

65-CENT GAS CAN PAY PROFIT, SAYS EXPERT'S REPORT

Chief Dickerman Bases His Assertion on Figures From Several Cities

82 CENTS IN MILWAUKEE Privately Owned Companies Also Pay Taxes From 5 to 8 Cents a Thousand

In place of the present rate of \$1 a thousand cubic feet charged the public, the United Gas Improvement Company could apply as to consumers at 65 cents as a profitable business proposition, according to comparisons with rates charged in other cities, made by Judson C. Dickerman, chief of the Gas Bureau in his annual report on the work of that bureau this year.

A table of cost of gas in 20 large cities compiled from records of Public Service Commissions, such as should be available in this State in a few years, shows that the total average cost of gas is a thousand cubic feet; in Boston, 42 cents; in New York and Baltimore, 42 cents; and nine other cities, mostly Eastern and all smaller cities than Philadelphia, 45 cents or less.

It also shows that these privately owned companies have to pay a tax of 5 cents on each thousand cubic feet of gas sold. But the United Gas Improvement Company in Philadelphia pays no taxes, but gives free service worth at cost a little less than 5 cents a thousand cubic feet. Also shows that, by comparison with the known results in other cities, if an equitable arrangement could be made now, gas could be delivered to consumers at 65 cents a thousand and still do the following: 5 cents on each thousand sold would pay the lessees \$500,000 a year clear cash; 6 cents on each thousand sold would pay all wages and salaries, materials for operations and repairs; 10 cents on each thousand sold would pay for all necessary extensions, improvements and replacements; 5 cents on each thousand sold would pay the city \$500,000 either in cash or free service at cost (which would be more than it gets now); 5 cents on each thousand sold would leave a balance or surplus of \$500,000 for an emergency fund.

WORK OF THE BUREAU. As to the work of the Gas Bureau under present conditions, Chief Dickerman says: "The bureau tests at the city and elsewhere are now made without previous notice to any employee of the gas company. All except one of the employees of the bureau are trained engineers, four being college graduates. Such men are competent to make the tests and do the other work necessary to safeguard the consumers' interests in the quality of the gas which Philadelphia receives from the \$10,000,000 a year. Any business man would find himself fortunate to have in his employ such intelligent and trained employees as are now doing effective work for the city at very moderate salaries.

"The bureau in the future may become a dead one, being a mere opiate for the public, or it may continue to do live important work in studying all phases of the city's interests in the very important gas problems concerned with a \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000 annual business and a property worth \$30,000,000 to \$40,000,000, intimately associated with the comfort and safety of all the citizens.

"If given the opportunity for progressive work, capable trained men will seek the positions for the serious and useful. If restricted to the dead letter of narrow inspection, only down-and-outers will want the jobs for the salaries attached. The city cannot hope to get any service of value from such employees.

"The present bureau staff is very ready to co-operate with the gas company management to aid as it may in maintaining and service, but it insists on being free from control or influence by the gas company. It believes that anything short of the very best and most up-to-date quality and service would be little less than a crime against Philadelphia, in view of the \$2,000,000 or \$3,000,000 clear profit made each year from the gas now sold and the larger profits of the future."

Radnor Demands New Auto Tags Radnor township has handed an ultimatum to motorists to the effect that they shall have their 1916 license tags by the first of the year, or there will be trouble for the motorists. The township has also decreed that 1915 tags must be used until the end of the year, or the police department will be heard from.

LAUNDRY GIRLS HAVE CHRISTMAS DINNER SERVED IN OWN PLANT



One hundred women and twenty men, the entire factory force of the Quaker City Laundry, 48th street above Chestnut, enjoyed a Christmas dinner on Saturday as a present from their employers, Charles H. Kendrick and W. Freeland Kendrick. The dinner took place in the laundry and consisted of a plentiful supply of luscious turkeys with all the "fixins," preceded by soup and fish and succeeded by mince pie, pumpkin pie and various kinds of ice cream.

GRIP GERMS FLEE AS STORM CLEARS AWAY DAMPNESS

Deaths of Week 946

HEALTH WARNING ISSUED

The high wind, rain and snow which drove off the springlike weather of Christmas Day also smothered the grip epidemic, according to Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, Commissioner of Health, by carrying off the dampness and humidity and replacing it with a dry atmosphere.

An immediate improvement in the condition of grip sufferers was noticed yesterday by physicians, despite the fact that the total number of deaths reported was 115, making a grand total for the week of 946, or nearly double that of the corresponding week last year.

