

CONTRAST IN PRICE OF GAS HERE AND IN BALTIMORE

Consolidated Company in Monumental City Celebrates Centennial by Reducing Minimum Cost to Consumers to 35 Cents Per 1000 Feet.

Price of Gas Here Exceeds Rate in Smaller Cities

The price of gas is a subject of deep interest to the head of every family in this city.

Residents of Philadelphia are paying \$1 per 1000 feet for gas, while consumers in both larger and smaller neighboring cities are paying much less.

The Evening Ledger sent a special representative to inquire into gas conditions in Baltimore, a city with less than half the population of Philadelphia. His report follows.

One hundred years ago the city of Baltimore was the first American city to adopt gas as an illuminant.

The Consolidated Gas Company, which today supplies Baltimore with gas, is the direct successor of the original parent company.

The Consolidated company has taken a unique and fitting method of celebrating this centennial by virtually making the consumers of gas in Baltimore profit shareholders in its business.

It began the celebration last year by making a rate of 35 cents per 1000 feet to manufacturing plants, which naturally consume very large quantities of gas.

It continued the celebration this year by reducing the price of gas for domestic consumption from 50 cents per 1000 feet to 35 cents per 1000.

A few days ago it put a climax to the centennial celebration by offering to every domestic consumer whose largest consumption of gas for any one month in 1915 was 4000 feet or over, a rate of 35 cents per 1000 feet on all gas he may consume in any month during 1916 in excess of his largest month in 1915.

For example, if a household's largest consumption in any one month in 1915 had been 2000 feet, with this liberal offer he may wish to use gas during 1916 for a great many purposes, which an amount even a 25-cent rate would make prohibitive.

But with only a 25-cent rate to consider for his excess consumption, he may conclude that gas is cheaper and cleaner than coal for the heating of his house, for a constant hot water supply, for all cooking purposes or for one or all of the many modern household uses to which gas can be put.

If by using gas in this manner he should double his former maximum monthly cost, he has the satisfaction of knowing that the excess gas used is only costing his 25 cents per 1000 feet—a rate which is only 5 cents per 1000 more than natural gas costs consumers in such favorable locations in the natural gas belt as Pittsburgh and surrounding cities, where the rate to domestic consumers for natural gas is 30 cents per 1000.

35 CENTS PER 1000 FEET. Or if he wishes to look at the matter from another point of view, he can figure out that, while he has doubled his normal consumption of gas, he has brought down the average cost to 35 cents per 1000, and that a greater consumption will still further reduce his average cost. This is a well-known principle of co-operation where increased consumption reduces the cost to the consumer.

It is also a plain business proposition without a thought of philanthropy.

The gas company is in business to manufacture and distribute gas. The more gas it manufactures and sells the more money it will make.

Like all gas companies that supply large cities, its equipment must be carried to the heaviest possible strain which any emergency may impose on it.

This maximum strain occurs in midwinter, between the hours of 5 p. m. and midnight, when the company is called upon to supply gas to all the street lamps, to stores and dwelling houses, which are then consuming their maximum for the day.

At other times all this machinery for the manufacture and distribution of gas is more than 50 per cent. idle, but the expenses of running it must go on all the same.

PARALLEL CONDITIONS HERE. The condition is parallel to our city fire stations, which we must keep up to the point of greatest efficiency, although 90 per cent. of the time they are idle.

The officers of the Consolidated Gas Company, in Baltimore, reason that the average household, if he could obtain gas at the lowest possible rate, would use more of it day and night.

Their making this statement is merely making this statement for the excess consumption the company has only taken into consideration the additional cost of manufacture and distribution without regard whatever to the capitalization or cost of the present established plant or the present fixed charges of operation.

At the offices of the United Gas Improvement Company Lewis Lillie, third vice president and treasurer, said he was very much interested in hearing of the Baltimore experiment, but that the matter was a purely local one, and while it may work out satisfactorily in Baltimore, it did not follow that it would do so in other places.

He said the Consolidated Gas Company deserves great credit for having worked out the problem as it has done, and he hoped it would find it successful.

CITY FIXES PRICE TO CONSUMER. When asked if the United Gas Improvement Company made a special low rate to industrial plants in Philadelphia, Mr. Lillie explained how the company had nothing whatever to do with the rates charged to Philadelphia consumers under the present gas lease with the city, and said the making of rates for the consumer was up to the city government.

