

CRISIS NEAR IN WRANGLE OVER GAS PLANT BUY

Return of R. B. Howell to Omaha Brings Question of Purchase to Foreground In City Council.

The return of R. B. Howell, general manager of the Metropolitan Water board, from a five weeks' outing, has brought the gas plant appraisal controversy to the forefront, and already has indicated a lack of unanimity of opinion among members of the Water board.

The main question is: Shall the city accept or reject the appraisal of \$4,500,000 as made by the court of condemnation February 6?

The city has the alternative of rejecting the appraisal by the passage of an ordinance within 60 days from the filing of the appraisal. Such an ordinance, signed by City Commissioners Ure, Zimmerman, Rizer and Towl, is pending before the city council.

Await Howell's Advice.
Inasmuch as the Water board would assume management of the gas plant if the city purchases it, the city commissioners wish to hear from Mr. Howell and members of the Water board before taking final action.

A canvass of the Water board yesterday shows that C. R. Sherman and W. J. Coad are inclined to favor the proposition of the city accepting the gas plant at the appraised valuation. P. C. Heafey and C. M. Wilhelm do not care to commit themselves for publication. Fred D. Weid is known to be against the appraisal. General Manager Howell is not ready to announce his position.

To Analyze Data.
"During my absence this department prepared a lot of information for me on the gas question and I wish to analyze the data before making a definite statement," General Manager Howell of the water board said. "As for the gas company obtaining a franchise if the city rejects the appraisal, I will say that there is a law which expressly pro-

vides that no franchises can be granted in Omaha except by direct vote of the people. I was instrumental in obtaining the passage of that law."

"I am going to insist at the city council committee of the whole meeting next Monday morning that this matter shall be brought to a showdown," City Commissioner Butler asserted.

Will Invoke Referendum.
Mayor Smith and Commissioner Butler have stated that if the council passes the ordinance to reject the appraisal, they will invoke the referendum and bring the ordinance before the people for disposition.

Mayor Smith takes the position that the city can buy the gas plant at the appraised valuation and that the Water board can assume management with a gas rate of \$1 at the start.

Battalion Chief and Driver Injured When Car Runs Into Fence

Battalion Fire Chief John Coyle Fire Station No. 5, South Side, was slightly injured at 10 yesterday morning when he was thrown from the emergency car in which he was going to a fire at Twenty-fifth and L streets. The accident occurred at Twenty-fifth and L streets. William Hawley, driver of the car, suffered minor injuries also.

Chief Coyle suffered cuts about the face and a bruised right arm. He was taken to his home at 1615 Evans street.

Hawley said something went wrong with the steering knuckle of the car that caused it to swing from the street to the sidewalk. The car crashed into a fence.

Towl Back From Chicago And Study of Deodorizing
City Commissioner Towl has returned from Chicago, where he investigated methods of suppressing offensive odors in the stock yards district, with a view of deodorizing. He described the Chicago method in this manner:

"They have condensers to absorb the soluble gases, and the insoluble gases are caught in a trap and conveyed to a smokstack where they are incinerated. Odor control has been effected in the stockyards district of Chicago." Mr. Towl is writing a letter to the city council on the subject.

MARRYING PARSON BUYS HOME ON FEES OF 4,517 WEDDINGS

Omaha Minister, Discussing Cupid's Wiles, Advises Prospective Bridegrooms.

Rev. Charles W. Savidge, Omaha "marrying parson," has received approximately \$30,000 in wedding fees in the 43 years he has been performing marriage ceremonies, he said yesterday.

He had just finished pronouncing the knot-tying words for the 4,157th time.

"I suppose the fees given me will average a little more than \$6 for each marriage," he said. "They're offering the minister more than they used to, you know. Thirty years ago I was marrying couples for \$2 and \$3 each. Nowadays, the bridegroom seldom offers me less than \$5 and fees of \$10 are not at all infrequent. Money is more plentiful and they can afford to be more generous."

Admonitions to Bridegrooms.
Here are some admonitions Rev. Savidge offers prospective bridegrooms in regard to fees to ministers:

"The fee should not be less than \$5. A \$10 bill always will look even better to the minister. He has plenty of places to use the money. A man ought not to be married more than once in his life and he can afford to be generous.

"It is bad form for the bridegroom to turn to a minister and ask, 'How much do I owe you?' or, 'What is the charge?'"

"The bridegroom should have his offering in his pocket and quietly hand it to the minister."

Second Fee Smaller.
"I believe the fee offered is usually less in the case of a second marriage, unless the man has greatly increased his income since his first marriage," Rev. Savidge declares.

