

WATER RESOURCES AIRD AT HEARING

Metering is Not Essential to Determine Fair Rate, City Engineer Says

Water metering is not an essential factor in determining a fair and equitable water rate, Nathan B. Jacobs, city engineer, testified today at the third day of hearings on the equity suit to determine a fair rate. His proposed imposition of a sewer rental, 2 1/2% proceedings before Judge George S. Fox, in the City Court Building, presented the third attempt to validate a sewer rental in connection with the financing of the city's proposed \$42,000,000 sewage disposal and sewer program. Two other attempts have been made, the first by the State Supreme Court.

Jacobs' testimony contradicted that of Thomas W. Sprague, director of the University of Pennsylvania, who testified yesterday for J. Getzke, complaining taxpayer.

Fordoo had testified it is impossible to have fair and equitable water rents, on which sewer rent is to be based, unless all properties are metered. He presented only 47 per cent are metered.

Calls Metering Desirable

Jacobs contended that metering of water is desirable as a means of a standpoint of water conservation, but said many other factors enter into the determination of a fair rate. "It is standard practice in large cities," said Jacobs, "to charge both a flat rate for unmetered service and a minimum rate for metered service."

He said even the best meters are not absolutely accurate, and in connection with sewer rents which are based on a percentage of a satisfactory sewer meter.

Jacobs disagreed with the recommendation of Fordoo that stand-by sewer charges included in water rents should be a flat rate based on the actual consumption of water. Such a formula has been ruled out by the Pennsylvania Utility Commission—by use by private companies, Jacobs said. Judge Fox pointed out the P. U. C. does not consider the city's rates.

Calls Allowance Too High

Jacobs agreed to the \$800 cubic feet of water allowed for metered services at the minimum price of \$5 1/2 per month and said he would recommend that the quantity be reduced. He said the service given justified the charge, but \$5 is listed as a service charge. The chief factor in cutting the minimum water allowance was the cost of water and prevent wastage, Jacobs said.

Samuel A. Greely, of Chicago, a hydraulic and sanitary engineer, said a nationwide study of city water rates was being made by the State of New York for the purpose of a sewer rental for Philadelphia is the proposed percentage of the gross income of the city's property owners, enacted April 20.

Frank C. Doust and Company, Inc., has purchased from the City of New York \$100,000 of property and lot on which it will build a plant enabling an increase in production facilities. The Doust Company, a long established local industry now working on high priced contracts during the past few months, is planning to use the new building for pipe zinc work.

The Reading Chamber of Commerce reports the following countries have located in its area in the past thirty days. DeGeorge Clothing Co., Philadelphia; L. D. Adams Engineering Company and the Wernersville Welding Company.

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Early Charge Demanded
The financing of the city's Public Works was recalled briefly by J. Wesley McWilliams, counsel for George S. Fox, who said the city would attempt to enforce the new sewer rents before the end of the year. He said the sewage disposal program should be held up. City Solicitor Frank P. Truscott denied the trustee to the court the language of the ordinances provides that rent cannot be effective until the city has made the work have been awarded.

Beside Getzke the complainants who are opposing Pennsylvania intervenors are the Philadelphia Real Estate Board, represented by Philip S. H. 1933, but the public works and West Philadelphia Realty Boards, for whom Oscar G. Bender, Mayor, promoter of the Olden Times, met with a host of opposition.

Flotation Plant To Remove Silt In Mine Water

Construction of a flotation plant by an anthracite coal company to remove silt from its waste waters was announced today by the Pennsylvania Anthracite Coal and Iron Company in its weekly compilation of new and expanded industry.

Said to be the first plant of type, the new mill is being built by the Leigh Navigation Coal Company near Schuylkill, Pa. The Tamaqua plant and two other proposed water clarifying units at the company's Coalfields and Lansford collieries will cost an estimated one million dollars.

The new plant, built over a period of experimentation, is expected to make a profit on its coal recovery operations which will more than pay for the cost of the plant and waste waters. The project will be closely observed by other coal producers of the area, who create similar plants if the Leigh project is successful.

A New York manufacturer has leased a building in Scranton containing 10,000 square feet of floor space where 100 persons, mainly women, will be employed in the manufacture of misses' and junior dresses. The new company, said to be headed by Mrs. J. H. Lapid, will start operations in the factory formerly occupied by the Pennsylvania Coal Company after the first of January.

