

HUNT SAYS WATER DATA IS FAULTY

Concedes Water Basin Could Not Have Been Flushed With Water Pumped During Period.

MGR. HOWELL EXAMINES WITNESS

Under cross examination by General Manager R. B. Howell at the water hearing Wednesday morning, A. E. Hunt, superintendent of the water works at Florence, admitted that a memorandum was faulty which he produced to disprove the charge that he had not cleaned basin No. 2, the filthy condition of which was responsible for the water distress in August, in more than a year.

The memorandum, a sheet from a note book with written tabulations of dates of cleaning basins for several months prior to August 21, was introduced by Hunt early in the morning.

Before the memorandum appeared Hunt stated that the immediate cause of the muddy water was the filthy condition of basin No. 2 at the time river conditions forced a crisis at the water plant when a clean basin No. 2 was imperative to avoid trouble.

Howell Fires Questions.

According to Hunt's memorandum, written in his own hand, basin No. 2 was cleaned on April 2. After the memorandum was read General Manager Howell began questioning Hunt.

"How much water is necessary to clean basin No. 2?" Howell asked.

"About 22,000,000 gallons, Hunt replied.

"That much would have to be pumped in three days after April 2 if this report is true, wouldn't it?" Howell asked.

Hunt nodded in assent.

"Then Howell read from reports the amount of water pumped April 2, 3 and 4. This report showed 19,000,000 gallons on April 2, 18,467,000 on April 3, and 18,909,000 on April 4. Hunt said he had pumped 23, 24,000,000 on April 5, 25, 800,000 on April 6, 27, 200,000 on April 7, and 28, 000,000 on April 8.

"Now you couldn't have cleaned it on that date if this report of the engineer is correct," Howell asked.

"No, I guess I couldn't, I didn't if the report is correct. I don't know how I happened to put down that date," Hunt admitted.

Hunt Blames Pumps.

"Continuing, Hunt, who was on the stand constantly throughout the morning and was to continue to testify at the afternoon session, launched a tirade against the poor condition of pumps at the plant, which he asserted was responsible for the lack of clear water on hand to supply Omaha when the river conditions forced the crisis.

"There wasn't a week that something didn't break down on one of the pumps. I was afraid something would happen constantly this summer," he said.

Hunt could not give dates, but asserted that he would stand by a report which is kept by the mechanical engineer of the breakdowns which occurred. This record is in the hands of General Manager R. B. Howell and will be produced during the hearing.

Hunt admitted that all pumps were worked tirelessly and well during the week of distressful water conditions.

"But we didn't dare to stop them because we knew certain things were wrong," he said.

Could Happen Now.

Hunt was asked if a similar catastrophe could occur at the plant now.

"Yes, under similar conditions," he said.

Testimony was brought out that similar conditions could not exist as a new 50,000,000-gallon pump has been installed and is in operation. In fact, this pump was in process of installation at the time muddy water was in existence in Omaha.

Under questioning, Hunt asserted that responsibility for determining when basins are to be cleaned lay with F. L. Mueller, the chemist, and himself.

"It was Mueller's business to take care of the basins, turn them over to me and then I notified the engineer that a basin washing was necessary," Hunt said. "Often the pumps were out of repairs and the engineer would clean the basins immediately."

"Mr. Hunt," interrupted Howell, "can you state one time from May 1 to October 15 when any of the pumps were down for repairs?"

"I am poor at dates, I couldn't cite any particular time," Hunt replied.

Hunt charged that basin 7 was being cleaned and had been leaking for months despite his protests and requests to repair it. This leakage ran into millions of gallons, he asserted, and was responsible in part for the 174,000,000 gallons of water unaccounted for which came in through low pressure pumps and failed to make its exit through the high service pumps which supply the city.

"Always there are millions of gallons missing in the plant for various reasons," he said. "It seems that some one is trying to connect me up with losing a lot of water which should have been on hand for an emergency."

Under cross-examination Hunt admitted that a report had been made of the leakage in basin 7, it had been considered by the board of managers and steps had been taken to repair this leakage.

Figures were produced and admitted by Hunt in the face of his charge that lack of pumping facilities was responsible for not having water on hand that from August 1 to August 20 there had been an excess of 58, 40,000 gallons carried into the plant by the low service pumps.

Sensational charges in testimony introduced yesterday afternoon.

That an unidentified person with a technical knowledge of the water plant at Florence opened a mud valve which, if it had not been discovered, would have delayed furnishing of clear water to Omaha users for another 10 days.

That shortly after muddy, undrinkable water began flowing into

Omaha, plant employees discovered the opened valve and reported it to Superintendent Hunt.

