

# GAS AND ELECTRIC NEWS

## *A Message from the Chief*

San Francisco, Apr. 8, 1912

Three thousand miles from Rochester, I am reviewing and comparing another lot of splendid men with the Rochester Railway & Light Company's organization.

Your work is often spoken favorably of out here. You, one and all, are famous for doing things right, and I AM PROUD OF ROCHESTER AND ITS LIGHTING COMPANY.

I hope that the ambitions of the Pioneers of this magazine will inspire in your hearts the same longing for its coming, that I now have to see all your faces again.



MAY, 1912

*Published monthly by the*  
**ROCHESTER RAILWAY AND LIGHT CO.**

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

# GAS AND ELECTRIC NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

By the Rochester Railway & Light Company, for the information of its employees. Free to all Employees.

All news for publication should be addressed to the  
EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

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Vol. 1

MAY, 1912

No. 1

## Weighing the Coal That Is Not Burned

By John C. Parker



Mr. Howes has just secured from the State Officials at Albany approval for a plan to put a small measuring dam in the Genesee River under Driving Park Avenue bridge, by means of which we will be able at every hour of the day to measure the "white coal," so to speak, flowing down the Genesee Valley. This dam or weir will be a small proposition, only about two feet high, but it will make every drop of water that goes down the valley give an account of itself. If a large amount of water is flowing, there will be a thick sheet flowing over this weir, and vice versa a small quantity flowing will cover the weir to only a slight depth.

By means of a float attached to a pen, a line will be drawn on a piece of paper moved by clock-work so as to record the depth of water at every instant during the day; and from this an accurate knowledge of the amount of water flowing at any particular instant can be obtained.

Mr. Julian can tell just how much electrical energy is going out of No. 5 station at every instant in the day by reading his switchboard meters, but he has been unable to tell the amount of water required to produce this energy. With the new weir, he will be able to tell whether his turbines are giving the number of kilowatt-hours that they should for every foot of water that passes through them.

Since every kilowatt-hour developed at No. 5 station saves its proportionate number of pounds of coal at No. 3, Mr. Julian will thus be able to weigh the amount of coal that Messrs. O'Neill and Powell do not burn at the latter station.

This "white coal" scales will cost about \$6,000, which is a very small sum when one considers that it does just the same thing that a coal weighing device in a steam station would do, and a few more things in addition. The weir will be placed in the river just as soon as the water is low enough to enable us to go ahead with the construction.

# Accident Prevention

By HERMAN RUSSELL



The safety inspection work of the Company was started in the fall of 1909, and inspections have been made regularly since that time. As organized at present this work is carried on in the following manner: There is first a general safety committee consisting of the following five members: Messrs. Russell, Yawger, Hellen, Parker and Morphy. This committee has general supervision of the work, and appoints the various sub-committees who make the actual inspections. The actual inspection work is accomplished by fifteen of these sub-committees. The personnel and field of these committees at present is as follows:

Electric Committee No. 1: J. O. Montignani, B. E. Noyes. Covers Stations Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Electric Committee No. 2: F. S. Springstead, P. J. O'Neill. Covers Stations Nos. 5, 15, 34 and Gas Works.

Electric Committee No. 3: E. L. Wilder, William Julian. Covers Stations Nos. 33, 35, 26 and 6.

Steam Committee No. 1: R. D. DeWolf, W. H. White. Covers Stations Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

Steam Committee No. 2: A. S. MacDowell, P. J. Drumm. Covers Stations Nos. 34, 35, 26 and Gas Works.

Building Committee No. 1: J. P. MacSweeney, W. F. Croston. Covers Stations Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and Property No. 20.

Building Committee No. 2: F. A. Miller, Philip Stevens. Covers Stations Nos. 5, 15, 34 and Gas Works.

Building Committee No. 3: C. G. Durfee, Walter Drew. Covers Stations Nos. 33, 35, 26 and 6.

Building Committee No. 4: William Fisher, A. D. Rees. Front Street Buildings, Office, and various other buildings owned by the Company.

Hydraulic Committee No. 1: F. J. Howes, Charles Gardiner. Covers Stations Nos. 2, 3 and 4.

Hydraulic Committee No. 2: I. Lundgaard, L. V. Begy. Covers Stations

Gas Mfg. Committee: J. P. Hafkamp, V. A. Miller, W. Skuse.

Distribution and Transmission Committee: Overhead Committee, D. Rockwood, A. H. Lamey; Undergro Committee, George Wetzel, V. C. H. Dick.

Allied Companies' Committee: L. I. man, Charles Miller, G. B. Swartout.

Each committee covers its field three times during the year at intervals of about three months. The reports of inspection trips, together with recommendations and suggestions, are typewritten and sent to the chairman of the general committee. Reports are gone over carefully by the general committee, it being its policy always to have the chairmen of sub-committees, and such others as the general committee decides, present, to discuss the reports submitted.

The report of the general committee, based on the recommendations of the sub-committees, is sent to the superintendent in charge of the department concerned, and he is instructed to see that the recommendations which have been approved are executed. When this has been done by the foreman in charge, the copy of the report which was sent to him is returned by way of the superintendent to the chairman of the general committee and placed on file. In addition, at frequent intervals foremen are called up regarding safety work which they are supposed to do and asked whether attention has been taken on such and so, and a recommendation.

The work as outlined has been carried on now for nearly three years, and has resulted with a question in many improvements about the Company's stations and property, as well as safe-guarding many dangerous conditions. Lighting and ventilation have been

ways, etc., more carefully protected; better fire facilities provided; and probably a great many accidents have been averted.

The careful reporting of accidents and the inspection recommendations show clearly that a great majority of accidents in this Company happen through the thoughtlessness and carelessness of the employees themselves; and the general committee realizes that the problem which confronts it, to accomplish the greatest good, is to arouse interest among employees on the subject of "Accident Prevention." The committee has in mind several ways of bringing this about, and hopes that these plans will work out to the benefit of all concerned.

#### Facts and Figures Regarding Accidents for the Years 1910 and 1911

	1910	1911
Number of Accidents to Employees.....	176	164
Number of Fatal Accidents.....	2	1
Number of Days lost by Employees due to Accidents.....	1479	1143
Amount paid in wages and settlements to injured Employees.....	\$10,509.00	\$3,264.00
Amount paid in Doctors' Bills.....	2,490.00	2,06.684
Number of Accidents to Persons other than Employees.....	8	12
Fatal Accidents to Persons other than Employees.....	1	None
Amount of Settlements.....	6,416.00	1,839.00
Number of Property Accidents.....	57	54
Amount of Property Settlements.....	1,188.00	1,496.00
Total Cost in Dollars and Cents to the Company of all accidents either to Employees or Outside Persons injured or property damaged.....	20,602.00	8,637.00

The Pure Food Show at Convention Hall was a magnificent success, due to the untiring industry of Secretary L. J. Wehbring of the Retail Grocers' Association. A number of gas ranges and other cooking devices were installed by the Company for the show.