The rug company will move into a new building, formerly the Robert Brewster, which it recently purchased.

The Scranton Record Company has purchased three buildings from the Lackawanna Mills in a move to expand production facilities. The buildings are in the South Scranton industrial district.

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Schuylkill Cleanup Near After 100 Years Pollution

By LEEDS
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One day back in 1812 a man named George Shoemaker arrived in Philadelphia and laid a market for the coal he had mined on some land he owned near Pottsville.

He was by no means the first to exploit Pennsylvania anthracite. The Leigh Coal Company had been organized as far back as 1813, but the public was skeptical of the "stone coal" because it was so hard to ignite. Most promoters were looking out to break down the popular prejudice.

Met Opposition
Shoemaker's reception was anything but encouraging. He brought nine wagonloads of coal with him and as John P. Watson wrote later in his "Annals of Philadelphia and Vicinity," the "Olden Times," he "met with a host of opposition."

"On two wagonloads," Watson wrote, "Mr. S. got the carriage paid; the others he gave away to persons who would attempt to use them. The result was against the coal; those who tried them brought them home and not coal, good for nothing, and Shoemaker an impostor."

At a time when a multitude of disappointments, and when Shoemaker was about to abandon the coal and return home, Messrs. Mellon and Bishop, of Delaware County, and the Pennsylvania Anthracite Coal and Iron Company, of the coal in their rolling mill and found them to succeed beyond expectation and to be a highly valuable and useful fuel.

Coal Tried Out
The results of their experiments was published at the time in the Philadelphia papers. Some of the anthracite was used in the Phoenix Works, at French Creek, Pa., a mill for the iron and found it eminently useful.

"From that time forward the use of coal spread rapidly and now bids fair to become a most important and valuable branch of trade and to produce results highly beneficial to the interests of Pennsylvania generally."

Watson's prophecy, written a century ago, has been fulfilled more abundantly than he could have dreamed. The waste water was that, as a corollary, the Pennsylvania's principal forerays would be destroyed and Philadelphia's water supply imperiled by the industry's waste.

Choked With Silt
The name of the Schuylkill, which means "hidden river," has become an ironic pun, for the stream is choked today with 25,000,000 tons of coal silt.

At Fairmount Dam the silt is piled up so consistently that 9,000,000 tons of it between the dam and Norrisstown, the "pool" which half of Philadelphia depends for its water supply. In short, about half of the amount of Flat Rock dam is there is a concentration of more than 5,000,000 tons enough to cover Broad st. 10 feet deep for its whole length.

The silt is so shallow in consequence that the Water Bureau reports that "for relatively long periods during the winter months the entire flow of Schuylkill River is pumped, mixed and supplied for domestic use for domestic use, so that the city is now suffering from an inadequate supply."

Under consideration in the Legislature. It was not until 1937, during the Earl C. Administration, that a law was enacted covering both sewage and industrial pollution. Now, seven years later, the overdue cleanup finally seems to be in sight.

The State Sanitary Water Board, under prodding from the Schuylkill Valley Restoration Association and the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, finally cracked down on the mines last summer.

This was the start of a \$25,000,000 industrial State-Federal program to restore the Schuylkill in a six-year period.

Details of Plan
The mines are to install proper equipment for removing the silt from their waste water and preventing erosion of the cullm banks, at a total cost of \$6,000,000. The State will dredge out upper Schuylkill above Norrisstown at a cost of \$7,000,000 and build 22,000 desilting basins at Auburn to intercept the coal wastes from uncontrolled sources before they are allowed to flow from the headwaters, for several more years.

The plan has given the program his indorsement and legislation is now being drafted for introduction at the session which opens today. Meanwhile, efforts are being made to induce the Federal Government to dredge out the 9,000,000 tons of silt between Fairmount Dam and Norrisstown—a job estimated at about \$10,000,000.

Planned by Army Man
The cleanup program was drafted by the same man who plotted the D-Day landings in Normandy for Eisenhower—an Army engineer named John C. H. Lee. In 1938 Lee, now a lieutenant general, was a lieutenant colonel and district engineer stationed in Philadelphia.

