \$20 to \$25.

"The city electrician and myself figured out the total current used during the year for street lighting and we applied the amount of money paid by the city for this energy. The result was 3 cents per kilowatt hour. In this respect the city is a wholesale consumer of current. The company furnishes current to other wholesale users at about 1 cent per kilowatt hour on the average. There is a difference of 2 cents per kilowatt hour. We figured that the 2 cents would be quite sufficient to meet the expense of replacing equipment used in street lighting, for return on the investment and for other charges which properly might be made against this feature of the company's service. As for the amount of the investment of the company in the street lighting equipment, I would say that \$100,000 would cover it. This is based on the extensive rate hearing held in the city council chamber about a year ago, when experts of the company were examined by the city council. That testimony is all on file with the city corporation counsel. It also should be remembered that much of the equipment used

### "Aviator Flappers" Fly in Elks' Show



Wouldn't you like to "fly away" with any of these? They are the "Aviator Flappers" in the "Hello Bill" show, an Elks benefit which opens its second four-night engagement at the Brandeis theater Sunday. There is a matinee Sunday too.

In the top row are Anna Koehn, Helen Hitch and Esther Holstein; center, Eleanor Connor, Adelaide O'Neill, Ruth Murphy, Alice McKay and Ruth Britton; lower row, Peggy O'Neill and Betty Chalfont.

Below is Herman Ferber, who leads the "Andy Gump" number, the riot in the "Hello Bill" show.

the company is required to furnish equipment and make replacements. The company is now asking for an increase of 25 per cent in street lighting rates. It is my opinion that a careful examination of the testimony of the rate hearing in the city council chamber will disclose my reasons for stating that the existing street lighting rates are high enough."

**Boozers Carry Hammers.**

Charleston, W. Va., Nov. 25.—Hammers are among the chief accessories carried by motorists in Raleigh county, according to Capt. Thomas C. Norton, commanding Company C of the state police. They are for use in case the drivers unexpectedly come upon state police during their tours. They are not used with murderous intent, but merely to destroy evidence. At the sight of a state trooper there is a crash of glass, and moonshine is doused in the road.

**'Own Shotgun Kills Farmer.**

Montecourt, France, Nov. 25.—M. Georges Quentin, a farmer, was accidentally killed by his own hand. M. Quentin was knocking walnuts from a tree. He used his shotgun, holding it with the muzzle pointing toward him. Striking the tree with the butt, the gun discharged, killing him instantly.

**Higher Rate.**

W. G. Ure, who was city commissioner at the time of the electric rate hearing in the city council chamber a year ago, stated this morning that the findings of the city council in that case showed that the power company was not entitled to an increase of rates.

"This was an exhaustive hearing," said Mr. Ure. "I figured that the city is paying the power company about 4 cents per kilowatt hour for energy supplied for street lighting, which is a rate higher than paid by any other wholesale user. Of course, we must keep in mind in connection with the street lighting situation that

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