That Superintendent Hunt failed to mention the opened valve to General Manager R. B. Howell in a written report made to him at the latter's request that all contributing factors to the water emergency be reported to him in writing.

That F. P. Larson, chief engineer, likewise failed to report to General Manager Howell the fact that a mud valve had been opened.

That 116,180,000 gallons of water pumped into settling basins at the Florence water plant during June, July and August had disappeared and cannot be accounted for in reports of distribution.

Basin Unwashed.

That basin No. 2, on which the trouble centered, had not been thoroughly cleaned for more than a year, and if basin No. 2 had been washed, as required, the trouble, in the opinion of C. D. Robison, operating engineer, would have been avoided.

That Superintendent Hunt is in direct charge of washing basins.

That breaking of a bypass valve, of great importance in keeping machinery of the water plant working to capacity, was not reported until some time in July and although the breakage occurred in May, necessary parts could not be obtained for weeks.

These charges were developed in testimony by Engineer Robison and Superintendent Hunt under questioning by John L. Webster, attorney for the Metropolitan Utilities district, W. J. Coad, chairman of the investigation committee, and John F. Morlarity, assistant city attorney.

Superintendent Hunt admitted he had been told of the open valve and had on advice of "the boys" refrained from reporting it to General Manager Howell.

Chemist Reports Valve.

Robison, who was the first witness, testified that Mueller reported the opened valve to him shortly after the discovery was made.

"It is probable that in the two days we think the valve was opened that 12,000,000 gallons of water which should have been used to relieve Omaha water consumers was lost," Robison said.

"How could that valve be opened?" Webster asked.

"In no way unless it was tampered with," Robison replied. "Someone had to obtain a key to the valve. These keys are kept in a toolbox, guarded at all times by a watchman. Opening of valves is not handled by anyone. Just certain officials ever handle this work."

Superintendent Hunt in his testimony asserted that the valve is opened easily. Immediately General Manager Howell was on his feet. He directed a series of questions at Superintendent Hunt to prove that in opening the valve two operations were necessary.

Attorney Webster asked Superintendent Hunt if he knew who opened the valve.

"I have my suspicions, but I don't know," Hunt replied.

"Do you know what motive could have induced anyone to do it?" Webster continued.

"Yes," Hunt replied. "For a long time Mr. Mueller was anxious to experiment with the valves which were mud by opening a basin. It had been tried in other places and he wanted to try it out here. But I objected."

Mrs. Osato Will Return to Japan

Gets Letter From Husband Thought Lost in Quake; Home Undamaged.

The first letter from Shoji Osato, former Omaha photographer, who was believed lost in the Japanese earthquake, has been received by his wife, formerly Frances Fitzpatrick of Omaha, who is at present with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Fitzpatrick, in Evanston, Ill.

The letter from Mr. Osato is dated October 1, at Kobe, the port from which Mrs. Osato and her older daughter, Sono, sailed.

House Not Damaged.

Mr. Osato writes that he and the other daughter, Teru, 2, are well. Their house in Tokio was not damaged as was first supposed. Many days were spent in Yokohama by Mr. Osato hunting among the ruins for his wife and daughter, Sono. They had gone to spend the week-end with friends there and the house in which they were visiting was demolished.

Mrs. Osato and Sono tried to reach Tokio after the earthquake, but were told it was useless. They left for the United States the next day.

Wore Gift Clothes.

She arrived in Omaha with Sono on September 19 with no personal effects, wearing clothes that had been donated along the way. After spending a few days with Mrs. Margaret Davis, 539 South Thirty-first avenue, Mrs. Osato left for Chicago.

A cablegram the first of October assured her of the safety of Mr. Osato and the child, Teru.

Mrs. Osato plans to sail November 1 for Japan to join her husband. He sends word that in Japan there is great gratitude and praise for the generous and prompt aid by the Americans.

Queen Make House Aprons 98c

Attractively made Aprons of fast color ginghams; pink, blue and tangerine; two styles; sizes 36 to 46; regularly 1.49.

Third Floor—South

Corduroy Robes and Breakfast Robes 2.98

Front and side tie; wide wale corduroy in blue, rose, coral and wisteria; generous width and length; sizes 36 to 48; regularly 3.59.

Third Floor—South.

Petticoats and Slips

Knit Skirts and Princess Slips—Make cold weather comfort sure; fast colors; do not crawl up around the hips or bunch between the knees. They fit the figure perfectly; regular and extra sizes; 50c to 5.50 1.49 to 2.98

Third Floor—South.

S. S. Leviathan Crippled.

London, Oct. 24.—The Leviathan has broken down in mid-Atlantic, according to wireless messages received here today.

