

Philadelphia, February 16, 1937.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE YEAR 1936

The Bureau of Water has been engaged during this year primarily in operation and maintenance activities.

The average daily delivery to the City was 323 million gallons which volume, reduced to a per capita rate, averaged 159 gallons per day.

The volume of water furnished was sufficient for the needs of the City and the potability was of high integrity as indicated by the records of the Bureau Laboratory and its safe character was proven by the low rate of typhoid which registered 0.9 deaths to 100,000 inhabitants.

Approximately 1,000 men, drawn from the unemployed, their remuneration covered by Federal funds, have been engaged on various projects throughout the Bureau, reference to which will be in detail in a later paragraph.

Under the Bureau also has been operated the Southwest Sewage Pumping Station and the Northeast Disposal Works, the average output of sewage from the latter equalling 50 million gallons per day.

River Patrol

Obersvations have been continued at industrial plants and communities situated on the banks of the Schuylkill River to determine the character of contributions in the way of sewage and industrial wastes, these observations being a technical scrutiny of waters or waste entering the flow of the Schuylkill.

Intakes

The Intake at the Shawmont Pumping Station on the Schuylkill River is seriously clogged by River sediment carried to a point in front of the station by river flow. The Intake at Torresdale on the Delaware River has had the attention of a City dredge supplied by the Department of Wharves & Docks to open a free channel between the River and the Intake gates, however the Sedimentation Basin at Torresdale has an accumulation of silt which has reduced the water cross section seriously and service of the basin is materially affected on account of the short-circuiting of water flow between the volume at the influent and the outgoing terminal where the flow enters the conduit to the Pumping Station.

### Pumping Stations

At Shawmont, Belmont and Torresdale Stations further improved appearance has resulted through the labor of the unemployed.

The East Park Booster Station at 33rd Street and Girard avenue, during the periods of high atmospheric temperatures, maintained a service in the downtown congested section of the City which was satisfactory for the water supply. Also this station delivered water to the West Philadelphia district during a period of low delivery from the Belmont Pumping Station.

The Southwest Sewage Station and the Mingo Creek Station contributed respectively to the relief of sewage flow and drainage of the low land canals.

At the Northeast Sewage Disposal Station the heating plant was completely renovated resulting in considerable economy for plant heating and a reduction in labor of operation. One of the large sewage pumps was completely overhauled and restored to a condition equal to that at the time of installation.

### Filters

Normal and continuous service has been rendered by the Filter Plants.

At Belmont a Federal project completed the removal of silt from the reservoirs where, during the 30 years of service, the accumulation of silt had seriously reduced the sedimentation period and the restoration of the water cross section of this reservoir will lighten the load on the Filters.

### Reservoirs

Work on the following Reservoirs, including labor and equipment, was furnished under WPA project.

At Lower Roxborough the removal of the accumulated silt was undertaken and there was removed 20,000 cubic yards. The slopes were being relaid with a dry rubble masonry on the interior and the outside appearance is being improved to a pleasing extent.

At Belmont completion of silt removal was effected, there being taken respectively from the West and East Basins 112,000 cubic yards and 45,000 cubic yards or a total of 157,000 cubic yards.

At East Park extensive repairs were made to the inside slopes restoring the masonry lining and the outside slopes were graded creating a vast improvement in the appearance of this large basin at 33rd street and Montgomery avenue.

### Distribution

The construction of a 20" pipe line to relieve the shortage of water and stabilize pressures in East Germantown was an improved addition to the Distribution System.

The early months registered abnormally low atmospheric temperatures and the Distribution Division was confronted with the task of thawing individual services and restoring frozen fire hydrants to an operating condition. At some locations frost penetrated to an extent of freezing the street mains. This work imposed a heavy burden on the organization.

In spite of the added labor required to maintain service, there was a credible functioning in the various branches of the Water Works.

Service System

Mains in service	-	all sizes	.....2480 miles
Valves in service	-		.....49.903
Fire Hydrants	-		.....20,328

High Pressure Fire System

Mains in service	-	all sizes	..... 63.34 miles
Valves in service	-		..... 1872
Fire Hydrants	-		..... 1070

Breaks on mains were respectively 484 on service and 32 on High Pressure Fire Systems.

Meters

Total number in service	-	209,375
Maintenance and Activities	-	
Repaired in shop	-	16,491
Repaired on Premises	-	3,310

The complaints received during the year were 22,241 and those on hand December 31 - 21,181.

Better results will be effected in this Division due to the acquisition of serviceable motor trucks and an additional shop force. This added equipment was furnished the Bureau late in the Fall and the benefit will not be materially felt until the coming year.

Revenue

Water Rents - Flat Rates:

Current	-	\$2,372,080.69	
Delinquent	-	879,132.62	
		<hr/>	\$3,251,213.31

Meter Rates:

Current	-	\$3,227,619.52	
Delinquent	-	541,687.58	
		<hr/>	\$3,769,307.10

Revenue Continued-

Water Pipe Searches	-	\$1,719.50	
Water Pipe Frontage	-	30,954.08	
Specials	-	6,074.64	
New Services	-	12,290.00	
Meter Repairs	-	57,051.59	
Miscellaneous	-	15,988.67	
		<u>\$124,078.48</u>	
			\$7,144,598.89

Disbursements

Salary and Wages		\$1,227,119.18
Material and Equipment	* xx	<u>1,332,598.38</u>

Total - \$2,559,717.56

\* Amount representing the power and light account of 441,514.42 is included in figures given for Material and Equipment.

xx Includes amount of \$5,000. which was the purchase price of the West Torresdale Water Works.

Respectfully submitted

S. M. VAN LOAN  
Chief, Bureau of Water.