

Reduced Rates

Appreciating the patronage we have received since commencing business, we have decided TO REDUCE THE RATES ON GAS MAY 1st, providing the number of customers reach 200 by that date. We have also decided to continue the \$5 rate for service connections until APRIL 15th. DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY, but place orders at once so that we may rush the work and have the 200 ready by May 1st. Remember the time is short and it takes time to do the work.

The Gas Company is a home institution. Its stockholders are your neighbors, business associates and friends, and we can assure you good service and fair treatment, and that the rates will be reduced as fast as the business will justify. Do your part and we will do ours. Place orders today.

THE McCOOK GAS CO.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

McCook, Nebraska, March 16, 1908.

TO THE PEOPLE OF McCOOK:

We trust that you will pardon a brief discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of Municipal Ownership of Public Utilities. The undersigned in nearly twenty years' experience in the electrical business, has naturally made a careful study of this question; and, without the slightest personal or selfish interest in the matter until the present situation, has long since concluded that it is undesirable, and generally a delusion and a snare.

Municipal Ownership's only attraction and apparent advantage is lower rates. It might seem, theoretically, that a public plant could save to the consumers the difference between interest on the bonds, say six per cent, and the somewhat larger profit that a private company would reasonably expect for its work, trouble and ability in running any line of business. There is a prevalent impression that Public Utility Corporations earn exorbitant profits; but this is a mistake, at least in recent times and in the great majority of cases. They make no more, if as much, as capital invested and worked in manufacturing, farming, mercantile and other lines of business. The McCook Electric Light Company has made little more in the past and less than six per cent last year. This is based on ordinary expenses, without regard to special expenditure, nor any sinking fund for depreciation, nor any part of the improvements which were paid by additional capital raised by assessment on the stockholders.

The moderate profit above bond interest which a municipal plant might save, if operated as well as a private plant, is generally more than eaten up by its inefficient, uneconomical, and often dishonest administration. Its management is naturally political, changing with the elections, and its employees are selected with reference to party affiliations and vote-getting capacity, rather than to engineering or business qualifications. They frequently consider it a proper or at least opportune perquisite to eke out their regular salaries by commissions on purchases and other forms of graft, which of course come out of the pockets of the people. Even if honesty run, the operation is generally poor and uneconomical, as the management have no personal interest involved, and "what is everybody's business is nobody's business."

Reports concerning lower expenses and rates of municipal plants usually do not "prove up" on careful investigation. Records are carelessly kept; labor, fuel, etc., are charged in part to other departments; there is no consideration for loss of taxes that would be paid by a private company but not by the city, and generally there is no provision for depreciation or extensions,—very important matters. After allowing for these and other omitted items, the expenses are generally found to be larger than in private plants. The rates are frequently as high, or if lower, there is a loss, (real if not apparent, on account of covering expenses in other ways), which falls on the taxpayers.

Municipal ownership is a mild form of socialism and communism, which make the thrifty and industrious carry the burdens of the shiftless and improvident. Why not equally have municipal factories, stores, hotels, etc., or better still a single immense department store including all needed supplies, with an annex for dispensing legal, medical and religious advice?

A few years ago this country suffered from a wave of municipal ownership, and numerous plants were installed. On account of the dishonest, incompetent or otherwise unsatisfactory management, many of them have been abandoned, sold or leased to private companies to operate. All reports indicate that the feeling in favor of municipal ownership is gradually dying out. It would be strange if McCook, which enjoys the reputation of being a substantial, progressive city, and disposed to give a square deal to capital invested in good faith in its enterprises, should fall in at the tail of the vanishing M. O. procession.

IRVING HALE.

McMillen, prescription druggist.

Don't wait until you are notified, call and advance your subscription up to January 1st, 1909. April 1st, 1908, all subscriptions delinquent one year, must be discontinued. That's the law. We have no choice.

No one objects to John Ekstedt's water wagon.

Have you seen that beautiful root beer keg at Woodworth's drug store. It is especially made for serving Hire's root beer in the most delectable form, five cents per stein.

MOVEMENTS OF THE PEOPLE.

VIC FITZER visited Stockville friends, part of last week.