The wireless from the big liner said a terrific gale was raging and that the vessel might not be able to arrive in Southampton in time to call for New York on Sunday.

Nebraska Cattle Win.

Holstein cattle, bred at Union college, Nebraska, won first prize in the stock judging contest at the Texas state fair at Dallas, Tex., yesterday.

Texas breeders took most of the other prizes.

W. H. Standish of Lyons, O., was judge.

Shop Here Thursday and Save Money Corsets and Brassiers

Women who demand quality in corsets will find it at a very low price in this sale of Madam Irene Corsets. Two low-priced brassiere specials are also offered for Thursday's selling.

The Celebrated Madam Irene Corsets

Corsets of beauty and style; English coutil, Pekin stripe and silk brocade; low and topless, long and short skirts with new fashionable flat back; tops trimmed in lace and satin ribbon bows; regular 10.00 and 15.00 values; reduced to 6.98

Models very desirable for both slender to average types; made of flesh brocade and coutil; lightly boned; regular 5.00 to 8.50 values; 3.95 Special.

Muslin Brassieres

Regulation top, reinforced under arm, embroidery trimmed front and back; front closing only; sizes 36 to 46; regular 1.00 value; 89c special.

Junior Bandeaux

Just a narrow bandeau, the kind young girls like; made of fancy novelty cloth; sizes 32 to 40; regular 50c value; 39c special.

Third Floor—North

A Bargain Treat

Timely purchases and systematic grouping of merchandise have resulted in an exceptional collection of bargains for Third Floor Day. Our efforts have been concentrated on Third Floor Departments in order that our customers may enjoy the comfort of convenient shopping while taking advantage of the low prices which feature this day's selling.

Thursdays Is Baby Day

Things to wear, things for comfort, things for splendor for the tiny mite. All selected with a mother's care and with the idea of economy to save you money on every item. We list here representative items, but there are many others not advertised that are priced very low for this sale.

500 Pieces of Outing Flannelwear

Gowns, petticoats, Gertrudes, sleepers and blankets; all are of a fine quality outing; reduced because they are samples and some are slightly soiled; sizes one to eight years; regularly 98c to 1.79; special for Baby Day, 48c

Soft Restful Pillows

12x16 inch; kapok filled, cambric covering; regular 98c value; special for Baby Day, 63c

Beacon Blankets

Crib or wrapping size; plain pink, blue or white; regularly 1.19; special for Baby Day, 89c

Little Needs For Little Ones At Special Prices For Baby Day

Baby Stockings
Silk and wool, fine rib, white only; sizes 4 to 6½; regularly 75c; special for Baby Day, 41c

Rubber Crib Sheets
Of pure rubber or rubber coated; bassinet and crib sizes; regularly 98c; special for Baby Day, 79c

Kid Bootees
Cunning styles in kid, with little ribbon ties; regularly 1.50; special Baby Day, 97c

English Towel Feeding Bibs
Soft and absorbent to the little neck; special for Baby Day, 29c

Knit Drooling Bibs
Double ply under chin; shell finished edges; in pink, blue or white; special for Baby Day, 25c

Knit Drawer Leggings for Infants
Plain or fancy weave; drawing at top; special for Baby Day, 1.59

Infants' and Children's Knit Gertrudes and Princess Slips
Wool knit mixture closely knit and shell edge finish; 98c value; special for Baby Day, 79c

Third Floor—East

THE BRANDEIS STORE

Thursday---Read These Big Reasons Why Third Floor Day Is A Winner

For Economical Shoppers In This Big Store

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Third Floor—East

Rock-a-Bye Swings

The babies like them; unbleached canvass; steel frame; special for Baby Day, 89c

Quilted Lap Pads

Well padded; 13x16 inches; special for Baby Day, 59c

Toilet Chairs

Well made, with little clamps to fasten vessel securely; white enameled; special for Baby Day, 4.98

Toilet Baskets

American-made reed, well made, large size; special for Baby Day, 98c

Play Yards, Reed Wardrobes, Baby Bathinets, Kiddie Koops, 42-inch Teething Rings of rubber. 39c

Boys' and Girls' Winter Union Suits

Mothers will do well to buy an ample supply of boys' and girls' undergarments at these low prices. For Thursday, two desirable styles are offered at special prices.

Boys' and Girls' Union Suits
In extra heavy or medium weight, in gray or full bleach; age 4 to 16; closed or drop seat; 1.50 values; special at 98c

Boys' and Girls' Union Suits
With tape-on buttons, full bleach; ages 2 to 16; also boys' suits in silver gray; medium weight, 79c

Third Floor—Center

Warm Fall and Winter Underwear

At Prices that Induce Immediate Buying

Now is the time to prepare for cold weather and these low prices on standard undergarments say that Thursday is the day and our Knit Underwear Department, Third Floor, is the place. The Munsingwear suits for women are a remarkably good offering. A cut price on this well-known brand should induce buying in quantity. The Princess May suits are a good buy for the woman who prefers lighter weight underwear.