The man with a grudge is usually able to hold his own.

Dead men tell no tales, but lots of

## Street Telephones

In order to facilitate business throughout the various departments, the Company has installed thirty-five Bell telephones on the streets in various sections of the city. The new telephones are for the use of employees on outside work, and are the same type as those used by the Police and Fire departments. This innovation will increase the efficiency of the men, besides doing away with the inconvenience of going into private houses for the purpose of using the 'phone. The telephones are placed in locked boxes which are provided with keys. A number of these keys have been given to the Department of Public Safety for distribution among policemen and firemen in whose territories the new street 'phones are located.

The following are the locations of the street telephones:

East Ave. and Oxford St.  
 East Ave. and Barrett Alley.  
 Culver Road and Harvard St.  
 Main St. E. and Goodman St.  
 Monroe Ave. and Pacific St.  
 East Ave. and Winton Road.  
 Park Ave. and Edgerton St.  
 Averill Ave. and Monroe Ave.  
 East Ave. and Culver Road.  
 West Ave. and Genesee St.  
 West Ave. and B., R. & P. Station.  
 Plymouth Ave. and Clarissa St.  
 South Ave. and Hickory St.  
 Genesee St. and Brooks Ave.  
 Clinton Ave. S. and Meigs St.  
 Portland Ave. and Clifford Ave.  
 North Ave. and Central Ave.  
 Portland Ave. and Central Park.  
 Main St. E. and Culver Road.  
 Central Ave. and Clinton Ave. N.  
 State St. and Lyell Ave.  
 Child St. and Jay St.  
 Dewey Ave. and Driving Park Ave.  
 Emerson St. and Backus St.  
 Hudson Ave. and Avenue D.  
 Clinton Ave. N. and Clifford Ave.  
 Magne St. and Brown St.  
 Linden St. and Mt. Hope Ave.  
 Lyell Ave. and City Line.  
 Clifford Ave. and N. Goodman St.  
 Clifford Ave. and Culver Road.  
 St. Paul St. and Avenue E.  
 St. Paul St. and Ridge Road.  
 Lake Ave. and Flower City Park.

## No. 5 Station an Example of Electric Progress

By THOMAS H. YAWGER



A number of years ago an Electric Central Station, both in construction and operation, was a comparatively simple proposition, consisting of head-gates, water wheel, dynamos and wires from the dynamo leading outside, practically without any other apparatus. This simplicity of construction and operation applied also to a steam plant which consisted of a boiler and an engine, to which was belted a generator. These two simple types were practically the electric central station of 25 years ago. The size of the units of that time were not more than 50 h. p., whereas to-day we are operating in Rochester water turbines of 2,100 h. p. capacity and steam units of 5,000 h. p. capacity. To handle these larger units in the manner of years ago would now be impossible.

Along with development of size of the generator units, etc., there has also been a necessary parallel increase in the size of controlling apparatus, which also differs materially in type from that of years ago. For instance: in the older type of steam plant, the engine loomed large and magnificent; whereas to-day the prime mover in the modern steam plant is the turbine which has displaced the imposing engine. The turbine, itself an insignificant looking piece of machinery, is practically hidden from view by its casing, and the first query of a visitor who has heard of the tremendous power of the turbine, on entering the plant is: where is the turbine?

The first change that impresses the visitor is the fewer number of men required to handle the enor-

This has been brought about by installation of automatic stokers which, as the name implies, automatically feeds the coal into the furnace according to steam requirements.

To make sure that proper combustion takes place, an ingenious apparatus has been devised called the C. O. 2 recorder, which graphically represents on a chart what actually takes place in the furnace, indicating at a glance, whether the right amount of air is being furnished, or contrary wise, an excessive amount, which would tend to lower the efficiency of the unit.

A recording draft gauge is another part of the necessary equipment for the complete modern plant, which we have installed, showing graphically the variation in draft. Pressure gauges, temperature recording gauges in furnace and stack, damper indicators, water level indicators are necessary adjuncts, being, as their names imply, graphic indicators showing the exact conditions existing at all times in the plant.

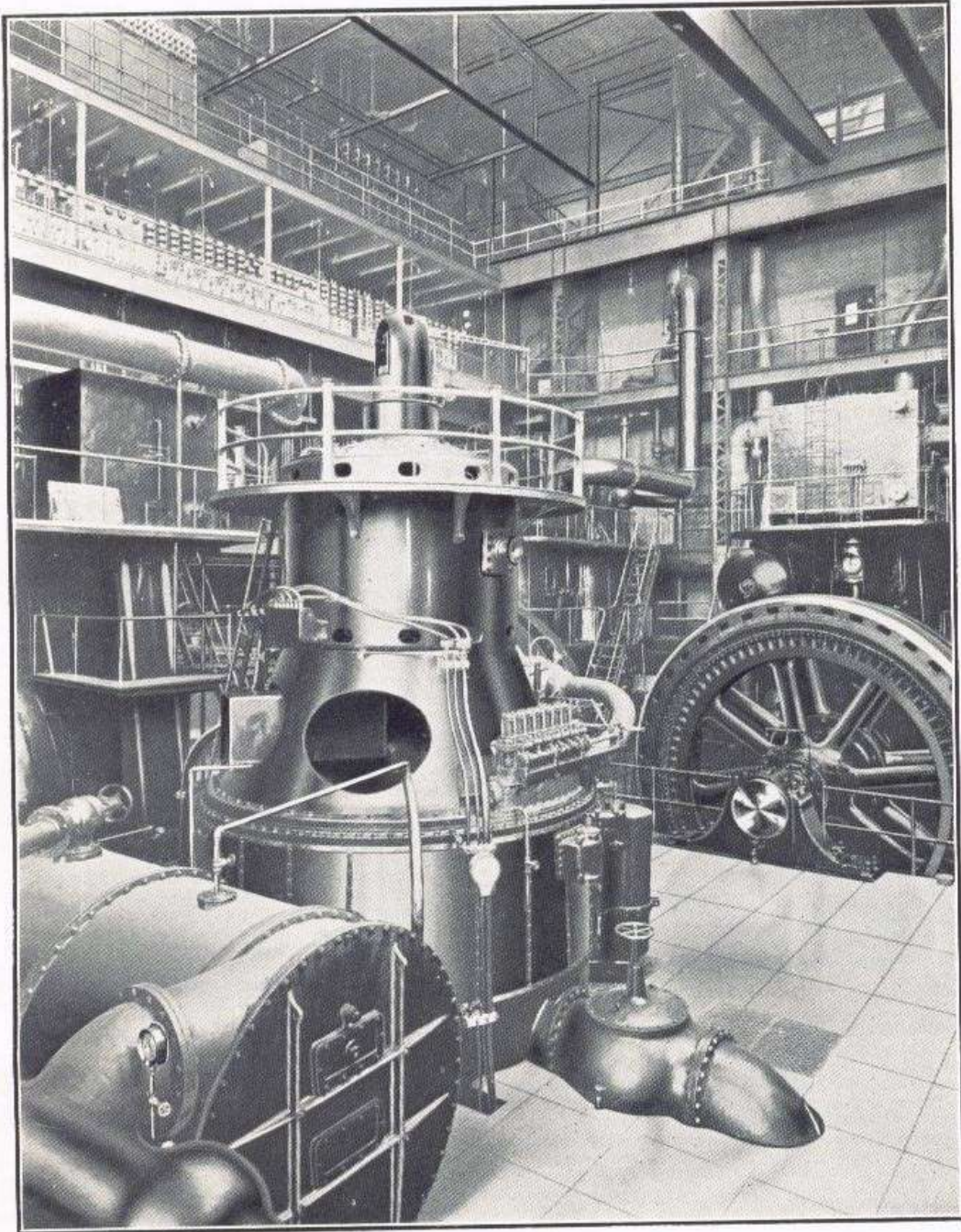
Another ingenious device which is of great aid to the boiler man is the recording smoke chart, which, as its name implies, graphically represents at every instant the condition of the smoke issuing from the top of the stack. This is of great assistance to the firemen in keeping within the requirements of the smoke ordinance of the City of Rochester.