E. B. COX of Bartley was a business visitor in the county capital.

JULIUS A. KINZ visited the homefolks in Arapahoe, part of last week.

Mrs. A. P. ELY went down to Red Cloud, first of last week, on a visit to her parents.

J. F. CORDEAL was legally engaged in Beaver City, Tuesday, returning home on No. 3, same night.

R. A. GREEN was over from Cedar Bluffs, Kansas, Sunday, to visit with the wife and children.

A. R. MEHAFFEY went down to Lincoln, Monday, to look into a business proposition offering at that place.

C. J. O'BRIEN, C. J. RYAN and G. R. GALE were in Cambridge, Sunday, in the interest of the Knights of Columbus.

Mrs. C. B. SAWYER came up from Lincoln, Saturday night, to be at home a brief while before taking a trip to the west and northwest.

MR. and MRS. C. F. LEHN had the assistance of the stork in celebrating St. Patrick's day. It is a fine boy and deserves to be called Pat.

J. H. WODDELL left, Monday night, for Des Moines, Iowa, where he will attend sessions for a couple weeks of a School of Auctioneering.

MR. and MRS. W. E. HART were called up to Denver, end-of-week, by the death of the wife's relative. Mr. Hart returned home, Monday morning.

W. H. WYATT of Holdrege is making his daughter Mrs. I. L. Rodstrom a visit of a few weeks. A little later he expects to make McCook his home.

Mrs. JACOB MATZ and little Henrietta visited with Mrs. E. E. Willis and family, fore part of week, at Arapahoe, while on her way east to see the homefolks.

MR. and MRS. E. E. ROGERS have the sorrow of the death of their new-born baby, Sunday. The remains of the little one were laid away in Riverview cemetery, Monday afternoon.

MR. and MRS. MORRIS CLIGGETT departed, Tuesday morning, for their home in Kansas City, Mo. Mrs. Cliggett has been somewhat improved by her residence with her sister Mrs. Murphy in our city for the past few months.

EARL CASTEN, a former McCook boy, now of Cheyenne, is spending a few days in the city. Earl is now in the railway mail service, running out of the Wyoming capital and giving a splendid account of himself in Uncle Sam's service.

The Spring Promises To Be Very Favorable

Many have availed themselves of the opportunity to get

John Deere Implements

But we still have a good line.

The Model B Disc

With Center Lever is as popular as ever and no farmer who owns one would take a

Five Dollar Bill

For that third lever, but we have the Rockland and Columbia and any of them with

Tongue Trucks

At a little extra expense.

Harrows and Harrow Carts

To introduce the carts we are going to make a special low price. These carts are fitted with dust proof axles and Hard Oil cups.

The John Deere Listers

In the walking "One-Row" and "Two-Row," with the Edge Selection dropper or round hole (if you like), the shape of the mould boards make the furrow, free from weeds' growth, and then to follow these with a

John Deere Two-Row Lister Cultivator

Which the farmers say will come the nearest to hoeing the corn of anything,

will make you a good outfit, but you may need a

Good Wagon

We have them in the "New Moline," "Weber," "Birdsell" and "Burr Oak," and are now offering \$85.00 wagons for \$75.00, and \$83.00 wagons for \$73.00. This means you can save a

Ten Dollar Bill

We have a large stock bought before the last two advances and we are going to sell them at this price. Besides this we are going to continue until April 15th

Our \$5.00 Off On Buggies

We have a large line for you to select from and you should have them for the summer's use. We have had a

Large Sale Of Harness

But still have a good stock which is going at prices that will please you. Also Robes, Blankets, Whips and everything to go with a good outfit.

Eclipse Wind Mills

As well as "Dempster" "Woodmanse" "Perkins" and others so that you can take advantage of the cheapest power on earth next to which is our

Fairbanks-Morse Gasoline Engine

Pump, Pipe, Well and Wind Mill Work Of All Kinds Done By Us.

Call and See Us

McCOOK HARDWARE CO.

W. B. MILLS

Phone 31

R. B. SIMMONS

Mrs. J. C. MOORE is suffering with pneumonia.

