

## MAYOR BENIS' SEARCH LIGHT

Rays that Will Penetrate the Darkness of the Electric Contract.

## PROSPECTS OF A VETO IN THE FUTURE

Conference at the Office of Omaha's Chief Executive—Garniering Electrical Information—The Thomson-Houston Company May Be Shocked.

Mayor Benis will probably take a hand in the electric light controversy, and the time a bill from the Thomson-Houston company comes to him for his approval it will doubtless meet with a veto.

The committee on gas and electric lights of the council, composed of Edwards, Steel and McFarlane, will probably also hear something of the matter, and it will not be without the presence of a veto either. The mayor is fairly aroused over the situation, and is fully convinced that the time has arrived for the city to exercise its rights under the lighting contract and compel the Thomson-Houston company to furnish street lights of 2,000 candle power.

The council committee might have been possessed with the idea that its report would put the city electric and his photometric test to sleep for all time to come. If the committee could have been present at a conference in the office of Mayor Benis yesterday afternoon it might have learned the fact that half a dozen city officials besides Mayor Benis are convinced of the accuracy of the committee's report, and have confidence in Mr. Cowell's ability to handle the instrument properly.

The conference was called by Mayor Benis for the purpose of ascertaining what the city officials thought of the report. Those present were the mayor, Assistant City Attorney Cornish, City Engineer Rosewater, Assistant City Engineer Grover, City Electrician, and a number of the gentlemen present know more or less about electricity and the most of them could have given the council committee a car load of questions on the volts, amperes, watts and all the other properties that the electrical world knows of.

## Plain English from the Mayor.

Mayor Benis displayed a copy of Mr. Cowell's report to the council committee on the report of the council committee touching on the matter of the electric light. "Look at this report from that committee," said the mayor. "Even Mr. Wiley himself would not dare write such an innocent, unassuming report. It is a disgrace that a council committee should be so stupid as to be deceived by such a report. It is simply damnable, and it looks very much like a brass collar being worn by the members of that committee. They are slurs at the electrician and simply attempt to ridicule him. I believe that if the council committee were not so stupid as to be deceived by such a report, they would not permit their money to be expended."

## The Mayor Asks City Engineer Rosewater to Give Him a Lesson.

Mayor Benis remarked that the contract with the city electrician is a very simple one, and as the city is paying about three times for the service it should receive the city electrician should be satisfied. When the first contract was entered into the company insisted on having the word "nominal" inserted, but Mr. Popplestone, the city electrician, refused to do so. Mr. Cornish said that such being the case the city should certainly hold that the company should furnish lights of actual 2,000 candle power and would accept of no other standard. The city electrician followed, the city engineer and city electrician explaining the photometric tests, as well as the electrical laws.

The mayor appeared satisfied with the information he had received. When the July bill for lighting of the Thomson-Houston company finds its way into the city appropriation ordinance it will probably meet with a veto either. The mayor appeared satisfied with the information he had received. When the July bill for lighting of the Thomson-Houston company finds its way into the city appropriation ordinance it will probably meet with a veto either.

## MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

## Work Done by the Executive Committee at Its Session Yesterday.

A meeting of the executive committee of the Manufacturers and Consumers association was held at the city hall yesterday afternoon. The following were elected members of the association: Wallace & Co., manufacturers of office and saloon furniture, Omaha; Lincoln Upholstering company; May Bros., suspenders, Lincoln; Superior Starch company, Superior; Western Carriage Tool company, Lincoln.

The secretary read the financial statement for June 30, showing that the association had on hand resources of \$1,500. The secretary read letters from the majority of the members of Omaha in regard to the results of the last manufacturers' exposition held in Omaha. The writers generally expressed themselves as well pleased, and stated that a good many of their customers had been secured at that time and that the exposition was a help to business.

President Pate said that he had put up a notice in his factory to the effect that no person would be employed who did not pay his bills. He believed that all manufacturers ought to do this. He said that he would employ only those who paid their bills promptly. "It hurts our business," said the president, "and it hurts the retail trade of the city to have a lot of men and women squander their money and refuse to pay their honest bills."

Secretary Holm reported that he had met in Lincoln the managers and purchasing agents for the state institutions and had secured from them a promise to give the preference to Nebraska goods. The state has been in the habit of making purchases of goods manufactured mostly outside of the state, simply because the attention of the purchasing agents had not been called to the subject.

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