All the above devices are of a delicate and intricate nature, and require intelligent care to have them perform their proper functions. When so kept they are of great help in the economical and proper operation of a boiler plant. It is interesting to note that the old time idea of firing a boiler become materially modified when these records

Another interesting fact is that the coal, instead of being bought by the ton, is now purchased on the basis of its heating value; i. e., the number

tests during a given period determining the heat value of the entire bulk received within that period.

During the year Mr. Yawger will con-



NEW STEAM TURBINE AT NO. 3 STATION.

of British Thermal Units to the pound rather than on the basis of mere weight. This is taken care of by carefully testing a small portion of each shipment, the average of all

to contribute instructive articles on the following topics: "The Engine," "The Turbine," "The Generator" and "The Switchboard;" "Overhead and Under ground Distribution," etc.

## The New Transportation Department

By FRANK HELLEN



The Transportation department was organized April 1st, 1911, the Company having so many valuable automobiles (at the present time 42) which were in such shape that they could not be used to the best advantage. The department was started so that accurate information as to the cost and other data in regard to the machines could be kept; and automobiles and trucks be re-arranged and worked to the highest efficiency. It was also organized for the purpose of having the hiring of all horses, vehicles and carting come through one particular department, so that the work could be done to better advantage and more accurate information kept as to the cost, etc. (Please note General Order No. 97 by Mr. Hutchings, and Special Letter No. 10 by the writer, which were issued when this department was organized.)

While the Transportation department has been organized for the past nine months, and notwithstanding that we have had a gratifying measure of co-operation on the part of drivers in the careful use of their autos, we feel that still further improvement would result if drivers could be induced to realize just how much the careful running of an auto or truck cuts down the maintenance cost. We are anxious to call the attention of all drivers of the Company's autos and trucks to the following points:

First: Coasting wherever possible decreases the amount of current used, but vehicle should be absolutely under control.

Second: In backing up and starting ahead, do not throw the controller on full.—this is hard on the

motor and wagon generally.

Third: In all cases keep out of the street car tracks, as they cut the rubber tires.

Fourth: Do not overload the carrying capacity of the car.

Fifth: When necessary to do some work on a muddy street, do not try to drive your auto through the mud. Leave it at the nearest corner, and thus avoid trouble in starting.

Sixth: When satisfied that the current in your auto is not sufficient to carry it where you wish to go, return the car to the garage. Do not run it so far that it must be hauled back.

Seventh: When finished with the car for the day, return it to the garage and fill out the inspection card for the night foreman in case any repairs are needed. Do this each night until you are satisfied that your automobile has been put in proper condition.

It is most important that we have the co-operation of all drivers on the above points regarding the care and use of the Company's autos and trucks.

### Safety Slogans

By HERMAN RUSSELL

Get the "Prevention" spirit.

A careless workman is an enemy to himself, a danger to his fellow men, and an expense to his employer.

Take time and pains to make your work safe, then go ahead.

It is better to be sure before than sorry afterwards.

Most of our accidents happen because someone was careless.

A man injured by his own careless act is not entitled to the same consideration as a man hurt through no fault of his own.

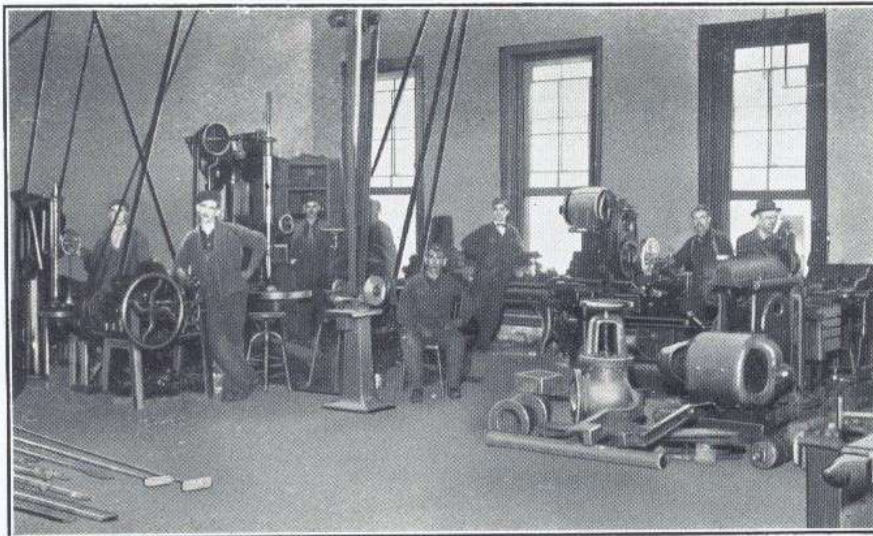
## A Gas Works Shop With a Reputation

By W. H. EARL

About twenty years ago, following the final consolidation of the Gas Companies, Mr. William H. White came from the old Municipal plant and was given charge of the works shop. In a little frame building were a blacksmith's forge with an old fashioned hand bellows, a small hand drill, a hand-power pipe cutting and threading machine for pipe from one-eighth of an inch to two inches in diameter, and a foot-power grind stone. That was the equipment. Besides Mr. White there was

and larger engine and an old piece of shafting, which he rigged up to operate the drill, pipe cutter and grindstone.

Sometime after making those improvements, the old frame building was abandoned, and the shop was moved to its present quarters. Another search in the scrap pile produced a third and still larger engine. An appeal for money brought one-hundred dollars, enough to buy, at second hand, a small lathe.



