



The New Plant is reached by a driveway leading to the Lake from the foot of Park Avenue



WATER FILTRATION PLANT
HIGHLAND PARK, ILL.
PEARSE, GREELEY & HANSEN, ENGINEERS
PRIESTER CONSTRUCTION CO.

A picture of the Filter Room with the Filter Beds in the foreground

NEW WATER PLANT OPENING NEXT WEEK

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investigate the problem of improved water supply. As a result of their advice the city employed the engineering firm of Pearse, Greeley & Hansen, of Chicago, to make a technical study of the problem. Later the same firm drew plans and specifications for the new filtration plant and pumping station which we are today enjoying. Construction of the new project was delayed by legal tangle but actual building operations were commenced in March of 1929.

Start Operation

Thirteen months later, in April of last year, the plant, though not completed, was far enough advanced to start operation. At that season of the year the water consumption is light and it was possible to serve the town with the operation of such units as were completed. A race then ensued to complete the balance of the plant before the heavy demand of hot weather should arrive. The contractors won the race, and when the unprecedented dry spell of last summer arrived, it found the Highland Park Water department ready to meet it.

Meets Heavy Demand

Last summer will be long remembered. Records for drought were broken all over the country. Many communities which were dependent on small streams or surface reservoirs for their water supply were placed in grave danger. Some cities of considerable size actually exhausted their water resources and were compelled to ship supplies in by rail. Fortunate indeed were the lake cities such as Chicago and its shore suburbs. However, having a lake full of water to draw upon did not solve all the problems of the north shore water departments. Besides having a supply of raw water there must be pumps to handle it, filters and other equipment to purify it and adequate mains to carry it to the consumers. In these respects Highland Park was much more fortunate than any of her neighbors.

No Shortage of Water

Now that the emergency is past we may not remember it, but in those torrid weeks of last July, when vegetation was literally burning up, and lawn sprinklers were running night and day, Highland Park was the only north shore suburb that had no shortage of water. And now while our neighboring communities are busily engaged with plans for enlarging their water plants, some of which were quite recently constructed, it gives us a very comfortable feeling to know that our new plant met every demand made upon it, and even on the day of its greatest load — a peak which may not be reached again for years — could have delivered half again as much as it was called upon to do.

These facts give us ample excuse for self-congratulation. When our public was sufficiently aroused to the need of water purification we went about the project in well ordered fashion. Thoroughly competent engineering advice was secured. A firm of engineers was employed which had designed some thirty water plants. Most comprehensive plans and speci-