"Philadelphia gas consumers are paying a rate of \$1 per 1000 feet," continued Mr. Lillie. "The city pays the United Gas Improvement Company 30 cents per 1000 feet at present under the lease, the difference of 20 cents per 1000 being turned into the city treasury and ostensibly goes toward the reduction of taxes. Last year this payment amounted to about \$2,000,000. In addition to this the United Gas Improvement Company, under the terms of the present lease, furnishes free gas to all the street lamps, and all city departments using gas. It keeps the street lamps in repair, providing them with Welsbach mantles, also free of cost. In addition to the termination of the present lease, all permanent improvements, additions, service pipes, etc., which the company adds to the present plant, and which amounts to

from \$500,000 to \$700,000 a year, become the property of the city.

"There would be nothing gained," said Mr. Lillie, "by discussing whether the United Gas Improvement Company could carry out in Philadelphia a program similar to that inaugurated by the Consolidated Gas Company in Baltimore, because, as I have said, it is a local proposition and would have to be figured out very exhaustively, and because the terms of our present lease preclude even its consideration."

"After next year I believe," said Mr. Lillie, "the price which the city will pay us for gas under the lease will be 75 cents per 1000, so that unless the city government reduces the price to consumers, which it has the right to do under the lease, the amount to be paid to the city treasury should be largely in excess of \$2,000,000."

MOTHER OF DROWNED BOY CRITICALLY ILL

Gilbert Shisler Died Hero, Trying to Save Harry Story From Ice

Thin ice and a double drowning, which ended the David-and-Jonathan friendship of 16-year-old J. Gilbert Shisler, of 8077 Moro street, Holmesburg, a boy hero, and 17-year-old Harry Story, of 929 Frankford avenue, has caused the serious illness of the latter's mother, Mrs. William R. McCartney, who today is in the care of a physician at her home.

The mother, with her husband, a dry goods merchant, was one of the score of persons who yesterday stood on the Rhawn street bridge watching hurrying men with boats searching the broken ice of Pennypack Creek for two drowned boys. When the limp form of her son was taken from the water she fainted and for a time was in critical condition.

Young Shisler, one of 12 children of Walter Shisler, a City Hall engineer, died a hero in a vain effort to save his friend. He could have saved himself, spectators said, but chose to gamble with death when thin ice cracked and broke under his friend. Desperate efforts to save both the boys were made by Thomas Maguire and William Smith, both of 2815 Jasper street, who were among the first to arrive on the scene. The former was pulled from the water unconscious, and both were sent to bed. The bodies were recovered about half an hour after the accident and hurried to the Frankford Hospital, where efforts were made in vain to revive the boys.

Theft of Jam Laid to Boy. A fondness for jam is at the bottom of the sorrowful story of 14-year-old William Kellner, 5th street and Haverford avenue, who is at the House of Detention today, according to the police, who accuse him of breaking into the store of his employer, Benjamin Rose, 5th and Arch streets, and stealing a number of things. Chief among them, though, the police point out, are 10 jars of raspberry jam. This is said to have been the motive for the robbery.

40-Room Arch St. Apartment Sold. A 40-room apartment at 1933-35 Arch street has been purchased by John F. Lewis from Albert E. Koch. The property, which measures 40 by 134 feet, was held for sale at \$22,000.

Young people need clear complexions. If you find yourself "left out" because of a poor skin, and want a clear, fresh complexion, use Resinol Soap.



at least once a day. Wash thoroughly with a warm, creamy lather of it, then rinse the face with plenty of cold water.

It does not often take many days of such regular care with Resinol Soap to show an improvement, because the Resinol medication soothes and refreshes the skin, while the perfectly pure soap is cleansing it.

In severe or stubborn cases, Resinol Soap should be aided by a little Resinol Ointment. All druggists sell them. For samples free, write to Dept. 22-P, Resinol, Baltimore, Md.

MRS. MOHR WINS POINT IN TRIAL FOR MURDER

Judge Rules Evidence Against Negroes Must Not Weigh Against Wife of Murdered Doctor

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Jan. 23. The State just before winding up its case today put in its most damaging testimony against the two negroes on trial for the murder of Dr. Charles F. Mohr.

Mrs. Elizabeth Frances Mohr, charged with being an accessory before the fact, scored an unexpected advantage when Justice Stearns instructed the jury not to let the evidence weigh against the woman.

