

DAHLMAN ON GAS FRANCHISE

Mayor Delivers Address on the Pending Ordinance.

WHY HE FAVORS ITS ADOPTION

Analyses Its Provisions and Points Out What He Thinks Are Advantages to the Citizens.

Speaking to the Danman Democracy club last night, Mayor James C. Dahlman made his first public plea for the adoption of the dollar gas ordinance.

"The rank and file," he said, "must stand shoulder to shoulder and protect the rights of the plain people. This ordinance is drafted in the interests of the consumer of gas. It does not take away from the city the power to regulate the quality of gas or inspection of meters or gas pressure."

Continuing, the mayor said he wanted the gas ordinance submitted to the most searching examination and declared he was going into the campaign for its adoption untraded and convinced the people would stand together in the fight.

This is the mayor's opening gun in the campaign he declared he would wage to the end in favor of this ordinance, which he has made a campaign issue for years.

Seven years of effort. Mayor Dahlman recounted incidents of seven years of effort to secure dollar gas in redemption of a pledge made the voters when he was first elected mayor. The chance is now here, he said, and advised that it be taken advantage of. It comes through the compromise that resulted in the preparation of the ordinance that has been submitted for the approval of the voters. The proposal to fight out the case now pending in the court does not appeal to the mayor, because it means delay for years. The case cannot be expected to go through to a final conclusion in less than two years, and may take much longer; the water works litigation lasted for nine years. The electric light case went against the city. The compromise offered means dollar gas at once.

"I believe that the voters will approve the proposed franchise for a number of reasons," said the mayor. "In the first place the people will get a cut of 15 cents in their gas bills at once, and this means calculating upon a very conservative estimate in annual gas sales, the saving to the people during the time the present gas franchise has yet to run will amount to not less than \$700,000. This is no guess work, they are facts."

Not Perpetual Nor Exclusive. The franchise is not perpetual. It is limited to twenty-five years and in reality is an extension of a little less than twenty years. Such an extension, provided the rights of the people are properly protected, is not a disadvantage. Omaha is growing faster than ever before and the gas company will be called upon to build new enlargements and extensions to keep pace with the growth of the city, and it must be given a reasonable franchise extension if we expect it to raise the money for additional investments in this city. These are hard facts that must be met with.

The proposed franchise is not exclusive. Section 9 provides: "That this ordinance shall not be deemed to prohibit the city from granting rights and privileges of a similar nature to other companies." The city therefore will be free at any and all times to grant a similar franchise to any other corporation, or to build and operate a municipal gas plant. There is no doubt or question that these rights are reserved to the city.

City May Acquire Plant. The proposed franchise does not prevent the city from acquiring the gas plant or require the city to pay it more for the plant than it would have to pay if the franchise is not voted. The franchise provides two methods by which the city can take over the gas plant. One, the appraisers' method, similar to that employed in the water works case; the other by condemnation or eminent domain. The appraisers' method is available at the end of fifteen years and twenty-five years. The right of the city to condemn the gas plant exists at all times. This is so because section 9 provides that there is reserved to the city "all rights, authority and powers which now exist, and all rights, authority and powers which may hereafter exist in favor of said city under its charter to condemn, appropriate and purchase the gas works, etc." The same section specifically provides that in case the city acquires the plant by either method, "no value shall be placed upon the franchise, which shall not be considered in arriving at a price."

Rate Contract Periods. If the voters approve of the proposed franchise, not only will they make sure of a price no higher than it, but they will give the gas plant complete power to regulate the gas rates from time to time by making short-time contracts with the gas company. These rate contract periods can not be longer than ten years, and may be as much less as thought desirable. The franchise does not direct or compel ten-year contracts. I state here and now, speaking for myself, that in case this franchise is approved I will stand for the first rate contract not better than the present one.

