

PERMIT GAS COMPANY TO INCREASE RATES

Illinois Public Utilities Commission Authorizes Increase to 10 Per Cent Per 1,000 Cubic Feet per Block

APPROACH BANKRUPTCY

Company Has Been Operating at a Loss, It Is Said, To Prevent Receivership

Confronted by conditions which, it is said, may result in its inability to continue to render service to the public, the North Shore Gas Company was this week granted an increase in the scale of rates to the consumer by the Illinois Public Utilities Commission in compliance with a petition for increase in the rate scale filed by the Gas company several months ago. The scale of rates has been increased at the rate of 10 cents per thousand cubic feet for each block in the territory served by the North Shore Gas company. The rate in effect up to the present time since established three years ago was at 7 cents per one thousand cubic feet, a rate which, according to the Commission, is "confiscatory" in view of present economic conditions which would "result in inadequate service, bankruptcy and injury to the communities served" by the company. "It is apparent," says the Commission order, "that the present scale of rates is insufficient under present economic conditions to produce return which the company is entitled to earn."

High Labor Costs

Enlargements and extensions of the plant of the company as well as increased cost of labor and materials has necessitated operation of the company at a loss during the last three years, to prevent receivership, the Commission holds. This has necessitated borrowing \$325,000. It is pointed out, and resulted in a condition "where credit is so seriously impaired" as to make it impossible for the Gas company "to borrow more money". The present scale of rates, it is said, is inadequate to insure effective operation.

Charge Procrastination

The Commission censures the Gas company for its procrastination in filing an inventory report with the Commission, thus delaying prompt investigation by the Commission engineers.

At a hearing of the Gas company case in July, 1918, the Commission reports, engineers found the original cost of the North Shore Gas company property as \$1,770,000. Added to this, they declare, additions have been made to the property since that time bringing the property value to \$1,900,000.

It is "highly probable," says the Commission report that "the lowest valuation for rate making purposes will be \$2,000,000."

"As to the rate of return proper to be allowed under present economic conditions," reads the Commission order, "it is perfectly obvious that in view of well known facts a rate less than seven per cent per annum, which was the one fixed in the order in case No. 7316, (North Shore Gas Company case) cannot be prescribed. In fact, under the influence of financial and economic forces which are now operating, it may be necessary to award a rate of return in excess

of those heretofore fixed by the Commission."

"Evidence presented shows that the revenue of the company in 1919, after deducting operating expenses and taxes amounted to \$154,000, and that \$35,000 is the annual amount which should be allowed for the purposes of taking care of accruing depreciation."

Show Increased Cost

Increased cost of labor and material, the Commission holds, will necessitate an increase in operating expenditure for 1920 of at least \$30,000 over 1919.

The present scale of rates, it is pointed out, falls \$50,000 short of the amount necessary to produce the required revenue.

The Commission decided that a rate of more than 10 per cent per one thousand cubic feet is not justified. It was also decided that the Gas company "shall not be permitted to be relieved from its duty of furnishing service to prospective customers except at an excessive cost for the mains required."

The schedule of rates available for all customers fixed by the Commission is as follows:

Rates for gas used by consumers in any month, per thousand cubic feet.

First 5,000 cu. ft. per meter per month	Next 5,000 cu. ft. per meter per month	Next 10,000 cu. ft. per meter per month	Next 10,000 cu. ft. per meter per month	Next 30,000 cu. ft. per meter per month
\$1.40	\$1.30	1.35	1.25	1.15
1.35	1.25	1.30	1.20	1.15
1.25	1.15	1.15	1.05	1.05

The rate for repayment of meter service: All gas sold through prepayment meters is to be charged at the rate of \$1.30 per thousand cubic feet.

Prompt payment discount: Bills shall be made out at the gross rate, and if paid not later than 10 days following the date sent out, are subject to a discount of 10 cents per thousand cubic feet, making the net rate applicable as shown in the above table.

Minimum bill: The company shall render minimum monthly bills, and collect \$0.50 per meter per month from all consumers who use not in excess of 400 cubic feet of gas in said monthly period, measured on regular or credit type meters of any size.

The new scale of rates became effective May 1, 1920.