MACHINE SHOP AT GAS WORKS.

a blacksmith and helper, also a steam fitter and helper.

Hampered with poor and meager equipment, and with no available funds for improvement, Mr. White looked amongst the junk resulting from the dismantling of the old works, and found a little vertical steam-engine. He connected that to his pipe cutting machine, and developed his first power driven tool. Somewhat later he found another

All this time the shop was demonstrating its economic value to the Company, and each added improvement made it so much easier to get more. A new eighteen inch drill press was installed; a new pipe cutter for pipe up to six inches in diameter was bought; and another blacksmith's forge was added. At the next step, the old steam engines were discarded, and a system of electric motor drives was substituted.



This development covered the years up to the inauguration of the present Company. Then, with more money to use, and with a more liberal policy, the shop was remodeled, and considerable new equipment was purchased. In addition to the old machines, the shop now has an emery wheel, a Le Blond high speed lathe with eighteen-inch swing and six-foot base, a Barnes drill press with thirty-four-inch swing table and automatic feed, and a Gould & Eberhart shaper and a power-driven hammer. The present equipment represents an investment of about seven thousand dollars.

With the natural increase of work, and improved facilities for handling it, the number of employees has grown. The shop now has three machinists, two blacksmiths and a blacksmith's helper, two steam fitters, and a stock boy. Occasionally it is necessary to hire extra men to rush through special work.

Primarily the shop is designed to do all the repair work at the Gas plant. With the numerous engines, pumps, exhausters, boilers, motors, blowers, elevators, and so forth, such work is no small item. One machinist makes a daily inspection of every piece of moving machinery at the plant and submits a report to the chief engineer. Urgent repairs are attended to at once, while others, less important, are made as rapidly as possible. It is evident that such work is of prime importance at a plant where even a brief shut down might prove disastrous. One blacksmith devotes practically all of his time to repairing the working tools of the retort house, water gas house and boiler room. Then there are the industrial track and cars, the coal buggies, wheelbarrows, etc., that are constantly in need of repairs and new parts, many of which are made at the shop, as well as installed there.

In addition to the repair work, the shop takes care of most of the changes in works equipment, and new installations and improvements, with the necessary changes and additions to steam, water, oil, and other pump lines.

Furthermore the shop has found time to do a large amount of work for other departments of the Company. All the iron work for the electric signs put out by the old electric wiring department was built at the works shop. It has turned out thousands of lamp cranes, pole arms, wall irons, braces, breakers, and other similar devices. All of the cast iron pole tops were machined and finished there. And recently, all of the electric hoists used in the construction of the new sewer were assembled there. In 1909 the amount of this outside work exceeded seven thousand dollars. It has decreased somewhat since then, because of the use of new and improved devices in place of those formerly built at the shop, and because the Company has discontinued some of its activities, especially those of the electric wiring department.

From the beginning, the shop has developed and maintained a reputation for high grade work in whatever it has undertaken. Boiler inspectors say that they seldom enter boilers as thoroughly cleaned and repaired as are those under the control of Mr. White and his shop men. In a word, the gas works shop forms an efficient unit in the company's organization.

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An honest man goes through the world without getting any more than is coming to him.

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By placing it low, many a man has been able to come up to the mark he has set for himself.

## A Banquet in a Cemetery

The most unique banquet ever held in Rochester, so far as decorations are concerned, was the annual "Roastfest" of the Rochester News-writers' Club held Saturday evening, April 13th, at Powers Hotel. We wish to draw attention to the affair, not only because of personal regard for the newspaper boys, but also because the electrical decorations in

the guests of honor to rest on. No lamps were visible in the hall, indirect illumination located above the foliage producing a moonlight effect. A rotating device suspended from above the trees in the center of the hall, to which were attached a number of miniature lights, represented a swarm of fireflies. Forty skulls, having red and green eyes, flashed



INTERIOR OF BANQUET HALL BEFORE GUESTS ARRIVED.

the banquet hall were planned and installed by Messrs. DeWolf, Taylor, Kassebaum and Stewart of the engineering department under direction of Mr. J. C. Parker.

The three hundred and fifty odd guests on entering the festal chamber were greeted by all the grim and realistic surroundings of a graveyard. The speakers' table was a huge casket, with tombstones for

ghostly gleams here and there among the trees. Among other effects was a bank of mercury lamps which illuminated the stage, further emphasizing the moonlight effect.

We congratulate Mr. Parker and his assistants on their grotesque decorations. The newspaper boys are deserving of a special word of praise for the clever conceit and originality of the "Roastfest."

## Some of Our Veteran Workers



A. D. REES, FOREMAN  
No. 2 Station, Who Has Never Lost A  
Day For Sickness in 23 years.



WENDELIN GERSTNER  
Of the Gas Works—38 years of Service.



PATRICK J. O'NEILL,  
The Popular Foreman of No. 3 Station—  
20 years Service.



JOHN CLUNE,  
With a Record of 43 years at the Gas  
Works.

Some of Our Veteran Workers



WILLIAM H. WHITE,  
Foreman Gas Works—Record 25 years.



AUGUST LUNNE,  
No. 3 Station—25 years of Service.



ERNEST ROOTH,  
No. 3 Station—23 years of Service.



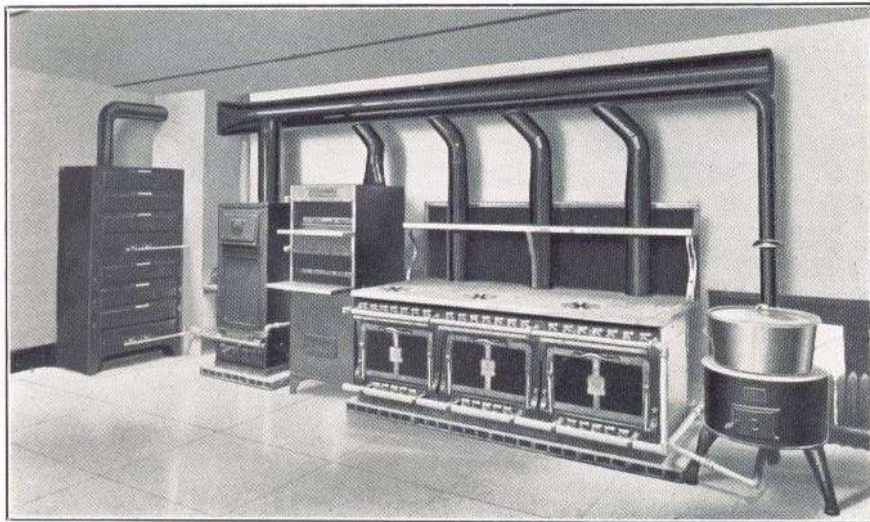
JAMES DOYLE,  
No. 3 Station—22 years of Service.