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By its daily use there will be no pain, no distress, no nausea, no danger of laceration or other accident, and the period will be one of supreme comfort and joyful anticipation. To all young women Mother's Friend is one of the greatest of all helpful influences, for it robs childbirth of all its agonies and dangers, dispels all its terrors, and enables the mind and body to await the greatest event in a woman's life with untrammelled gladness. Mother's Friend is a most cherished remedy in thousands of homes, and is of such peculiar merit and value as to make it essentially one to be recommended by all women.

You will find it on sale at all drug stores at \$1.00 a bottle, or the druggist will gladly get it for you if you insist upon it. Mother's Friend is prepared only by the Bradford Regulator Co., 137 Lamar Bldg., Atlanta, Ga., who will send you by mail, absolutely free, a very instructive book to expectant mothers. Write for it to-day.

Honored Council Bluffs Couple to Celebrate Golden Wedding



MR. AND MRS. EPHRIAM HUNTINGTON.

Mr. and Mrs. Ephriam Huntington will on Monday celebrate their golden wedding at the home of their daughter, Mrs. J. H. Pace, who has invited their friends to an informal reception during the afternoon and evening.

Mr. Huntington has been a continuous resident of Council Bluffs since 1850 and Mrs. Huntington since 1861. They have thus seen almost every stage of the town's evolution. Both were born in England and both came to this country when children, accompanying their parents.

Ephriam Huntington and Miss Elizabeth Tibbett Lamb were married in Council Bluffs on July 21, 1863, and there are still a number of the old pioneers who were present at the wedding and who will tomorrow have the pleasure of extending their congratulations upon the fiftieth anniversary of the day. All of their five children were born and raised in Council Bluffs, four of whom are still living. Mrs. J. H. Pace, who has always resided here; William R. Huntington of Rutherford, N. J.; Charles R. Huntington of East Orange, N. J.; and Mrs. E. C. Hodder of Benson, Neb. There are ten grandchildren, most of whom expect to be here with their parents to help celebrate the golden wedding.

ins for a period of ten years, but will stand for a period ending about the same time as the expiration of the present gas franchise, in no event having life of more than six years. I believe the other commissioners would stand the same, for the reason that we rejected a ten-year minimum provision proposed by the Omaha Gas company. The city will thus be left free to build and operate a municipal gas plant, take advantage of any opportunity then existing to obtain lower rates, and no one will contend seriously that this commission would be in the council to make the next contract.

City Controls Quality. "The proposed franchise does not take from the city its power over the quality of gas, inspection of meters, the standard of gas pressure, etc. The city retains such power, and we will continue to insist, as in the past, upon gas service second to none in the United States, said service being brought about under my administration.

"The proposed gas franchise will bear the closest searching investigation. It will stand any genuine test in the protection of the people's interests. It is idle to talk about the price of gas in other cities where conditions are different, the cost of gas materials lower, the standards of quality less severe, and the taxes paid by the gas company much less per 1,000 cubic feet than in Omaha. Under the proposed franchise the gas company will pay an annuity or occupation tax to the city aggregating 5 per cent of its gross income, and this in addition to regular and special taxes on its property.

"I recommend the proposed franchise to the people of Omaha and I urge the Dahlman club, always standing for the rights of the masses, to study the proposed franchise and to make an organized effort to get it approved at the election of August 13.

"The means that we must stand shoulder to shoulder and appeal to the rank and file, showing them once more that this club is at all times ready to do their share in protecting the interests of the plain people."

Following the mayor's speech the club, with a big majority of its membership present, adopted the following resolution: "Whereas, The honorable mayor of our city, James C. Dahlman, has for several years last past been exerting his best efforts to secure for the people of the city of Omaha gas at a price of \$1 or less per 1,000 cubic feet, and

"Whereas, He has heretofore expressed his belief that the present proposed gas franchise authorizing the sale of gas for \$1 or less per 1,000 cubic feet is the most expedient present available means of securing to the gas consumers of the city of Omaha a reduction in the price of gas, and

"Whereas, We have unbounded faith in his good judgment in this matter and believing, as he does, that the proposed franchise affords the most expeditious means of securing an early reduction in the price of gas to the people of this city, now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we, members of the Dahlman Democracy club, pledge to the people of the city of Omaha our support in securing at the earliest possible date a reduction in the price of gas to \$1 or less, and be it further resolved, I will stand for the first rate contract not better than the present one.