PREVENTIVES NECESSARY. "The increased death rate during the prevalence of grip since the 14th century makes it plain that the health authorities should give preventive measures more attention than heretofore," he said in a statement issued yesterday.

DAMAGE FROM STORM. The windstorm which smothered the epidemic of grip, by suddenly clearing the atmosphere and dispersing the humidity, caused much damage throughout the States along the coast. The wind turned to rain and then to snow yesterday, followed by a temperature at about the freezing point.

COW BREAKS RECORD. One more record has been broken by a native of Narberth. This time it was none other than Garclauth May Mischief, the prize-winning bovine of the Percival Roberts, Jr., Parkhurst Farm, May Mischief has hung up a new record, according to her owner, of six quarts of milk in one day.

Like Finding Money U. S. LOAN SOCIETY. Lowest Rates on Diamonds and Jewelry 117 N. Broad St. Branch 414 South 5th Street

IMMIGRATION SHOWS BIG DECLINE HERE

Only 20 Aliens Have Arrived in Port in Past Month. War the Cause

Immigration at this port has diminished to the extent that 76 more aliens left port than have arrived during the year. Since the war began the number of immigrants has been steadily decreasing, until during this month only 20 arrived, as compared with 372 for the same period last year.

During the year 2165 aliens left here, most of them being Italians going to enter the war.

The statistics on immigrants arriving in 1915 and 1914, by months, are:

Table with 4 columns: Year, Month, 1915, 1914. Rows for Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, and Totals.

Contingent Upon Death of Brother and Sisters of Testatrix. Contingent upon the death of a brother and two sisters, Hannah Thomas, late of 1822 Mount Vernon street, by her will, probated today, left an estate valued at \$22,500 in equal shares to the Baptist Home at 17th and Morris streets and the Baptist Orphanage at Ambora, Philadelphia.

At 5th and Norris streets and 5th and Diamond streets fences were torn down, while a big sign at the northeast corner of 15th street and Columbia avenue was carried half a block before the wind and wedged in between two doorsteps.

The temperature yesterday was 43 at its highest and 31 at its lowest point. It was 20 degrees at 3 o'clock this morning, according to the Weather Bureau, with the humidity at 83.

Women's, Misses' and Girls' Underwear and Negligee, Suits, Coats, Dresses. Waists, Furs and Millinery

CITY SOLICITOR-ELECT PLANS MANY CHANGES

Connelly Plans to Make "Clean Sweep" in Legal Department Staff

Wholesale changes in the City Solicitor's office will be virtually the only appointments to be made in City Hall at this time by the incoming administration.

Nearly the entire staff of assistants to the City Solicitor will be changed by City Solicitor-elect John P. Connelly, who expects to announce his appointments before he goes into office next Monday.

Mayor-elect Thomas H. Smith will leave Philadelphia tomorrow for a few days' rest, without announcing his transit director or his appointments to the Civil Service Commission. These are the only principal appointments that the Mayor-elect still has to make.

All of the departments in City Hall, with the exception of the Sheriff, Recorder of Deeds and the County Commissioners, remain in the control of the same political factions as before and virtually no changes in the office forces are looked for.

UNCLE SAM NURSES BUSINESS, NOT BABIES

High Death Rate Among Overworked Mothers Noted by Children's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—This nation is more interested in nursing its business than its babies, said a special report today by the Children's Bureau regarding the high death rate among babies of overworked mothers.

An infant death rate of 134 of every 1000 in a steel-making and coal-mining town, where mothers work out, against 84 in 1900, in a residential suburb, was declared to indicate a higher mortality when mothers are overworked.

Fell Unconscious on Street; Dead Harry Carnahan, connected with the advertising department of the Broadway Theatre, broad street and Snyder avenue, died in the St. Anna Hospital at noon today, after falling unconscious at 15th street and Washington avenue. Carnahan, it is said, was suffering from ptomaine poisoning. He was found on the pavement and rushed to the hospital in a patrol wagon, but before anything could be done he died. Carnahan was 38 years old and lived at 834 North 8th street.

FREIGHT TO NEW YORK SHIPPED BY MOTOR

Service Established for Accommodation of Philadelphia Manufacturers

Philadelphia manufacturers who have been handicapped in their shipments to New York city by the freight embargo of the Pennsylvania Railroad, find a new method of shipment offered to them by George W. Mink, Jr., 100 Arch street. Mr. Mink is operating big five-ton motor trucks between New York and Philadelphia, which, he believes, enable shippers here to overcome the obstacle thrown in the path of their business by the announcement of the railroad that it could not carry goods to New York because of the congested condition of the line and the lack of freight cars.