PUBLIC LIBRARY IN FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Receipts For Past Fiscal Year \$6,047.37; Total Expenditures Show \$5,175.18

Of interest to every Winnetkan is the annual financial statement of the Winnetka Public library recently issued in pamphlet form. The report covers the year beginning April 1, 1919, and ending March 31, 1920. It follows:

Receipts	
Balance in hands of Village Treasurer, April 1, 1919	\$ 204.74
Amount received from tax levy	5,335.73
Fines, damages and lost books	426.90
Endowment interest	80.00
Total receipts	\$6,047.37
Expenditures	
Assessments	\$ 30.63
Heat	264.05
Light and water	71.55
Books and periodicals	953.06
Binding	331.60
Repairs and maintenance	71.29
Furniture and fixtures	51.50
Printing	63.75

Supplies	60.89
Express	1.00
Telephone	48.36
Petty Cash	40.00
Miscellaneous	29.50
Salaries and wages	3,158.00

Total expenditures \$5,175.18
Balance in hands of Village Treasurer, April 1, 1920 872.19

\$6,047.37

General Statistics

Book Account

Number of volumes at beginning of year	11,030
Number of volumes added by purchase	717
Number of volumes added by gift	54
Total additions during year	771
Number of volumes lost or withdrawn	54
Total number of volumes at end of year	11,747
Number of newspapers and periodicals currently received	52
Number of volumes sent to the bindery	442

Registration

Number of borrowers registered March 31, 1919	2,278
Number of borrowers registered during year	516
Adult	320
Children	196
Number of borrowers' cards cancelled	318
Adult	229
Children	89

Number of borrowers' cards in force March 31, 1920 2,476
Population of Village 5,115

Circulation

Total circulation during year	37,436
Adults	21,672
Children	14,370
Periodicals	1,394
Hours open each week	48
Number of days open for circulation during year	307

Comparative Statistics

Volumes circulated, year 1918-1919	34,420
Volumes circulated, year 1919-1920	37,436
Card holders, year 1918-1919	2,278
Card holders, year 1919-1920	2,476
Volumes in library, year 1918-1919	11,030
Volumes in library, year 1919-1920	11,747

Signed,
Trustees of the Winnetka Free Public Library.

DECORATION DAY GOLF

Decoration Day events at the Bob O'Link Golf club are to begin at 9 o'clock in the morning for an all-day handicap play. The program as outlined by the Sports and Pastimes committee follows:
9:00 a. m. First round 9 holes, Match Play, all flights.

11:00 a. m. Second round 9 holes, Match Play, all flights.
1:30 p. m. Finals 18 holes Match Play.

1:30 p. m. Consolation Event 18 holes, Medal Play.
3:30 p. m. Mixed Foursomes 9 holes Medal Play.

Fair Play

All goods marked in plain figures. A small charge for delivery

Merchants delivery hours, 9:30-11:30 a. m., 2:30-4:45 p. m. An additional charge for carrying accounts.

Our Quality is Supreme.

Our Prices Are Very Low.

We handle a full line of Fruits and Vegetables.

A few of our regular prices

Van Houghton's Bulk Cocoa, 1/2 lb. 23c

LUX, - 11c

Campbells Soup 23c

Shell Macaroni, per pound 20c

Prices Baking Powder, small .14c Large .23c

Closed All Day Monday, Decoration Day

The Progressive Grocery

A. LIPS, Proprietor

Phones
Winnetka 888-889

801 Meyer
Bank Bldg.

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6 Prouty Annex

Watson's Honey Dew Ice Cream

Sweet as Honey

—That's the name and slogan we were looking for. It was submitted by Mrs. David F. Hall, 809 Central avenue, Wilmette.

The contest was large and the judges had hard work in deciding what this delicious ice cream should be called. Over a thousand names were submitted.

Honey Dew—it implies as nearly as possible what this tasteful ice cream stands for. Its purity and sweetness make every one like it. Of course "the proof of the pudding is the eating,"—we suggest you try Watson's Honey Dew, soon. You'll like it.

Watson Ice Cream Co.

Office and Plant: 1920 Ashland Ave., Evanston
TELEPHONE EVANSTON 1005, 1006, AND 1372