### The Chamber of Commerce Kitchen Equipment

What is declared to be one of the most complete gas cooking equipments in Rochester was installed by the Company in the kitchen of the new Chamber of Commerce restaurant last September. It consists as follows: one three section hotel range, one double deck broiler, one No. 4 garbage incinerator, one double deck pastry oven, one 20 gallon stock boiler, one steam table with

day is served at noon, the average number of guests being about 100 per day.

Chef George Raetz, in charge of culinary arrangements at the Chamber restaurant, takes great pride in the new gas cooking equipment. When we went to look it over the other day the Chef assured us that he had become a convert to the gas system of cooking. "Gas," he said,

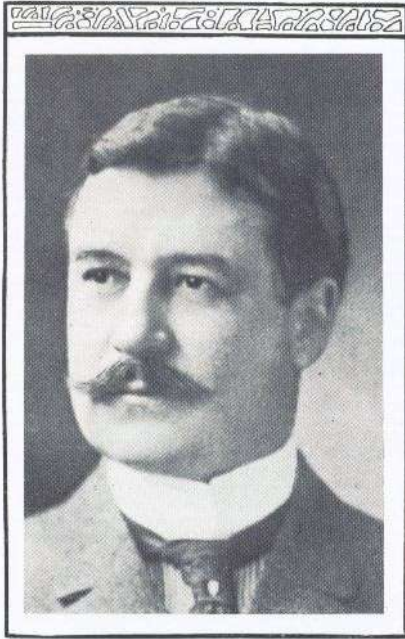


LOCATED ON THE ELEVENTH FLOOR OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING.

plate warmer, one coffee urn, one hot water urn with cup warmer; also one plate warmer.

The entire equipment was donated to the Chamber of Commerce and installed free of cost by the Company. The restaurant is the only public dining room in the city equipped with gas exclusively for cooking. The restaurant is located on the eleventh floor of the C. of C. building, and is always open for the inspection of the public. One meal a

"is far ahead of coal for cooking. In the gas way, you can regulate the heat to any desired temperature, which cannot be done with coal. For roasting purposes, gas is unsurpassed." Chef Raetz never used an entire gas cooking equipment until he went to the Chamber of Commerce, and previous to that time, according to himself, he had always been prejudiced against the gas range. Now he is a firm believer in it. "There's a Reason."



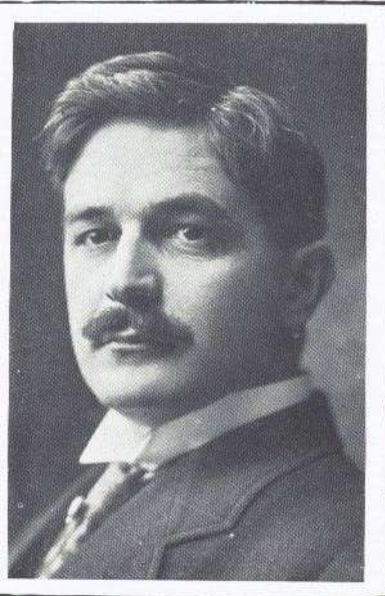
HORACE H. ANDREWS,  
President.



GRANGER H. HOLLISTER,  
Vice-President.

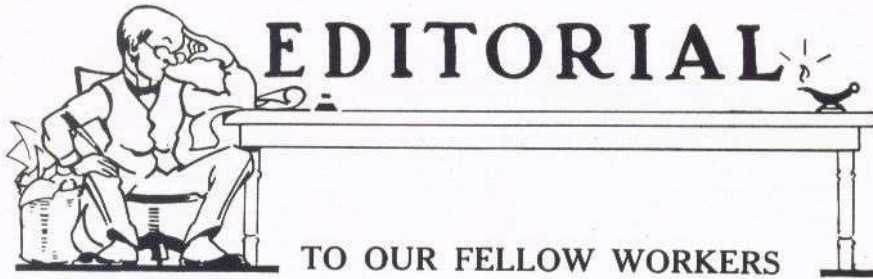


ROBERT M. SEARLE,  
Vice-President.



J. T. HUTCHINGS,  
General Manager.

**"The Men at the Helm"**



## TO OUR FELLOW WORKERS

This, the initial issue of GAS AND ELECTRIC NEWS, will, we hope, bear witness to the fact that "the pioneers" upon whom devolves the work of publication, are making a serious effort to follow the instructions of the management, to produce a periodical in the interest, and for the information of the Company's employees generally. "We believe, said the management, that such a publication, rightly conducted, will tend to bring the members of our organization into closer touch, one

wide scale the mutual-advantage features of the Friday morning meetings, attendance at which, for obvi-



VICTOR T. NOONAN.



JOS. P. MACSWEENEY.

with the other, as well as with the Company's policies and activities, thereby promoting on a Company-

ous reasons, must necessarily be limited to heads and sub-heads of departments."

We accepted our task with a cheerfulness and confidence directly traceable to our abiding faith in the co-operative spirit of our fellow employees—that co-operative spirit which comes of contact with such men as Granger A. Hollister, R. M. Searle and James T. Hutchings and which makes for, in many instances, the accomplishment of seemingly impossible things.

We must have your enthusiastic co-operation if GAS AND ELECTRIC NEWS is to fulfill its mission among you. Do not think for a moment that our statement, that we need your co-operation, is an evidence of weakness, because it is nothing of the kind. It is simply an evidence that we have common sense enough to know that you are just as necessary to the success of this publication as we are; in fact, more so.

Gentlemen, we must have news and, to be perfectly frank about it, we must get the news from you. This magazine is yours—published in your interest, and for your information—therefore you are in honor bound to do your part. So far as we are concerned we will treat our fellow employees with absolute fairness and unflinching courtesy. We will respect their confidences, accept their suggestions and criticisms in the spirit in which they are given, and further their interests to the limit of our ability.

GAS AND ELECTRIC NEWS will carry no paid advertising. The entire cost of production will be cheerfully borne by the Company and the publication will be delivered once a month in personally addressed envelopes to every employee, absolutely without charge.

The Chamber of Commerce is doing a great work for a Greater Rochester. The greater is Rochester, the greater is our business. Therefore boost for the Chamber of Commerce and you will be boosting for a Greater Rochester.

### **Much Help Received**

As we go to press, we wish to say a final word of sincere appreciation to all the Company's officers and heads of departments whose co-operation has lightened the task of preparing the first issue of GAS AND ELECTRIC NEWS. In particular we wish to express our thanks to Messrs. Hutchings, Tucker, Yawger, Russell, Parker, Hellen, Morphy, Eaton, Scobell, Colgate, Miller and Schick, who have done much to make this first issue possible.

We are grateful also to Mr. Rees of Station 3 for a number of photographs kindly lent us. Finally we have no desire to forget Mr. Rockwood of the draughting room, who has given much of his time to securing photographs for use in coming issues of the magazine. Mr. Rockwood has taken some fine pictures of a number of the stations, also of veteran employees, which will go a long way towards making this magazine of keen interest to our readers.

