

MOVE TO HALT WATER HEARING IS FRUSTRATED

Commissioner Orders Rate
Testimony to Proceed;
Cut Is Predicted.

Eleventh hour effort of the Indianapolis Water Company to halt the city's rate reduction hearing before the public service commission failed today when Commissioner Harry K. Cuthbertson overruled the company motion to desist and proceeded with the hearing.

Cuthbertson turned a deaf ear to the plea of a company attorney, imported from New York, who contended that "no emergency exists" and it is impossible to cut rates now.

The commissioner pointed out that in 1918 the company accepted an increase in rates under the emergency clause and inferred it now is the "people's turn" to profit under the emergency section of the utility regulation statute.

High Rates To Be Shown

Edward H. Knight, Indianapolis corporation counsel, then stated the case for the city. Evidence will show, he said, that both payments for municipal fire protection and the minimum rate paid by the small consumer are greater here than almost anywhere else in the state or nation.

William L. Ransom was the New York attorney whom Cuthbertson overruled. Joseph Daniels presented the statement for the company. He said the company will show that it now is not making a fair return on its valuation and that no rate decrease will stand.

The company points were put into an answer asking dismissal of the emergency hearing and filed with Cuthbertson. They will be that the company is suffering like other businesses from the depression, that it never pressed for higher rates on valuation as found by the United States supreme court, that it is large taxpayer and is financing a large public works construction program and is not cutting rates at this time.

Relief Held Probable

Today's session was brought about by a rate reduction petition of the city and a committee of citizens from some side civic clubs.

It appeared likely that relief will be granted from the minimum monthly charges to citizens and change made in hydrant rental costs to the city.

Data presented by Mayor Reginald H. Sullivan's committee showed that the \$1.50 monthly minimum rate for water here is higher than in any of twenty-five other cities of comparative size, all being over 100,000 population.

It also was brought out that annual hydrant rental in cities of more than 100,000 varies from nothing to \$60 a year, the average being below \$50. Indianapolis pays a comparative rate of \$79.04, the mayor contended.

Figures also were introduced to show that net operating revenue per capita of the Indianapolis company is greater than in any other city in the state, except East Chicago.

This data was provided for the city by Cuthbertson.

Charges Are Compared

Most interesting to the average rate payer were figures on minimum monthly charges. In Milwaukee, where the city owners its own water supply, the minimum charge is but \$2 a year.

Monthly charges in other cities were charged as follows:

Atlanta, \$1.50; Atlanta, Ga., \$1; Cincinnati, \$1.40; Columbus, \$1.45 cents; Kansas City, 50 cents; Los Angeles, \$1; New Orleans, 75 cents; Portland, Ore., 60 cents; St. Louis, \$1; San Francisco, 75 cents; Seattle, 50 cents; and Toledo, 80 cents.

Baltimore charges \$2 a quarter per 1,000 cubic feet. Boston has a minimum charge of \$8.80 a year. Buffalo, \$12; Detroit, \$2.40 a year and \$25 a quarter; Rochester, N.Y., 75 cents; and Newark, N.J., \$1.50 a year; and Washington, \$5.65 a year for 7,500 cubic feet.

Among tables presented to strengthen the city's case for reduced fire protection rates was a comparison of costs with those at Los Angeles, showing that charges for hydrants and similar service here exceed those of the west coast city by \$17,102.76 a month.

Fire Protection Costly

Adoption of a new hydrant rental scale caused a jump in protection costs from the high point of \$1.04 in 1929 to \$1.265 in December, 1931, the city figures showed. This increase was authorized by commission approval of the changed hydrant rental schedule and at once increased the city's bill \$113,713.20 a year, it was shown.

Charts also were presented to show that the small consumer in Indianapolis pays more for water than elsewhere in the state.

Other data of the city included business charts showing the great price drops in materials and supplies used by the water company, both in service and plant reproduction; the depressed business condition and unemployment in the city and the need for immediate relief from the high rates set when prices were at a peak and prosperity prevailed.

QUARTET TO APPEAR

Indiana Central Singer on Program at Y. M. C. A. Lobby.

Featuring a musical entertainment at the Y. M. C. A. lobby at 7:30 Wednesday night will be the Greyhound quartet of Indiana Central college.

Maurice Shadley, quartet director, has arranged the program to be given by the college orchestra. Members of the quartet are: John Patten, first tenor; Vaughn Arney, second tenor; Henry Busche, baritone, and Shadley, bass.