Miss Gertrude Stevenson, of Boston, gave the damaging evidence. She was on the stand when court adjourned last Friday.

She related statements made to her by Victor Brown, Henry Spellman and George Heald in Bristol Jail. She said they asked her about Mrs. Mohr, and Brown asked her to tell Mrs. Mohr to get him a lawyer. The Attorney General read to the jury the note identified by Miss Stevenson, which she said Brown asked her to give to his sister. She gave it to the police. The note told of Brown's plan for an attack and asked the sister to back him up.

William H. Lewis, the Boston negro lawyer, made her admit that she had the companions of the police when she saw the negroes and that she allowed them to assume that she came from Mrs. Mohr, but the negro lawyer attorney failed to shake Miss Stevenson's story.

Miss Stevenson won the sympathy of the women when at the end of her ordeal she broke down and left the room crying hysterically.

The cross-examination of the girl and E. Heald, who followed her, was so long that the State was not ready to rest, as expected, at luncheon recess.

Thomas Sharp, a garage owner, testified that Brown left a motorcycle in his place some time after 9 o'clock on the night of the murder.

Mrs. Mohr finished when Robert Root, Deputy Clerk of the Court, identified papers in the divorce suit and equity action pending between her and the physician at the time of the tragedy.

GRIP TAKES THREE SISTERS

Langhorne Family, All More Than 80, Die in a Week

LANGHORNE, Pa., Jan. 23.—A double funeral was held here yesterday for two of three sisters, all three of whom died within a week as a result of the epidemic of grip.

The three lived together and each was more than 80 years of age. The two buried yesterday were Dr. Hannah Whitson Lovell and Mrs. Lydia W. Wiley. The third sister was Miss Angeline Whitson. All were buried in the Middletown Friends' Burying Ground.

Fish on Sunday and Go to Jail. HENRICKLY, N. J., Jan. 24.—Paul Van-der-voort and Edie Kitch have been arrested for fishing on Sundays and fined \$100 and costs. They were unable to pay the fine and were sent to jail.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOY HURT

Three-Year-Old Milton Dround Went to Hospital Instead

Three-year-old Milton Dround, who lives at 33 De Lancey street, has not yet returned home from his first trip to Sunday school, which took him out of the house yesterday.

He is at the Pennsylvania Hospital, where physicians are treating compound fractures of both legs and trying to alleviate the pain that comes from his internal injuries.

Five minutes after the boy left the house he was run down by a delivery wagon of the Manchester Laundry Company as he was crossing 8th street at De Lancey.

NOT LIKE THE POLITICIANS

But the Harmony These Children Sought Was in Delaware

Annie and Johnny yearned to return to Harmony.

They are safe at home, at 3200 Wharton street, today, but still they long for the scenes of their late home at Harmony, that Delaware village. The street cars and the noisy people of the city do not appeal to them.

Annie, who is 7 years old, and Johnny, who is 5 years old, took 75 cents and a box of candy and began their venturesome pilgrimage back to Harmony yesterday. They rode to Darby on a trolley and then changed to another car, which took them to Chester. Here the awfulness of their bold trip appalled them and they forgot how to go to Harmony and were so frightened they could tell no one. The police took charge of them, and their father, John Stowman, brought them home last night. Perhaps Annie and Johnny will like Philadelphia better as they become accustomed to it.



200 SLIGHTLY USED AND SHOP-WORN PIANOS

Each and every one of these instruments is a bona fide bargain—no instruments bought in order to make a sale, but taken as part payment on Matchless Cunningham Pianos and Player-Pianos and sent to our factory, where they were made as near new as possible.

The prices represent the actual allowances made and the terms can be arranged to suit your convenience.

The following are a few of the many instruments that go on sale today:

Table listing piano models and prices, including J. P. Haines mahogany, Hallet & Cumston mahogany, Grovestein & Fuller mahogany, Boardman & Gray rosewood, J. C. Pardee walnut, Sherman, Clay & Co. mahogany, etc.

A FEW SLIGHTLY USED PLAYER-PIANOS AT PROPORTIONATELY LOW PRICES

Cunningham PIANO CO. 11th and Walnut Streets, FACTORY, 50th and Parkside Avenue. Includes contact information and a coupon for a catalog.

White Buck Tennis Oxfords for the men who are going South. Steigerwalt 1420 Chestnut St. "Where Only the Best is Good Enough"