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AND ITS PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

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picture-machine inclosure. Policemen are instructed to cooperate with the electrical inspectors in enforcing the terms of the ordinance.

Chicago Municipal Inspection of Electric Meters.

The committee on gas, oil and electric light of the City Council of Chicago has under consideration an ordinance providing for the inspection of electric meters which will probably be adopted by the aldermen when presented. A similar inspection of gas meters is now provided by law, and it is proposed to afford the same privilege to users of electric meters, although, as a matter of fact, there is very little complaint of the accuracy of electric meters on the part of consumers of electricity. The inspection is to be made under the supervision of the city electrician. If a patron of the central-station company feels that his meter is not registering properly, he may have the instrument inspected by the Department of Electricity by making a deposit covering the cost of inspection. If the meter is found correct, the customer will forfeit his deposit, but if it is found to favor the company the deposit will be returned to him and the company will be asked to pay the cost of making the inspection. There will probably be in the ordinance also an arrangement for the return of overcharges if any should be found as the result of meter inaccuracy. In practice, however, it is probable that even after the ordinance is adopted the city electrician will not be called on to make a great many inspections, for he will first ask the complaining customer to take up the matter with the company, and, judging by the experience of the past, in 9 cases out of 10 a satisfactory adjustment will be made between the company and the customer treating directly with each other.

Wisconsin Water-Powers.

The special committee on water-powers, forestry and drainage appointed last spring by the Wisconsin State Legislature has just made an inspection trip in northern Wisconsin. The committee visited Eagle River, Star Lake, Arbor Vitae and Trout Lake to look over the forest reserve lands between Trout Lake and Boulder and Island Lakes. The trip through the Manitowish chain of lakes was made in a launch. This chain, which is composed of Rest Lakes, Manitowish, Ashland, Duluth and Cass Lake, Minnesota, compose the principal reservoirs of the proposed Chippewa River Valley reservoir system. The committee returned by way of Chippewa Falls, where a close examination of the water-power of the Chippewa River was made. The members of the special committee are as follows: Senators H. F. Bird, Paul O. Husting, Henry Krumrey; Assemblymen William M. Bray, George P. Hambrecht, secretary, F. W. Kubasta and James E. Thomas.

A movement has been put on foot at Dolgeville, Wis., to establish a system of reservoirs and dams on the creeks in that region. Considerable horse-power can be developed in this way, and the electricity would readily be used by the mining camps.

Telephone Situation in Jamestown, N. Y.

One of the public-utility problems engaging the attention of the citizens of Jamestown, N. Y., is the status of the Independent telephone plant of the Home Telephone Company. This company has reached a stage where it wants permission to raise its rates or else have the city buy the whole outfit or permit it to sell out to the Bell Company. The Common Council at a meeting held nearly a month ago voted down a resolution to submit to the vote of the people the question of buying the plant for \$286,000. Then the Chamber of Commerce called a public mass meeting to discuss the whole subject. The Home Company has refused to make extensions and the situation was so complicated that it was thought that a public meeting might in its wisdom devise some solution of the problem.

This meeting was duly held on Oct. 4, and Mayor Carlson made a speech favoring municipal ownership, recommending that the question be decided by a referendum, the vote to be upon all of the propositions under consideration. He said that the subscribers pay the entire expense of the telephone service, whether it is privately owned or publicly owned, and that municipal ownership would enable this service to be given to the users without the inclusion of dividends or profits, which would go to the private owners. An auditor who had examined the books of the Home Company said that the company's gross income in 1908 was \$46,890 on an estimated average of 2587 telephones, being an average of about \$18 per telephone. Deducting expenses and bond interest, the net profit was \$2,050, from which to make extensions and provide for depreciation. This gentleman expressed the opinion that it would be unwise for the city to buy the plant.

The president of the Common Council said that the majority of the aldermen favored a raise in rates and competition in the telephone business. He recalled that the appearance of the Home Company in Jamestown had resulted in a reduction of telephone tolls. There was considerable discussion, in which the fact was brought out that there had been internal dissensions in the management of the Home Company. The question was also raised whether the city had any right to buy the plant under the State constitution.

At the conclusion of the mass meeting the Common Council held a meeting, and a resolution to submit to the taxpayers a proposition to buy the plant or secure bids for the construction of a duplicate plant at a cost not to exceed \$315,000 was voted down by a vote of 8 to 3. It was decided to ask the corporation counsel to give an opinion on the legality of buying the plant, and this opinion was presented a week later. It was to the effect that the Council did not have a legal right to purchase the plant on the ground that it would be taxing all for the benefit of a few; further, the bonding limit of the city would be exceeded if the sum of \$286,000 was added to the present debt.

In view of the opinion of the corporation counsel, the Common Council, on Oct. 11, by a vote of 7 to 4 decided to give the Home Telephone Company the authority to make the desired increase in rates. The resolution authorizes the company to increase its rates to a maximum of \$36 per year for a single-party business telephone. The new rates decrease to \$16 a year for a four-party residence telephone. Mayor Carlson vetoed this resolution, but before doing so he called another telephone mass-meeting in which the subject was again threshed over at considerable length. The point was made that the rates would have to be increased whether the plant was operated by the city or by private owners, but a motion was carried that it was the sense of the meeting that the Mayor should veto the resolution granting the increase in rates. The Mayor accordingly did so, but at a meeting of the Common Council on Oct. 18 the resolution permitting the increase in rates was carried over the Mayor's veto by a vote of 8 to 2. At this meeting the Mayor enlivened matters by apparently charging the general manager of the Home Telephone Company with bribery. This gentleman was present and denied the charge, and he asked the Common Council to make an investigation.

Sons of Jove Annual Meeting.

The seventh annual meeting of the Order of Rejuvenated Sons of Jove was held on Oct. 14 and 15, 1909, at Cleveland, Ohio. Headquarters were at the Hollenden Hotel, and about 175 Jovians attended.

The work on the first day was confined to the meeting of committees, and in the evening the Cleveland Jovians gave a theater party at Keith's Hippodrome. Friday, the 15th, was Jupiter's Day. In the morning a business session was held at the Hollenden. In the afternoon special cars carried the Jovians to the Euclid Garden Theater, where a class of nearly 100 candidates was initiated, one of the largest classes in the history of the order. The work of the Rejuvenation was ex-