MASTER CARL MARSH is held at home with a severe attack of rheumatism.

J. E. KELLEY and John Cordeal are in Imperial and Hayes Center on business.

MR. and MRS. J. A. HARMON are happy in the birth of a big boy baby, Monday.

Mrs. J. C. DAVIS is nursing one of Dr. Kay's sick patients in the country, this week.

GEO. E. THOMPSON returned, yesterday, from eastern markets, and will tell the TRIBUNE readers all about it in due season.

Mrs. A. C. WIEBE was in Oxford, Wednesday, inspecting the Eastern Star lodge there in the capacity of deputy grand matron.

FRANK LECHLEITER, Frank Brady and E. O. Williams made a journey to Arapahoe, on Knights of Columbus business, last Sunday.

MR. and MRS. DAVID DIAMOND announce the birth of another gem into the family. It's a daughter of nine-pounds weight and St. Patrick's day was her natal day.

A Handy Receipt Book.

Bound duplicate receipt books, three receipts to the page, for sale at THE TRIBUNE office.

Advertising is strictly a business proposition. THE TRIBUNE'S subscription book is open to any advertiser's inspection.

COURT HOUSE NEWS.

Following are the marriage licenses issued since our last report:

Edward B. Cox (33) and Mrs. Iva A. Gammill (31), both of Bartley, Neb. Married March 17th, by county judge.

James H. Myers (35), Grand Junction, Colo., and Adeline A. Smith (40), Stratton, Neb. Married March 19th, by county judge.

Sheriff Peterson, Thursday, seized some household goods of H. S. Brown, a tenant of Miss Alice Jones, yesterday, for delinquent rent. Goods were stored in the court house.

Probably Close Sunday.

The revival services which have been in progress for three weeks have grown in interest from the beginning. During this week the Christian church has united in the service. Rev. E. Clutter, evangelist, has assisted in the preaching. These services will probably close Sunday evening in a union service. At the close of the service the ordinance of baptism will be administered to a number of candidates. All are cordially invited to these meetings.

Quarterly Meeting.

The Woman's Mission Circle of the Baptist church held its quarterly meeting with Mrs. Rose Bayles, Thursday afternoon. An interesting program on Educational Missions, illustrated by map and pictures, was given and Mrs. Bayles and Mrs. French served a dainty and elaborate lunch. The attendance was large and a good sum of money was added to the treasury.

St. Patrick's Day 21 Years Ago.

Twenty-one years ago, Tuesday, was a memorable St. Patrick's day for McCook. It will be recalled as a raw, cold, snowy, windy day, with Pinkertons patrolling the Burlington yards and property at this place. The day was so inclement that temporary protections improvised out of grain doors etc. were hastily erected in different part of the Burlington domain behind which "Pinks" all wearing the green, held forth undismayed.

New "Carnegie Library" post cards at TRIBUNE office.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the Masonic Temple of McCook, Nebraska, has filed its articles of incorporation in the office of the secretary of state of the State of Nebraska. The principal place of transacting the business of said corporation shall be McCook, Nebraska; the principal nature of the business to be transacted by said corporation shall be to purchase real estate in McCook, Nebraska, upon which to erect a building and to furnish rooms in said building for Masonic purposes; rooms for public store and other purposes and to erect and construct in said building an opera house and to lease and receive the rent of said building and maintain and operate same and receive the profits therefrom. The amount of capital stock authorized shall be \$25,000.00 divided into 2,500 shares of \$10.00 each, which are to be paid as follows: 1st. The full amount of one share by each subscriber thereto at the time \$2,500.00 of such subscriber's total subscription monthly after said one share is due and payable until such subscriber's total subscription is entirely paid. This corporation shall commence on the twenty-fifth day of March, 1908, and its duration shall be perpetual. The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which the corporation shall be permitted to subject itself shall not exceed two-thirds of the capital stock subscribed. The affairs of the corporation are to be conducted by a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, who, together with five other persons selected from among the stockholders, shall constitute the Board of Directors.—23rd Art. MASONIC TEMPLE CHARTER.

[SEAL] By C. L. FAIRBANKS, President. Attest: LOU COLE, Secretary.