Women's Munsingwear Union Suits 2.98

Regularly 3.50 to 4.50

Silk and wool and part wool; Dutch neck, high neck, elbow or long sleeves; ankle or knee lengths; regular and extra sizes.

Women's Princess May Silk Lisle Union Suits
In flesh or full bleach; ankle or knee length; built-up shoulder or bodice top style; regular or extra sizes; 3.00 and 3.50 values; special at, 1.98

Women's Medium Weight Union Suits
In knee length, band or bodice top; ankle length; full bleach; regulation and extra sizes; 1.00 and 1.25 suits; special, per suit, 79c

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Third Floor—Center

Thursday, Special Selling of Warm Undergarments

These specials in women's warm sleeping and undergarments are particularly timely and are unusually low priced. Buy now and be prepared for cold weather.

2-Piece Pajama Sets
Of very firm quality outing, striped with solid color trimming; V neck, long sleeves; slipover style; sizes 36 to 42; specially priced, 1.98

Extra Size Outing Flannel Gowns
Of striped materials, plain and trimmed styles; high neck, long sleeves and button front; sizes 18, 19, 20; specially priced, 1.79

New Sateen Bloomers
Winter weight, elastic top and knee, flesh and white, reinforced throughout; specially priced, 1.59

Women's Flannelette Petticoats
Made nice and full, in plain white and fine striped outing; of very good quality; draw string top with a narrow ruffle at the bottom; regularly 98c; special, 63c

Flannelette Gowns
Of fine fleecy outing, they are V neck, long sleeves, button front styles; all regular sizes; worth 1.19; specially priced, 99c

Third Floor—Center

Vision for Values

That's a prime faculty of the Lookout in the Fore-top. The unerring eye of our far-reaching system spots every special value being offered on the market today. The result is that our counters, in spite of the rapid "turn-over" we habitually effect, are at all times loaded with high quality merchandise at lowest prices.

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Attractively made Aprons of fast color ginghams; pink, blue and tangerine; two styles; sizes 36 to 46; regularly 1.49.

Third Floor—South

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Third Floor—South.

Thursday---A Money-Saver In Women's Fine Fall Footwear

Additional numbers have been added to our sale of women's new early fall shoes. The majority of these are brand new styles; they have been under-priced to make the group large enough to meet the demand.

Thursday, per pair **8.35**

There are log cabin, black or brown suedes, with leather trimmings to match military heeled oxfords; patent leather strap pumps with high Spanish or covered Cuban heels.

These smart shoes in authentic styles at this low price should induce buying for the entire season.

Many other attractive styles for present time wear in popular leathers

Third Floor—East.

Black Satin, Strap Slippers
—Broad instep straps, flexible soles; wood, Spanish or Cuban heels, regular 6.50 value; 4.65 for

Thursday Sale of Hair Goods

New York Bobs—A 12.00 value, special at, 8.00

Have you visited our Hairdressing Department on the Third Floor? The daylight location and convenient arrangement of all equipment makes us able to serve you better and more comfortably than ever before.

The following special prices are offered on hair goods for Thursday.

Small Switches—Of soft wavy, hair; special at, 5.00 to 10.00

Long Switches—Beautiful full and wavy, special at, 15.00 to 40.00

Transformations—18.00 values, at 12.00

Second Quality Switches—1.98 to 10.00

Third Floor—West

Art Needlework Goods Stamped Pieces At Low Prices

Attractive stamped goods at low prices encourage early gift making.

Stamped Tea Towels—Twenty very clever designs that are quickly made, on plain and striped toweling; special each, 25c

18-Inch Centers—Tan and white, with simple embroidery designs for outline, French knots and lazy daisy stitches; special, each 25c

Stamped Silver Cases—White and ecru, for knives, forks, tea and tablespoons, holding twelve of each; 69c and 89c special.

Hot Dish Holders—Stamped on white, cream and ecru materials, an excellent holiday item; special, each, 5c

Bead Mats—A very large assortment of colors, two sizes, made of large beads; in lovely blended colors; regularly 75c, special, 39c

Genuine Imported D. M. C. Fast Color 6-Strand Cotton—In black, white and all colors; regularly 6c; per skein, 2½c

Stamped Dolls and Animals—With a small amount of outline work, make a comforting doll for baby's Christmas; special, each, 29c

Third Floor—West

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