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### **Contributions Welcome**

Let your contributions come in simple language. Avoid technical terms, and observe the rule of brevity. Not more than two pages of typewritten manuscript is required for any contributed article. Contributed articles from any of the employees are always welcome. Do not wait for an invitation to contribute. Articles which cannot be used for a particular issue of the magazine will be kept for another issue. No timely appropriate news items, or other contributions, will be disregarded.



### **A Word About Mr. Noonan**

Mr. Victor T. Noonan, our first editor of GAS AND ELECTRIC NEWS, is a former well known Rochester newspaperman. He was a member some years ago of The Post Express, and afterwards of The Herald. In his newspaper work he often came in contact with the officers and heads of departments of the Company. He is therefore, in a sense, not a stranger to many of our fellow workers.

Mr. Noonan will visit from time to time all the various departments and stations, including those places where the Company is carrying on outside work. He will come to you as a friend interested in your doings. Receive him courteously and kindly, and do all that is possible to keep him in touch with things that will be of interest to the readers of this magazine.

### **Send News In Early**

All contributed articles, news, and personals should reach us not later than the 21st day of each month. This is necessary, so that the magazine may go to press in time to be issued promptly on the fifth day of the following month. Employees who fail to receive a copy of GAS AND ELECTRIC NEWS will please notify the editorial department, located on the first floor of the general offices in Clinton Avenue North, where either Mr. MacSweeney or Mr. Noonan may be reached by both 'phones.

The cream of a practical joke is usually skimmed from milk of human kindness that has soured.

### **Why Not Organize a Baseball Team ?**

We should like to see some of our baseball boys get together and organize a good, hustling team. There are a number of star players among the Company's employees. Why not then get together? We suggest that the boys hold a meeting and discuss plans for the organization of a Gas & Electric team. Among the players of whom we have heard, there are the following: Clifford Sherman, who formerly pitched with the "X-Rays" and the "Old Rochesters;" Charles Graham, who is some shortstop; William H. Spears, the pitcher; Joe Garin, one of the best amateur third basemen ever seen on a local field; also Frank Herring and Frank Sheldon. In fact, there are many boys in our organization able to field the ball and wield the bat, so we see no reason why we shouldn't have a strong team. Get busy boys. Call a meeting and let's hear when the first game is going to be pulled off. We're with you.

### **Veteran Employees**

Beginning with this issue GAS AND ELECTRIC NEWS will from month to month publish a page of pictures of employees who have been with the Company for more than twenty years. Watch for June GAS AND ELECTRIC NEWS—you will see some of your old friends in a place of prominence.

When you get into trouble most of your friends will say: "It's too bad," and let it go at that.

# ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT



An extension for new switchboard equipment has just been completed at No. 15 Station.

Arrangements were completed last month for extending electric lighting distribution to the town of Gates. It is expected the Company will put up about 100 arc lamps.

The William H. Gorsline buildings at Brown's Race are at present being equipped with electric motors as a substitute for hydraulic power. The change will mean a considerable saving to Mr. Gorsline.

Messrs. Parker, DeWolff and Powell made a two-weeks inspection trip last month during which they visited power plants in New York City, Washington, Baltimore and other cities. Needless to say they brought back some money-saving information.

Mr. J. O. Montignani of electric distribution department wants copies of the Electrical World of the following issues: No. 2 of volume 56; also Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 of volume 53.

People who talk too much never talk well.

People call you a "good fellow" so long as they benefit by your foolishness.

## Two New Engineers

Joseph G. Venn, a graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, has become a member of our industrial engineering staff. Following his graduation Mr. Venn was with the General Electric Company.

Henry W. McIvor, a 1909 graduate of Clemson College, S. C., has been engaged to do industrial work in the engineering department. Mr. McIvor came to us from the General Electrical Company. Welcome to our city boys.

## Engineer Tramps

Every Saturday afternoon the members of the engineering department go out on a long tramp across country. The walks are arranged in such a way that the young men plan to see something of interest to them in their work, such as the new barge canal. Our young engineer friends are to be commended for spending their Saturday afternoons in such a useful and practical manner. We should like to have a written description of one of the walks. Who'll volunteer?

Mr. Parker gave an interesting address before the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union April 6th on "The Business of Woman in the Home." Mr. Parker delivered his subject in a manner that impressed his audience with the fact that he hangs round the kitchen some.



Chief Engineer W. H. White has been dieting of late. He has succeeded in reducing his weight from 260 pounds to 230 pounds.

The Struthers-Wells Co. of Warren, Pa., has completed the erection of a 50,000 gallon steel tank for storing water-gas tar. The work was completed in one week.

The announcement of an 8 hour day for "shift" men has been received with great pleasure by the men on the flats. The change took effect May 1st.

Masons are now at work adapting the brickwork of No. 3 boiler for use in burning water-gas tar. When this is completed two of the six boilers at the Gas Works will be burning the tar.

Assistant Superintendent Haftenkamp has returned from a short trip to New England, where he has been looking over methods of gas making.

A new water-gas tar separator and a filter have been built, and a filter bed is now under construction at the flats. Every trace of oil and tar will be removed from the water before it enters the river. The Genesee will then be pure and undefiled as far as the Gas Works is concerned.

They are always doing something better down in the Front Street plant. A new filing system has been adopted there, and "Tommy" Nash says it's alright.

Mr. Miller of the Canandaigua Gas Works entertained the members of his office force at dinner on the evening of April 10th. We congratulate Brother Miller on his plan for bringing about good fellowship in the Canandaigua plant.

Two thousand feet of new gas mains will shortly be laid in East Avenue to supply Brightford Heights.

The Company will shortly put down 15,000 feet of 16 inch main to equalize the pressure in the outlying districts of the city.

#### **Mrs. Mary Hatch Springstead**

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Mary Hatch Springstead, wife of Electrical Power Engineer Franklin S. Springstead, which occurred at the family home, 33 Buena Place, Monday, April 22d. The funeral was held Thursday, April 25th, when the body was removed to Atlanta, N. Y., for interment. Among floral offerings received were two beautiful wreaths sent by the employees of the Company. We extend to Mr. Springstead our sincere sympathy in his bereavement.



Mr. Montignani made a trip to Syracuse April 7th.

Mr. Hellen reports that his alfalfa crop is coming out strong.

Foreman "Jim" Fahy of the gas street department is trying out a new motorcycle.

Miss Margaret Coleman has been appointed stenographer to Mr. Hellen in the gas shop.