Out of his collections for marriages and his salary as a minister he did not save a cent until after he was 51 years old, Rev. Savidge says.

"All of my extra cash I contributed to charities of various sorts," he says. "Then I came to the conclusion it was my duty to provide for my old age. In the last 18 years, I have paid for a home and made part payment on a farm of five acres south of Omaha."

Fair Price Commissioner Of Iowa Will Speak Here
David Lorimer, state fair price commissioner of Iowa, will speak at an open meeting at the Chamber of Commerce at noon today, explaining the work of his office and discussing economy campaigns in the United States.

Mr. Lorimer's visit to Omaha was arranged by Mrs. C. G. Ryan of Grand Island, in charge of the women's economy campaign in the state, and the Chamber of Commerce. According to David Larson, commissioner of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Lorimer is an authority on practical economy.

J. C. Metcalf, secretary of the Associated Retailers of Omaha, has sent notices of the meeting to all members of that body, urging their attendance.

Women Automobile Dealers Give Men Real Merry Chase



Mrs. Iola Huff Mrs. Gertrude Hall

The success of the only two women automobile dealers attending the Automobile show in out-selling several of their male competitors is giving every salesman plenty to worry about. The women are Mrs. Iola Huff of Crete, Neb., and Mrs. Gertrude Hall of Taber, Iowa.

Mrs. Huff sells Buick and Hupmobile cars and Mrs. Hall sells Buick cars, G. M. G. trucks and tractors. Both women have registered several sales during the week and their technical knowledge and comprehension of mechanical features has surprised many of the men.

Mrs. Huff and Mrs. Hall were honor guests at the annual banquet of the Nebraska Buick company at Hotel Fontanelle.

with the rope. We threw the coats and other women's clothing out through the window, and then went out and got them."

Miller said Rule had "double-crossed" him by failing in his promise to get him a lawyer.

New Credit Manager Joins Burgess-Nash Stores Here
E. H. Ward, who has been office and credit manager of the Pittsburgh Glass and Paint Co., for the past 15 years has joined the Burgess-Nash organization as credit manager.

Mr. Ward came to Omaha 15 years ago from Mt. Vernon, Ill. He is one of the most prominent credit men in the city and is also very prominent socially, belonging to the Athletic club and Field club, and an active member of the Rotary club.

STRIKE LOOMS AMONG CLERKS IN COURT HOUSE

Men and Women Restoring Douglas County Records Demand Higher Wages.

Alleging that they have been treated with gross unfairness, 24 employees of the county treasurer's office presented a petition to the board of county commissioners yesterday demanding that their pay be adjusted to a decent living basis.

The signers of the petition are 10 girls and 14 men who are employed in restoring the county treasurer's records destroyed in the fire of September 28, 1919.

The petition was headed by John Connelly and was signed by every clerk engaged in restoring these records. Further action may be taken unless the county commissioners meet the request.

The women were employed at a salary of \$100 a month and the men at \$125 a month. On December 31, 1919, the county commissioners passed a resolution to pay by the day, the girls at the rate of \$3.85 and the men at \$4.80 a day.

In January with its 31 days, this made no great decrease in earnings of the workers, but when they received their pay for the last two weeks of February, a storm of protest went up. The girls' pay checks were only \$38.50 and the men's \$48 for the two weeks.

"Think of it, \$19.25 a week for expert work like we do," exclaimed pretty Irene Murphy. "Why, a hat girl or waitress can make more than that. We have to be good at penmanship and accurate to the last degree."

Across the table, at another big book sat pretty Kathryn Havlicek in a sky-blue sweater.

"I just don't know how we are going to live on it," said Kathryn. "There's a big difference between the \$50 we expected to get every

two weeks when we came here and the \$38.50 we got this last pay. "No, I don't buy any \$20 shoes with mine. I wear my old ones and my old dresses. I hope the county commissioners will see the justice of our position."

Divorces Granted
Mary Poppas from Daniel Poppas, cruelty.
Eleanor Ryan from Neil Ryan, cruelty.
Joseph Hug from Minnie Hug, cruelty.
Pearl Adamson from Andrew Adamson, cruelty.

Painter Drops Dead In Street On Way to Work
Joseph Summott, painter, 1233 South Fourteenth street, dropped dead at 7 yesterday morning in front of the Waters-Barnhart Printing company, 416 South Thirteenth street. Death was due to heavy trouble. Police Surgeon Edstrom said.

Mr. Summott was on his way to work. Identification of the body was not made until several hours after the body had been taken to Hulse & Riepen's funeral home. He was 28 years old.

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