At that time the Federal Government declined to do any dredging in the non-navigable part of the river. The plan was to lift the silt between here and Norrisstown gradually "wash over the dam into the river, when the Government would scoop it out."

Want U. S. to Do It
Now the cleanup forces, led by Orphanas' Court Judge Grover C. Lader, president of the Schuylkill Valley Restoration Association, and the quasi-governmental Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, contend that the Federal Government is going to do the dredging eventually anyway. It would be better to do it all at once and get it over.

The Army engineers at Congress are trying to get the 1938 report and bringing it up to date with that proposal in mind. The restudy will be finished in about two weeks.

This is the second of three articles. Tomorrow: Do we need a new source of water?

James Body To Study Water Supply

Continued From First Page
His post-war plan, and no time should be lost in the preparation of the Bureau of Water, which will establish our place permanently as a leader in the industry and commerce and improve living conditions in our city.

OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP
Other members of the water supply conservation committee are: John H. Neeson, Director of Public Works; Martin J. McLaughlin, Director of the Bureau of Water; Frank P. Truscott, City Solicitor; Frederick Garman, president of City Council; Councilman Philip H. Gros; Judge Grover C. Lader; Robert C. Renney, Jr., of Richard C. Renney & Co.; Lee E. Kimmick, publisher Daily News; Gilbert J. Kraus, city president and general-counsel; Philadelphia Record; Robert M. Olay Green, assistant general manager of The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Also, Herbert W. Goddard, president, Trademarks National Council; William H. Harmon, president, William Sellers & Co.; Joseph Burke, president, Building and Construction Trades Council of Philadelphia and Vicinity; James H. Allen, executive secretary, Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin; Earle N. Barber, president, Philadelphia Real Estate Board; George Sumner, executive secretary, Business' Association; Thomas Mallon, regional director, American National Chamber of Commerce Block, president, Philadelphia Industrial Union Council.

WILL REVIEW ALL DATA
Mayor Samuel asserted that the new commission would review all previous recommendations for the improvement of Philadelphia's water supply, including data and reports of Public Works files and all other reports and estimates relative to the water situation and would also advise, make final recommendations for approval or disapproval at the polls, by referendum, in 1946.

In stressing that he felt the commission should make its own independent suggestions, he declared that he body should:

"First, set forth in detail what could be expected from the improvement of the present source of supply in adequate quantity and quality for required by the city, showing its cost."

SOURCE OF SUPPLY
Second, give a recommended source or sources of supply outside the city, showing the cost, the quantity and quality of water which could be received from each source, and the methods suggested to finance the undertakings."

He added that the commission, in determining "whether or not an improved present water source would give a better quantity and quality of water required by the city" should consider "the improved and the cost of the pumping stations, filtration plants and extended distribution being undertaken in the current \$18,000,000 water supply program."

WORK DELAYED BY WAR
The project was authorized several years ago but work on it has been delayed by the war.

Mayor Samuel further stated that "the project is being given a definite program, to be known as the Philadelphia Plan for the Improvement of the Water Supply," and said he wished to "re-emphasize the importance of the project, and its bearing on the future of the city."

The project, he said, "is part of

His own Water Commission will find itself studying the quantity as well as the quality of water that can be taken by the city from the Delaware and Schuylkill. And in past reports it can get plenty of instruction on how to avoid going wrong on the amount that will be needed.

A Water Commission that reported in 1932 put the average daily consumption at that time at 325,000,000 gallons and estimated that in 1975 the figure would be 500,000,000.

But in 1944, 20 years later, the consumption averaged only 320,000,000 gallons a day. Summer conservation campaigns have been effective, but the savings from them have probably been more than offset by increased demands of war industries. One thing the 1924 Commission may have overlooked is the saving possible through detecting and stopping underground leaks. The latest pitometer survey is credited with saving 2,700,000 gallons a day.

Another way to go wrong is to overestimate the city's future growth. A survey in 1914 predicted a population of 3,695,000 in 1950—leaving over a million to go in the present decade. Statistics like that easily build up a false case for acquiring additional sources.

The firm of engineers that advised the city in 1940 believed that water project conservation measures, including universal metering, the present sources were adequate for a population of 2,500,000.