

Pure Water Pledged City By Samuel at Inaugural

MAYOR PROMISES TO END RIVER POLLUTION BY IMPROVING SEWAGE DISPOSAL; WILL NAME COMMISSION TO STUDY UPLAND SOURCES; 1000 ATTEND CEREMONY

By THOMAS P. O'NEIL

To the tune of "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here," trailing off somewhat unhappily into "All We Do Is Sign the Payroll," Bernard Samuel yesterday stepped into office as Mayor of Philadelphia.

Pledges Pure Water Program

As he doffed his hat to the tune of Acting Mayor, Samuel announced he had pledged a pure water program.

Without reservation, he committed himself, his administration, City Council and the new City Planning Commission to 1.

Purification of the city's present sources of drinking water—the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers—by elimination of pollution through completion of sewage disposal facilities and extension of the underground system.

2. Consideration of the feasibility of tapping upland sources for the city's water supply, the question to be studied by a commission to be appointed by the Mayor and its report to include the basis of a plan for financing the project.

Was Promised Before

In making water the principal topic of his inaugural address, heard by a massive and crowd of about 1000 in the Academy of Music,

Read editorial, "The New Mayor Faces a Great Opportunity."

Music, Samuel set no precedent, but rather repeated the promises of a number of his predecessors.

But the pledge to appoint a commission to look into upstate sources of supply, while not new, represented a concession.

Defended Present System

In the campaign that preceded his landslide victory in the November 2 election, the Mayor repeatedly and emphatically defended the present water system as the principal target of the F.C.M.C.

While Samuel made it clear that the cleaning up of the Delaware and Schuylkill is to be first in his program, he left open the question of whether he is willing to yield to public opinion if it insists on something better than "Chlorine

cocktails" of river water.

"Because of the apparent desire on the part of our citizens for a new water supply and the controversies that have been going on for years over this question," he said, "I will appoint a commission to make a complete and thorough survey of sites and recommendations."

Past Results Available

After pointing out that many reports of past surveys will be available to his commission, the Mayor continued:

"The people of Philadelphia have a right to water drawn from upland sources rather than from the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, regardless of whether or not these streams can be made free of pollution. Until a new source is secured, it may be that our city should continue to hold reservations in their minds as to the

"more accurate transportation must be provided for the greatest northeastern section, particularly between Oxford Circle and Penny Park Circle," he said. "There a great area of new development and we provide housing facilities for many thousands of families and substantially increase the tax revenue of the city."

Refers to Bullitt

The first political touch—executive of the band's parchment "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here" serenade—was given to the inauguration by Lieutenant Governor John C. Bell, Jr., who represented the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Obviously referring to William C. Bullitt, Democratic candidate for Mayor, the Lieutenant Governor said:

The second point will first prevent the so-called "city's present water supply," enabling us to deliver a more potable water for all purposes; and second, eliminate obnoxious odors and the unsightly appearance of the bordering rivers, preserving in healthy condition the creeks and streams that are to be retained as part of the city.

Puts Clean-up First

"Many of our people in the past have been concerned mainly with the type of water and its origin, having little concern as to what happens to it after as, but it has become increasingly evident to us, in recent years, that use of our rivers is so great a manner as not to be detrimental either to our best interests as a great industrial city or to our public health conditions. Therefore, it is imperative that we clean up our rivers, and I am determined that this project shall be a 'first' in our program."

"There is no evading this issue and we intend to be prepared with the complete construction plans and the financial resources to do the work."

Promises Sewage Ordinance

The Mayor announced that ordinances covering his sewage and sewage disposal plans will soon be sent to City Council.

What some accepted as a hint

of a sewer tax was seen in this remark:

"There will soon be forwarded to City Council an ordinance providing a method of financing the construction of these facilities."

Will Build New Plants

The Mayor disclosed that it is planned to expand the present Northeast sewage treatment plant and build new plants that will have a combined average daily capacity of 700,000,000 gallons. (The Northeast plant now has a daily capacity of 60,000,000 gallons.)

Chairman McNamee explained that the situation was further complicated by lack of manpower to clean the man beds at the pumping station and the sewage treatment plant.

He said that convict labor is used to do the work. He said at least 70 workers were needed, and only 10 regular employees were available at the plant.

Director Neeson said he had anticipated such a proposal and requested that plans were being prepared to move the inmates from Holmesburg County Prison on the filter beds.

No IDLE FUNDS AVAILABLE

L. Wallace Egan, chairman of the City Council Finance Committee, and "sedimentation" is so bad that capacity has dropped 60 or 70 percent." Decreased supply and increased demand from war industries make a water shortage certain unless action is taken now, Neeson said.

He placed the cost of running the completed systems and servicing the existing and proposed debts at \$6,000,000 a year.

Significantly, he observes that "at the present time, no charge has been made for the use of the sewers, the service being rendered by the city as part of its general operation."

The Mayor stressed his intention to rally heavily on the City Planning Commission for aid in carrying out his plan. Edward H. Hopper, Jr., chairman of the commission, was an attentive listener.

The Mayor held out hope for the new transit facilities for the northeast section, particularly the

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1944

Pledged City by Samuel at Inaugural



Mayor Samuel's Constructive Plan

When Bernard Samuel took the oath of office yesterday as Mayor of Philadelphia for a full term he accepted one of the heaviest responsibilities ever placed upon a new executive.

The job of Mayor the next four years will be no picnic. A period of wartime strain will be followed by that of post-war readjustment, with its employment problem for those returning from military service and those now engaged in war industry. Clamoring for attention, too, will be multitudes of public improvements long needed by this city and long withheld.