Most Speedy Remedies Known

AVERAGE MAN IS 'GETTING BY'

Typical American' Has Sane Viewpoint on Depression

By ROBERT TALLEY
NEA Service Writer
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F. MADISON, Iowa, March 22.—The average man still is making money in these days of depression, but not as much as he used to.

He thinks business is improving—everything considered—and believes that we merely are going through a period of reconstruction which, in the end, will mean the return of prosperity, but on a different level.

He doesn't think Hoover can be re-elected this year, because he sees the people in the mood for a change at Washington.

He thinks the Democratic nominee—who will likely be our next President—will be some "dark horse" who has not yet been mentioned, preferably a man of the Theodore Roosevelt type.

Such are the present views of Roy L. Gray, proprietor of a Ft. Madison clothing and furnishing store, who four years ago became nationally famous when he was chosen by a leading magazine as the United States' most typical "average man."

Out of all the 120,000,000 persons who make up this nation from New York to San Francisco, he was selected as the nearest human approach to that mythical figure to whom politicians look for their votes, to whom business looks for customers and for whom editors plan their newspapers.

SEEKING the answer to the question of what the average man in this country is thinking about today, I came to Ft. Madison to interview Mr. Gray.

I found him behind the counter of his clothing store on the town's main business street, getting ready for the day's trade.

"How's business?" I asked the average man.

"My business is good, considering this so-called depression," Mr. Gray replied. "I never have figured this period exactly a depression—as I see it, we are going through a period of reconstruction, getting back to finding a level where we will stay."

"But I don't believe this bunk about prosperity being right around the corner; I think improvement will be gradual. But it is coming now, gradually."

"What do you think of Hoover's chances for re-election?" I asked. "Well," he replied, "I'm regis-



tered as a Republican, but I believe this election will see a change in party. I'm not criticizing Mr. Hoover, but when times are bad people just naturally will want a change."

"I think Mr. Hoover has done as much as any man could do under similar conditions, but conditions are against him."

"Who's going to be the Democratic nominee?" was the next question.

"What do you think of the Japanese aggression in Shang-

hai?" I asked. "I think the Japanese are going too far. They are trying to sell their goods to China with a bayonet. They are overdoing it. They will lose by it in the end."

"What about the proposal to cancel the war debts?"

"In my personal view, these debts should be paid, but there are other things that may enter into it."

"For instance, there is the question as to whether they can be collected. It is beyond my knowledge of conditions to attempt to answer just how things would work out if an attempt were made to force collection."

"To what extent does an average man read the newspaper?"

"I first read the headlines to find things I am interested in. Then when I find a story I am interested in, I read it all the way through," he replied.

"On the average, though, I would say that of twenty stories I read only three or four, getting my information on the rest from the headlines."

Mr. Gray, the "average man" seems average in all respects. He lives in what is about the average town, his clothing store is about the average clothing store to be found in a town of this size, his mode of living is about the average, his family is of the average size.

It consists of his wife and two children: Dick, 12, and Sue, 8.

I ASKED him what he planned to make of his son Dick, now in the eighth grade at an average school.

"I'm not going to try to make anything of him, but let him do that for himself. He is enthused greatly over aviation and wants to be a pilot."

"Would you have any objection to your son becoming an airplane pilot?"

"Not if he is trained properly for the job. I think aviation offers a big future to boys. He's been up in a plane several times already and is wild about it. As for myself, I never have been aloft."

"What about your little girl?"

"Oh, she's just an average 8-year-old girl. Takes a lot of interest in curling. That's about all I can say."

EVERYTHING to business, Mr. Gray said has reduced his prices, just the same as other clothing merchants.

On the average, the reduction in his suits during the last two years has been from about \$33 to about \$26. Other merchandise in his store has been reduced proportionately.

Mr. Gray is not buying a new car this year. He now is driving a two-year-old Buick. He says he figures that will do him for another year.

He owns his home, so he doesn't have to worry about asking the landlord to reduce his rent.

Charges of drunkenness and delinquency were filed against her following a robbery tour nearly a month ago, when the girl held up eleven persons, using a water pistol. She claimed she was drunk.

Whether case of Joe Hottenrock, 32, of Ravenswood, alleged accomplice of the girl, will be tried Thursday has not been determined by Geckler.

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DALLES, Tex., March 22.—Four men were burned to death when fire fanned by a strong wind swept the Elm hotel today. Four other men were seared by the flames.

Approximately fifty residents of the hotel fled in scanty attire and suffered from exposure to freezing weather.

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