"Resolved, That we pledge our allegiance and assistance to our honorable mayor in his efforts to bring about at this time the reduction of the price of gas through the adoption of the proposed franchise."

A second resolution authorizes the executive committee to draw on the club treasury for funds to aid in carrying on the campaign.

Between the speechmaking and the business session of the club an orchestra, composed of A. B. Gibson, Walter Donahue and M. J. Jackson furnished lively music.

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EFFORT TO BRIBE GOMPERS

Mulhall Tells of Alleged Attempt to Corrupt Labor Leader.

FORAKER'S NAME BROUGHT IN

Letter of Emery Sets Forth What a Help Watson Was and How a Friend in Congress is a Friend Indeed.

WASHINGTON, July 19.—Martin M. Mulhall gave the senate today a detailed account of the alleged effort in 1907 or 1908 to bribe Samuel Gompers to desert the cause of labor and support the policies advocated by the National Association of Manufacturers. He admitted he had no positive information that an attempt to bribe Gompers actually had been made, but he said that Attorney Brownell of New York had outlined the plans to him and had told him of what was to be done.

Mulhall was excused late this afternoon until Monday morning on the ground that he was tired after a week of continuous testimony. The committee held a session tonight to hear the testimony of S. W. McClave of Paterson, N. J., now a candidate for congress, and with whom Mulhall claimed he worked throughout the campaign of 1906, when McClave was running against William Hughes.

Charges Made by Gompers. The committee opened the Gompers incident today when newspaper clippings appeared showing that Gompers had made the bribery charges before a court in 1908 and that President Van Cleave of the Manufacturers' association had denied all connection with them. Mulhall said he had been referred by Van Cleave and Schwedman, to Mr. Brownell in New York, who claimed to be conducting a publicity bureau for the association.

Brownell told him, he said, that a man named Brandenburg was following Gompers; that they had a plan fixed up by which they expected to "get" the labor leader; and that they were positive they could not fail. Mulhall said he was then they would not succeed, and later advised Van Cleave to the same effect.

Van Cleave left New York suddenly, the witness said, after telling him that he had nearly "fallen into a trap."

"He said they wanted him to go down to meet these people, but he got a tip not to go," added Mulhall. "He told me he thought Brownell had more sense than to go into a trap of that kind."

This was the extent of Mulhall's knowledge of the matter, but he insisted that from the previous information he had he knew the plan that had been set on foot to force Gompers into signing a document that would insure his future action.

The Gompers story and an expected outburst from Mulhall who claimed that officers of the National Association of Manufacturers were trying to "stare him out of countenance," were the uninviting features of a day in which the well-known "lobbyist" identified several hundreds more of the letters relating to campaign and legislative activities.

Tries to Interrupt. Proceedings were running smoothly when Robert McCarter, attorney for the Manufacturers' association tried to interrupt and ask Mulhall a question. The committee "shut him out." Mulhall permitted no questioning by outside attorneys, but he refused to answer any questions from "that man," shouted Mulhall. "Further, I want to tell the committee that those men at that table have kept some one continually to stare steadily at me while I have been on the stand. I think it is a contemptible trick. The ex-president (John Kirby, Jr.) relieved Mr. Emery at the job a little while ago."

Members of the committee, the chief witness and Acting Chairman Rankhead mildly suggested that Mulhall look at him instead of at his antagonists. Mulhall admitted he was somewhat nervous, but insisted that witnesses have been intimidated since they were brought to Washington "outside as well as inside this committee room."