It is good to know that Mayor Samuel is not only conscious of the magnitude of the job ahead but is prepared to attack it in a practical way. He has a blue-print for action already laid out. He presented it in his inaugural message and it shapes up as a sensible, constructive plan.

Two agencies will handle the details, the already-at-work City Planning Commission and a separate Commission soon to be appointed for the specific task of studying new water sources for Philadelphia.

Water supply, denominated by Mayor Samuel as the Number One Project, is to be brought at last out of the cedar-chest after years of procrastination. The incoming administration is going to work on it.

The sewage-disposal project is also to be whipped into final shape, ready for action the minute manpower and equipment are freed for the work.

These two improvements rightly top the list, but Mr. Samuel's schedule is not confined to them by any means. He looks ahead to a great system of highway betterments, to the completion and extension of high-speed transit lines, to the removal of the "Chinese Wall" and to the addition of new parks, playgrounds and institutional buildings.

It is noteworthy that all these projects were urged by Inquirer readers in the recent symposium. That survey revealed the public's intense interest in needed improvements. Mr. Samuel's inaugural message shows the importance he places upon getting those improvements underway.

The Mayor is in an exceptionally fortunate position. He has his own wide experience in municipal matters to rely upon. He has the co-operation of a large Councilmanic majority elected on the same ticket with him. He has the good-will of Philadelphia citizens, who kept him at the Mayor's desk by a large vote plurality and who wish him every success.

He told the people yesterday, as he brought his address to a close, that he holds that "Government is a trust . . . created for the benefit of the people." That is a solid foundation for any public administration. Standing firmly on that, he can't go wrong.

Break Stops Supply Of Water Downstream (Continued From Page 1)

finally expanded into a flowing stream which city officials said lifted curbstones four inches long.

Children had a picnic in the water and one resourceful Negro boy, 12, set up a plank bridge on a stone across "drowned Strawberry Creek" and "customers" three units to cross.

Many downtown restaurants feared they would have to close before the water pressure was so low it was difficult to wash dishes and make coffee.

Most of them, however, remained open throughout, in some cases opening water.

Supply Is Diverted

What water there was in the Lawrenceville and Downtown districts was coming in principle through a main over the Polk Avenue and another under the Allegheny River at approximately seventh Street.

Water was diverted into these mains by the City after the break was spotted.

Also unaffected was the main over the St. Bridge which feeds water primarily to the outer Fifth Avenue area.

Many households were forced to go without water. Hundreds of homes and business establishments were unable to use lavatory facilities, but the City Health Department said it did not fear any health hazard would arise.

Fire Engines Checked

Meanwhile, the Fire Department prepared for any emergency by checking booster tank trucks to be sure they were fit for cavity.

Fire Chief William H. Davis explained that trucks carry 100-gallon booster tanks and that, in event of fire, alarms will sound and drivers will be summoned or advised to turn on their lights so the initial call should be closer to exhausting their supplies.

Chief Davis explained that a similar system of tank trucks could be instituted if necessary, whereby one group of trucks would fight the fire while another replenished its booster tank with drinking water directly from the rivers.

Break Not Found

The water main is over 400 feet underground but workers were having difficulty in finding exactly where the break had occurred. It was decided that the city refused to specify a possible cause for the break.

Managing Engineer J. H. Kenon of the Bureau of Water of the city said that at Thirteenth Street and Perry Avenue, dropped from 300 to 30 pounds within hours.

PHILADELPHIA RECORD, FRI

CITY IS FACING 'WATER CRISIS,' NEESON WARNS

He Reveals Plan to Clean Torresdale Filter Beds With Convict Labor

Philadelphia faces a possible "water crisis" this summer, Public Works Director John H. Neeson warned yesterday in announcing a plan to clean the Torresdale filter beds with convict labor at a cost of \$250,000.

The beds have not been cleaned in 30 years, Neeson told the City Council Works Committee. Director Neeson said he had anticipated such a proposal and requested that plans were being prepared to move the inmates from Holmesburg County Prison on the filter beds.

He placed the cost of running the completed systems and servicing the existing and proposed debts at \$6,000,000 a year.

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INQUIRER, 6/5/46

Professor Offers New Water Plan

William S. Pardes, professor of hydraulic engineering at the University of Pennsylvania and chairman of the Committee of 70's water committee, has submitted a new proposal for Philadelphia's future water source which he estimates would cost less than a third of the present plan it favored by City Council.

Mr. Pardes outlined his proposal at a forum in a series of meetings, and the first was at the height of the Council's Public Works Committee.

COST PUT AT \$10,423,000

He asserted that his "Trenton-Wallingford" plan would entail a capital cost of \$110,423,000, as compared to approximately \$347,000,000 for the Wallingford-Bridgeton plan. The cost of the Pardes plan, he said, using Delaware River water below the Trenton Falls, would be 10 percent less, he said.

The cost of the Pardes plan, he said, would be \$4,455,000 a year, or \$30,000 less than Wallingford-Bridgeton and an annual income of \$11,805,000 would be required to amass a 61.5 percent of \$7,300,000 in the current income.

100 DISPLACED PERSONS

Joseph Barnes, speaking for 100 Lawrenceville residents, protested the Pardes plan, which would displace persons of more than 1000 citizens of his community.

Despite the Wallingford-Bridgeton project, now favored by City Council, James H. Allen, executive secretary and chief engineer of the Interstate Company, and the Delaware River Basin, said that the New Jersey "was ready and willing to share the cost and operating expense of Wallingford-Bridgeton" if it could be approved by both State legislatures at their next session.