L. W. Layman entertained a number of friends at supper at the Hotel Rochester on the evening of April 6th.

L. E. Sanderson sowed grass seed on his farm in Irondequoit last week. His "wild oats" were sown long, long ago.

E. F. Gosnell is saving up U. C. S. certificates to buy a safety razor in time to get a shave for the opening ball game.

C. S. Jennings is staying awake these nights preparing a talk for the next meeting of the girls in his department.

Bert Engles of the Gas Street department has recently welcomed a baby girl to his home at 242 Remington Street. Congratulations!

Miss Ada Geen, of the gas shop, is a member of the Knights of Columbus dramatic company, which played "The Castaways" this week at the Shubert Theater.

William Taylor has been transferred from the barn to the gas street department. It's a little better job for Bill and we're glad of it.

We are pleased to learn that Emmett O'Neill, son of P. J. O'Neill, is recovering from his recent illness.

Frank Kelly, assistant line foreman, is able to be around again after a severe attack of rheumatism. Hope you will soon be quite well again Frank.

Benjamin Bettz, of the gas street department, has moved into a new home on Merchants Road. We wish Mr. Bettz many years of happiness in his new abode.

Miss F. L. Asart, private secretary to Mr. Hutchings, has recovered from a brief illness. While absent from business Miss Asart was greatly missed by her associates.

Leon James, a clerk in the gas department, has resigned to accept a better position elsewhere. His place has been taken by Frank Herring of the collection department. Now's your chance Frankie!

Mrs. W. J. K. Sutherland, wife of Construction Foreman Sutherland of No. 3 Station, who was operated on last month for appendicitis has, we are pleased to say, completely recovered.

"Tommy" Nash has bought a new Baker electric for \$20. "Tommy," who has been trying out the car on dark nights, has found its speed to be a mile an hour with a capacity of  $\frac{1}{2}$  h. p.

O. M. Curtis, President and Treasurer of the Northern Electric Company, was a visitor with Mr. Colgate on April 24th. Come again, Mr. Curtis, you are always welcome.

A pleasant social was held at William Brown's home Monday evening, April 8th. Among guests present were a number of Mr. Brown's associates. Aromatic "Habanas" and delicious refreshments were served.

W. T. Nolan has a miniature hot house in his rear lot, where he is studying the uncertain growth of various vegetables. We expect to see our genial W. T. serving a vegetable salad at the next N. E. L. A. meeting.

Jacob Held, of the gas stove department, has a little baby girl that he is very proud of. Jacob is not the only man in the gas department who has a nice little baby girl. There are some others of whom a word will be said in due time.

A number of our young ladies and some of the boys attended the first annual dance of the Dee Club at the Republican Club house, Hawley Street, on Easter Monday evening. Gossip overheard next morning on a Park Avenue car indicated that the "hop" was alright.

Lineman Martin Murphy was the subject of much favorable press publicity last month, when he telephoned to police and fire headquarters that he saw two boys drifting on a raft down the river. The boys escaped safely from the raft, but had their lives been in peril Mr. Murphy's prompt action would undoubtedly have saved them. Good boy Martin!

Francis M. Hanratty has returned from California and resumed his old job under Mr. Hoddick in the gas department. Francis worked in the Front Street shop two years ago. He began reading cowboy stories and went to see the golden west but, finding no place just like Rochester he took the first train back. Glad you're with us Francis. Stick to the gas company, and plug, just plug. You'll find success right here.

There's many a slip 'twixt the start and the finish.

Jimmie Fassanella is building a new house on Clay Avenue. The lot was purchased through William Brown, who has an eye for business. Specifications, architectural design and legal advice were furnished gratis by Robert Gardner. Mr. Gallagher of Ridge Road is just the builder.

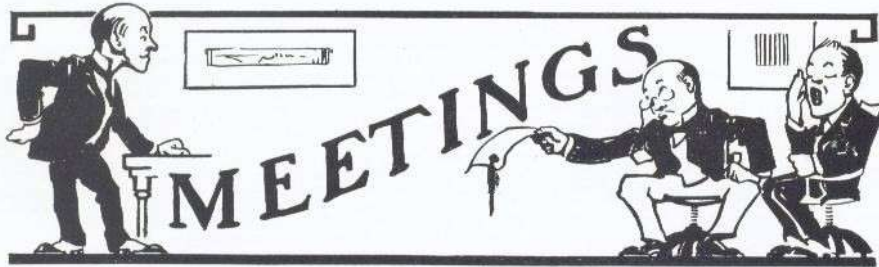
Frank Rich's wife and his niece, Miss Amelia Rich, will sail early this month from New York for Italy, where they will visit at Mr. Rich's home in Piedmonte. We wish Mrs. and Miss Rich a pleasant voyage. Frank Rich is foreman of gas main extensions, and, by the way, he is one of the most popular men in the employ of the Company.

### Our Visitors

Among our visitors during the past month were: M. E. Wise, advertising manager of the Great Western Power Company, San Francisco; Thomas F. Kelly, contract agent of the Hamilton, Ont., Light & Power Co., and J. F. Ganser, of the Norristown, Pa., Gas and Electric Power Co.

Mr. Wise, who met Mr. Searle in San Francisco, was enthusiastic in his praise of R. M. S. The Californian visitor said many flattering things, not only of Rochester and our Company, but also of the newspaper men here, who were, he declared, the best bunch he had ever met.

Mr. Kelly, who spoke at the Ad. Club dinner on April 18th, paid a number of compliments to the Rochester Railway & Light Co. Among other things, Mr. Kelly said it was a long walk to the Seattle convention, and not relishing "the hike," he had come to Rochester as the next best place to get ideas and mix with progressive electric light and power men.



The Police department was highly complimented at the Friday morning meeting, April 4th, when Messrs. Yawger, Morphy and Martin spoke of the uniform courtesy of the police, experienced at all times by the men on outside work.

At the same meeting Messrs. Helen, Morphy, Scobell, Nolan and MacSweeney were appointed as a committee to investigate the continued breaking into and robbery of prepayment meter boxes.

The N. E. L. A. meetings are well attended, much interest being shown by the members at all the meetings. The meetings are worth while and should be attended by every man who can possibly spare the time.

### HOW LIFE LOOKS

#### To The Pessimist

Keep out.  
Dangerous.  
No smoking.  
Beware of the dog.  
Keep off the grass.  
Elevator not running.  
Don't feed the animals.  
Tresspassers will be prosecuted.  
Not responsible for hats or coats.

#### To The Optimist

Come in.  
Take one.  
No collection.  
Admission free.  
You are invited.  
Strangers welcome.  
Ask for free sample.  
No trouble to show goods.  
Money back if not satisfied.—Life.

Mr. Hutchings gave an instructive talk at the March meeting of the N. E. L. A. on "Conservation and the Ferris Bill." Following his remarks he replied to a number of questions. Mr. Russell also gave a talk on: "The Manufacture of Water Gas."

One of the features of the April meeting was a supper cooked in one of the new Copeland fireless electric cookers. Previous to the feast Mr. Russell gave one of his instructive talks on the "Making of Gas." He was followed by Mr. Taylor of the engineering department, who cleverly discussed "The Fundamentals of Electricity."

