

NORTHEAST WATER SUPPLY CRITICIZED
 Municipal Research Bureau Says Limited Facilities Retard Development
LONG SERIES OF MAINS
 Although the Frankford elevated is a reality, it is futile to expect a boom in the northeast section of Philadelphia until an adequate water supply is provided for the undeveloped areas there, the Bureau of Municipal Research stated today.
 A brief survey of what may be called the "undeveloped northeast" reveals a section of the city lying to the north and east of Front street, between the Delaware River and the Montgomery and Bucks County lines, some nine miles long and five miles wide, the largest unincorporated area in the city.
 This area of about forty-five square miles is composed largely of open farms, some built-up but isolated communities. The long frontage on the river, the New York division of the Pennsylvania Railroad and the several branch lines that traverse it afford to this section untold advantages for industrial growth. Adequate transportation is assured by surface trolley lines and bus line feeders to the elevated at Frankford. Much of the elevated is high ground and the Roosevelt Boulevard, running through the heart of the section, invites high-class residential development.
Water Facilities Needed
 And yet with all these advantages, the growth of that section must inevitably be throttled, if not entirely checked, by the utter lack of water supply facilities. A small area along the river is served by private water companies, and the city has one small supply main—already overtaxed—running through Bustleton and Byberry. The remainder of that northeast section is entirely without a central water supply.
 With this situation before them, it behooves the municipal authorities to assume the responsibility of providing for the rapidly increasing population and to take the first step in a comprehensive program of water supply development for this section. A new unit of filters and pumps must be installed at Torresdale, and a system of large supply mains laid throughout the section, so as to take care of its progressive development. Until the city is prepared to make this substantial investment in its water plant, it is futile to expect any "boom" in the Northeast.
Private Companies Not Favored
 "Another phase of the water problem in the Northeast that calls for prompt decision, is the absorption by the city of the private water companies now operating within this section. If the city does not at once take steps to supply water to the large building operations now in process or contemplated adjacent to the territory served by these companies, the water companies will undoubtedly extend their facilities to meet the new demands. The existence of private water companies within the city is admittedly undesirable. No further time should be spent in reaching an equitable basis upon which they can be taken over by the city. It must be evident that any new capital outlay to which these companies may be driven by the failure of the city to meet the growing demand for water, will add not only the amount of its investment, but also its "going-concern" value to the surplus which the city will ultimately have to pay for these properties."
"AS IN A MIRROR"
 A great many people disagree with the municipal theory, but even those who agree that there is a wealth of human resources in a section of the city, which is a natural view of the situation, in the unusual series of cartoons by C. D. Macomber, appearing regularly in the Public Ledger. "Make it a law."

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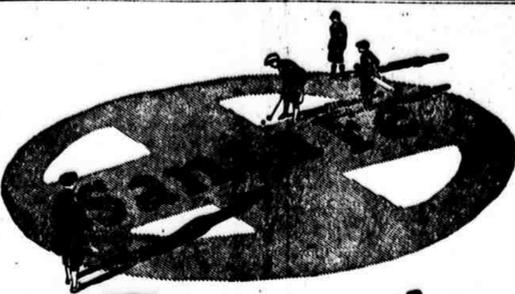
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