Letters identified today covered a wide range of activities, but centers chiefly about the campaign in Indiana in 1904 when Mulhall, according to the documents, was working in close co-operation, with Congressman James E. Watson and with national and state republican leaders.

Mulhall told the committee he raised \$1,000 for the campaign. One of the letters referred to his amount and another mentioned a list of names of persons concerned in South Bend, the proprietors of which had been visited by Mulhall in company with Peter Kline, deputy factory inspector for that district.

"In an interview I had with Mr. Parry and other large business men of this section, they clearly stated they were jumping the law as far as corporations are concerned by subscribing to our campaign funds," said Mulhall in a letter to Schwedman from Indianapolis, September 23, 1908. "There are a hundred and one ways to get around that and we all know that, and I cannot see why Mr. Van Cleave cannot get around it just as well as the large manufacturers here."

Deated Knowing of N. A. M. Work. More correspondence read late in the day showed that the Indianapolis News had identified Mulhall as connected with the Manufacturers' association in September and had brought the matter into public discussion. Mulhall laughingly told the committee that local, state and national campaign managers consistently had denied that they knew anything about any work by the National Association of Manufacturers, even after work had been going on for nearly a year in Indiana.

Several letters again referred to Maryland. Two of them showed that Mulhall, in behalf of his employer, was trying to work both with Collector William F. Stone, one of the republican leaders and Congressman John Gill of the Fourth district, a democrat.

At the same time Stone and Gill were opposing each other bitterly and Mulhall counselled extreme caution in dealing with the situation. To the committee Mulhall explained that Gill had not sought aid, but that he considered him a "fair man" and wanted to help him.

Six Cases of Letters. Six big packing cases full of letters from the National Association of Manufacturers were turned over today to the senate lobby investigation committee under a subpoena served on James A. Emery, chief counsel for the association. The letters were stored in a strong room in the basement of the house office building and a special watchman was procured to watch them during the day and sleep with them during the night. These letters will form the basis of the house lobby probe.

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LABOR MEN TO TRY SARMAN. Charged with Making False Statements About Referendum Names. DIFFER ON COMPENSATION LAW. Seven Men Appointed by Central Labor Union to Secure Copies of Charter for Various Secretaries. H. F. Sarman, president of the State Federation of Labor, will be given a trial by the Central Labor union of Omaha on the charge that he made false statements in an advertisement published over his signature recently setting forth that the men circulating the petitions for a referendum on the workmen's compensation law were getting paid for circulating the same. This was decided at the meeting of the Central Labor union last night, with Sarman present. Sarman offered to explain his position, but President George Norman ruled him out of order as no definite charges had yet been formally presented. The charges are to be drawn up and formally presented at the next meeting of the union. While President Norman, John Pollan, J. J. Kerrigan and others spoke in favor of preferring the charges, Walter Kiriln was the man who made the motion that charges be preferred. The motion passed by a large majority. No Authority for Action. Some of the laboring men hold that it was a mistake anyway for Sarman to use the name of the State Federation of Labor in his published attack on the referendum measure until he had the action of the federation back of him. The attack on Sarman brought some sharp repartee across the hall. Asked for something of a report on what had been done in the filing of the referendum petition, President Norman said he had personally gone to Lincoln to see to the filing. "I should like to ask for my own information," said A. C. Weitzel, "who paid for the trip to Lincoln?" "They paid my railroad fare and dinner," replied Norman as he waved his hand in a sweeping gesture across the hall. "Who did?" Weitzel persisted. "Why—this—man," Norman went on as he waved his hand again in a general direction across the city. "This man Bigelow," said Weitzel, "sent the petitions out over the state to be circulated, the petition against the convict labor bill, the garnishes bill, and the compensation bill. But do you know what he did? He sent word out in the state that he would pay for names on the compensation petition only. You thought he was taking care of all of them. You got trimmed and trimmed right. And I hope if you get trimmed a few times more like that you will know better than to tie up with those fellows."

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