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**GREAT WATER SUPPLY PROJECT NEAR REALITY**

**Greater Chicago Lake Water Company Solicits Contracts; Includes Wilmette**

Declaring that it will be able to supply Chicago's west, northwest and north suburbs with an unlimited supply of soft, filtered Lake Michigan water at a reasonable cost, the Greater Chicago Lake Water company, with offices in the Bankers building, Chicago, has announced that it is beginning at once a drive to obtain 30-year contracts for this service from a group of thirty-one villages.

"All legal and other difficulties are at last cleared away," declared Charles S. Thrasher, president of the company, "and we are going to present our water contracts to the boards of trustees as fast as appointments can be made for hearings."

"I want to make it clear right at the start that ours is in no sense a stock selling scheme. We are positively not going to obtain contracts from the villages and then come around to the residents and ask them to buy stock so we can go ahead with the work."

"Ample financial backing has been pledged to our company by E. H. Rollins & Sons of Chicago, P. W. Chapman & company, Inc., of Chicago and F. L. Putnam & company, Inc., of Boston, three of the largest and best known banking houses in the United

States, all of which make a specialty of public utility financing.

**Crib at Wilmette**

"These companies are right now under contract to advance \$12,000,000 for construction purposes just as soon as we show a sufficient number of water supply contracts with villages to indicate that our sales will be large enough to insure earnings. This method, it may be mentioned, is the usual one in financing gas, water and other public utility enterprises. Many of the most successful utilities in the United States have been put into operation in exactly this way.

"We are going to build a crib in the lake at Wilmette, run a tunnel from it to a pumping station and filter plant on shore, and run a pipeline southward around the western city limits of Chicago and connect with the water systems of each western suburb at its corporate limits.

"The water will be soft, filtered, and will be delivered at a guaranteed minimum pressure of 50 pounds. Measurement will be made by meter, and the price to the village corporation will be based on the volume consumed, there being only one scale of prices for large and small communities alike. The maximum price is 15 cents per thousand gallons for communities using 50,000 gallons a day or less. The minimum price is 8 cents per thousand gallons for communities using 7,000,000 gallons a day or more. The scale for quantities between these extremes is proportioned on the same principle as power, light and gas charges are proportioned.

**Awaits Town Verdicts**

"We have been asked many times how soon we can start building our crib, pumping station and pipeline. We are forced to reply that this depends upon the villages themselves. We and our financial backers are all convinced that there is need for our water supply service in the west towns. But any business man will agree that we cannot in fairness be expected to build a \$12,000,000 job unless we have positive assurance in the way of contracts that it is going to be profitable for a period long enough to make it a worthwhile project.

"This is why we are urging all villages which desire lake water to contract with us for it without delay. We know of no other manner in which we can obtain positive assurance that our water will be purchased when it is delivered. Hence we believe it reasonable that any village which really wants soft, filtered water from Lake Michigan will be willing to pledge itself beforehand to take that water for a period of time.

"Our offer stipulates that if we do not begin construction work within six months of accepting a contract, the village which gives the contract is automatically released therefrom. We estimate that to build the pipeline will require at least two years from the date of commencing construction.

**Furnish Water in 1931**

"Therefore we are frank to say that we cannot furnish water under any circumstances before 1931. But if we can get a majority of villages with us at once we can certainly furnish it by that time, and of course having gotten our money and begun work we would have every incentive for completing it as soon as possible in order to get our earnings started.

"We are confident that any village which contracts with us will thereby end its water troubles. This certainly cannot be said when a village tries to solve its problem by drilling new wells or by contracting with Chicago.

"Our source of supply will not decrease steadily like the wells in the west town district, nor will our water be of varying hardness or taste. Neither are we in politics, and so the efficiency of our service will not depend upon changing political administration."  
 (Continued on page 43)

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