### R. M.'s Definition of a Pessimist

"An optimist is a person who makes lemonade from the lemons that are handed to him."

"A pessimist is a man who does not believe there are any really, truly blondes."—Robert M. Searle.

Enthusiasm is the greatest business asset in the world.

Every successful salesman blames himself alone for unsigned contracts.

A salesman should always be neat in appearance, but do not depend upon your front too much, because front alone will not sell gas or electricity.

The Chamber of Commerce retail trade committee has plans under consideration for an improved lighting system for Main Street.



## AMONG OUR EXCHANGES

Rochester is far ahead of any other city in the country in the adoption of electric refrigeration. The equivalent of two tons of ice a day is made per 1,000 inhabitants.—Edison Monthly, New York City.

“Young man, you are looking worn, haggard and on the verge of a nervous break-down. We cannot afford to have our good men overworked. Drop everything, book your passage for next week, and take a run over to the south of France. There’s a quiet little place near Biarritz”—WAKE UP!—Edison Round Table, Chicago, Ill.

Here is a story that might come in handy in discussions with consumers who think gas should be sold at holder cost:

Tom Ross tells of a colored man who objected to a collection after the parson had preached a sermon in which he said salvation was free. The brother compared salvation to a river from which all could drink free.

“Dat watah would be free, suah,” said the parson, “but suppose dat watah was piped to you-all’s house. Waal, brudder, dat’s it; salvation am free, but it’s de pipin’ you pay foh. Deacon, pass dat hat.”—Gasarc, Kalamazoo, Mich.

Even on a dry day an inexperienced man who ventures into the haunts of high finance can become well soaked.

In their anxiety to hear what is said of their neighbors, some people have no time to listen to what is said of themselves.

## A Salesman’s Creed

I believe in the goods I am selling, in the company I am working for and in my ability to get results. I believe that honest goods can be sold to honest men by honest methods. I believe in working, not waiting; in laughing, not weeping; in boasting, not knocking, and in the pleasure of selling. I believe that a man gets what he goes after, that one order to-day is worth two orders to-morrow, and that no man is down and out until he has lost faith in himself. I believe in to-day and the work I hope to do and in the sure reward which the future holds. I believe in courtesy, in kindness, in generosity, in good cheer, in friendship and honest competition. I believe there is an order somewhere for every man who is ready to take one. I believe I’m ready, and ready right now.—Exchange.

## T. R.

I heard a good story at the club the other night:

It seems that Roosevelt had died and gone to Heaven (a very long flight of imagination). He hadn’t more than got in the gate when he told St. Peter he didn’t care much for the choir—it was a bum kind of a choir anyhow.

St. Peter said: “What shall I do about it?”

“Well,” he said, “send and get ten thousand tenors, all the best tenors since the world began—no one worse than Caruso; then send and get ten thousand contraltos, the best since the world began, not any worse than Schumann-Heinck, and ten thousand sopranos—let me see—well, all about Patti’s standard.”

St. Peter mildly inquired: “Do you want any bassos?”

“No,” said Roosevelt, “I’ll sing bass myself.”



Make friends, but not favorites.

Don't shirk! If you don't like your job, quit it.

Don't forget that a higher percentage of efficiency can be obtained by starting things right.

An incorrect order shouldn't pass the first man who receives it, until correction has been made.

Don't add detail, by word of mouth, to a written report. Put it all in writing.

If you make a promise to a customer, or anybody else for that matter, keep it.

Don't miss the Company Section N. E. L. A. meetings. Food for both brain and stomach is served.

A New York woman died while having her photograph taken. Perhaps the effort to look pleasant proved too much.

Don't lose your head if some dissatisfied customer mentions the G. M.'s name. If you have done the best you could, rest assured the G. M. will stand by you.

Read the Company's advertising every day in the public press. This suggestion particularly applies to solicitors and salesmen. Each "ad" is a simple and logical argument for new business.

Don't answer the 'phone with a growl. Perhaps the one at the other end of the wire has something on you and wants to straighten you out.

Don't lay the magazine aside after you have read your own department notes. Read it from cover to cover. You will find it worth while.

Don't use a printed form as a scratch pad. You would be surprised if you knew the amount of the Company's printing bill for a year.

Plato once reproved a man for playing dice. "You reprove me for a little thing," said the culprit. "Habit," replied Plato, "is no little thing."

The right kind of a man will start a grove of fig trees in a desert. Failure isn't a disease of locality—it's a personal habit. Anybody can get a steady living out of steady effort. The same clock that ticks out twenty-four hours for one man can't cheat his neighbor.

In filling out receipts, order-sheets, complaint slips, etc., where either pen or pencil is used, remember that others will have to read your writing. Therefore write legibly so that no one else will have difficulty in reading either names or addresses. Legible writing prevents mistakes and saves time.

Most people try to be good on the installment plan.





## CONDENSED NEWS

During April the street department received some large shipments of materials for the spring rush of outside work. Among these shipments were the following: 4 miles of cast iron pipe; 1,000 gas meters; 5 cars of ranges; also several hundred thousand feet of wrought iron pipe.

A new repair shop is now being constructed in Front Street. When completed it will be one story in height, 27 feet wide, and about 60 feet in length. The new shop, which will be modern in design and equipment, will be used for the repair of the company's autos, trucks and wagons.

On March 24th a photograph was taken of all the electric trucks in the Transportation department. A number of the pictures have been mounted and framed, and three now adorn the offices of Messrs. Searle, Hutchings and Hellen.

William Golden of the Auburn, N. Y., Gas Company has been with us for the past two months studying gas shop operation with a view to adopting our methods. We may be pardoned for considering the fact as a delicate compliment to Mr. Hellen's organization.

Be patient and courteous with the telephone girls. They always do the best they can to get you the 'phone number you are calling. They're not to blame if lines are busy.

When patrons visit our salesrooms, asking that bray burners be installed, salesmen should find out when the applicants will be at home. In this way much time and trouble will be saved.



**George Mitchell**

George Mitchell, head fireman at No. 3 Station, died Monday, April 8th, after an illness of four weeks. Mr. Mitchell, who was 56 years old, had been an employee of the Company for more than twenty years. Besides his widow he left three children: two daughters, Ruth and Della, and one son, Edward, aged 6 years.

The funeral was held Thursday, April 11th, from the family home, 154 Spencer Street, burial taking place at Riverside. The following fellow-workers of Mr. Mitchell acted as pallbearers: J. Coxford, George Dengler, J. Brown and J. Conway.

Mr. Mitchell, who first began work at old No. 1 Station, was a faithful employee of the Company. He was well liked by his fellow workmen and by all those who came in contact with him. We extend to his widow and family our deepest sympathy in the loss of a good husband and a fond father.