Mr. Mink says he started his line of inter-city freight trucks because of a desire to help out shippers affected by the embargo and because he saw an opportunity to put his trucks at work profitably at a time when he found the use for them was not so pressing as usual. He asserts that it is a big saving in time and is more satisfactory than shipping by rail.

Among firms expected to take advantage of Mr. Mink's proposition are makers of munitions of war here, who are likely to have difficulty filling their contracts with foreign governments because of the railroad embargo. Thus far, no munitions of war have been carried.

The firms manufacturing war munitions on the largest scale, such as the du Pont Power Company, are shipping to New York by water, but many of the smaller firms are dependent on the railroad, and it is thought that they will shortly have recourse to Mr. Mink's motor line.

A flat rate per truck load has been established by Mr. Mink. He charges \$70 a load for shipments to Manhattan, \$5 extra if the destination is in the Bronx, and still another \$5 more if it is in Brooklyn. If the shipper wants to send a load over and bring another back he will find a greatly reduced rate—perhaps only \$50 for the return trip.

Mr. Mink contends that shippers have a great advantage in sending their goods via his trucks, for the automobiles call at the factory and take the goods direct to the point of destination, saving the loading and unloading at the train.

U. S. CONSUL REPORTS JAPANESE LINER SUNK WITHOUT WARNING

Official Confirmation of Attack on Yasaka Received—One American Aboard—All Saved

FRENCH SHIP TO RESCUE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The State Department today announced the receipt of a cable from Consul Bristow at Port Said, announcing that the Japanese liner Yasaka was sunk without warning. Consul Bristow's cable reached the department Christmas day, but was not given out until Secretary Lansing had seen it.

Consul Bristow stated that the 130 passengers and 182 members of the crew picked up by a French gunboat, were landed at Port Said. W. J. Leigh, an American, was among the passengers. Bristow's message stated that the periscope of the submarine was not seen until the liner was sinking. The vessel sank just 23 minutes after being torpedoed. The nationality of the submarine is not known.

Following is the text of Consul Bristow's cable: "The Yasaka Maru was sunk without warning. No attempt was made to escape. Periscope was not seen until after torpedo struck vessel. She sank in 23 minutes. One hundred and twenty passengers, one American, W. J. Leigh, and 182 crew, took to boats and were followed by submarine, nationality unknown, until French gunboat approached. No lives lost."

No Skating on Park Lakes. Guards in Fairmount and Hunting Parks refused to allow skaters on the ice today. The ice looked good, but the guards tested it and found it was not safe.

ASK FOR AND GET HORLICK'S THE ORIGINAL MALTED MILK. Cheap substitutes cost YOU same price.

George Allen, Inc. 1214-CHESTNUT ST.—1214 Smart Hats and Turbans. Newest Gold and Breast Effects. To clear our entire stock quickly, remarkably low prices— \$4 to \$12. Sale of Odds and Ends from Xmas Stocks Save 1/3 to 1/2. Handkerchiefs, Ribbons, Tapestry Boxes, Starr-jed Goods, Silks, Hosiery, Neck Fixings, Laces, Sweet Grass Baskets, Ivory Toilet Articles, Trimmings, Knit Underwear.

You Must Have Records. With four stores, we have the largest stock in the city. Write for the New Complete Catalogue, just issued. Also monthly Supplements. New Records Out Tomorrow Talking Machine Company. Victor Distributors. Broad above Walnut. Three branches open evenings. Broad & Columbia Ave. 52d & Chestnut Sts. 4124 Lancaster Ave.

BONWIT TELLER & CO. The Specialty Shop of Originations. CHESTNUT AT 13th STREET. Announce Continuation of Their Annual Half Yearly Clearing Sale. Women's, Misses' and Girls' Underwear and Negligee, Suits, Coats, Dresses. Waists, Furs and Millinery. At Tremendous Reductions.

Thinking of Going South for the Winter? Where the air is balmy and all out-of-doors smiles you a welcome. Visit (or write) to LEDGER CENTRA Travel and Resort Bureau (Broad and Chestnut) and get complete information regarding Florida or any other section of the Southland. At no expense to you, will be furnished time tables (railroad or steamship), hotel literature, rates, length of time involved—in fact, a complete itinerary showing in detail how you can best enjoy a winter vacation. Don't hesitate, the beautiful Southland awaits you.