

A BRIEF HISTORY
OF LITTLE ROCK'S WATER SUPPLY
(Arkansas Democrat)
1931

The first city ordinance in Little Rock providing for a water supply was passed October 4, 1877. The original plant was constructed in 1878. It consisted of a pumping station, located at the foot of Pulaski Street, on the site now occupied by the car barns of the Arkansas Power and Light Company. The river water was pumped directly into the distribution system without any effort to purify or clarify it.

On account of the turbidity of the river water, the company, known as the Little Rock Water Company, put down six wells in Baring Cross, near the north end of the Missouri Pacific bridge. A six-inch pipe line was laid, crossing the river and connecting with the pumping station in Little Rock. This was done in 1883. Much difficulty was encountered with this plan, as the pipe was frequently broken by the river current, and the well water had a highly corrosive effect on the iron pipe. Finally, in that year, the experiment was abandoned, and the city was supplied with untreated water until 1886.

On November 3, 1885, Ordinance number 20 was passed by the city council, requiring that "pure and wholesome" water be procured and furnished within two years from that date. In 1886, the Home Water Company took over the property of the Little Rock Water Company. A pumping station was erected at the site of the present one, and two settling basins were constructed on Reservoir Hill, one for sedimentation and one for coagulation. With this plant, settled river water was furnished from 1886 to 1891.

In 1889, the Arkansaw Water Company succeeded to the rights, contracts, and franchises of the Home Water Company. In September of that year, a contract was made with the American Filter Company of Chicago for the construction of ten pressure-type filters. These were located near the pumping station, and the river water pumped directly through them into the distribution system. This plan was not successful, and after two years of fruitless experimentation, the idea was abandoned.

Seeing that the filtering process then attempted was not satisfactory, the company drilled several test wells on the Little Rock side of the river, near the pumping station. The results were the same as for the wells on the north side of the river. The water produced from them had the same corrosive effect on the iron pipes.

In 1891, the filters were removed from the pumping station to the present location, on Reservoir Hill. With previous settling and coagulation of the water, the filtering process there has been successful, and more filter beds have been added to the original plant in recent years.

NEW WATER SUPPLY FOR CITY PROPOSED

C. of C. President Calls Meeting for Monday to Consider Matter.

8-8-34

A move to determine whether water consumers in Little Rock are satisfied with the supply furnished by the Arkansaw Water Company was initiated yesterday by Joshua K. Shepherd, president of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, who called a meeting of the chamber membership for 12:15 p. m. Monday at the Hotel Marion to take up the problem.

"Neither personally nor as president of the Chamber of Commerce do I wish to appear as instigating, or desiring, a fight with the Arkansaw Water Company," Mr. Shepherd said. "As far as I know, the water company is doing all that could be expected of it under present circumstances.

"What I am interested in knowing is whether the people of Little Rock generally want softer water throughout the year than can be obtained as long as the Arkansas river is the source of supply. If it costs more, and the people are willing to pay for it, then it seems to me that arrangements could be made with the Arkansaw Water Company to furnish softer water.

Refers to Improvements.

"I appreciate the fact that even now the water company is planning improvements that will give the city a softer water than it has been receiving, but it has occurred to me, and I know from conversations with others, that many have had the same idea—that it might be better, in planning the future of the city, to provide for an entirely different source of supply.

"We have many things in Little Rock of which we have been and are proud, but our water is not one of them. All we can say for it is that it is chemically pure. For my part, if it is shown that the water company must charge more to furnish softer water obtainable from a source other than the river, I shall be glad to accept a reasonable increase in rate."

Letters to the chamber members were mailed yesterday by D. Hodson Lewis, manager of the organization. It set forth that a special luncheon would be held "for discussion of projects of vital interest to our community" and added that "one important matter of concern to all is to lay plans for securing an ample supply of potable soft water." Luncheon reservations may be made by telephoning 4-0673.

Harder When River Low.

Supt. S. R. Brough of the Arkansaw Water Company announced recently that the company would install equipment for softening the water supply, which he conceded is unusually hard while the river is at low stages, necessitating resort to supplementary supply from wells maintained by the company.

The hard water, it was explained, costs consumers heavily in the amount of soap used, and also is responsible for stoppage of hot water heating coils frequently. Mr. Brough said that there would be no further cause for complaint after the contemplated improvements are completed early next fall.

However, Mr. Shepherd said yesterday, he was not prompted to call the meeting for discussion of the water supply solely by the present situation. He said that dissatisfaction with the water supply has existed for many years, and that he believes the consumers should not delay longer a decision as to whether they wish to continue using river water or prefer that their water come from another source.

LITTLE ROCK'S WATER SUPPLY.

The Little Rock public will approve the action of President Joshua K. Shepherd in calling a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce to consider Little Rock's water supply. 8-9-34

The great question is whether the present supply can be made satisfactory or whether Little Rock should demand water from a new source.

The answer should be based on complete and comprehensive investigation. That would call for a properly constituted body to undertake this responsible duty and it might require the services of engineers and other technical advisers. Gazette

The present supply is not polluted. It does not contain "germs." But the question of its potability remains open. Are an excessive number of families buying water to drink? Is the

pipled water acceptable for other domestic purposes? What about its effects on plumbing and on automobile cooling systems? On industrial machinery and processes? On Little Rock's industrial development?

If it should finally be decided, after due examination of all phases of the matter, that the Arkansas river is not a dependable and satisfactory source of supply the problem of finding a new supply would have to be solved.

That the supply has not been suitable or acceptable this summer is admitted by the Water Company when it proceeds to instal apparatus to soften the water. But the big question for the public is not how to meet the emergency of a low river. It is how to be assured of a permanent supply of satisfactory water for personal, household and industrial needs.

RESERVOIRS WEST OF CITY FAVORED

Geological Survey Report on Water Supply Submitted to Mayor.

OTHER SOURCES STUDIED

Conclusions Indicate Little Maumelle and Forks of Saline River Should Be Utilized.

August 12, 1934

A drawing indicating potential sources of water for Little Rock is on page 19.

A new water supply for Little Rock, very soft and low in chloride content, to be obtained from surface reservoirs in the highlands west of the city, is recommended in a report prepared by the Arkansas Geological Survey and submitted to Mayor Knowlton yesterday.

The report contains a detailed review of the facts concerning the quality of the present river water—well auxiliary supply furnished by the Arkansaw Water Company, and equally detailed suggestions for its improvement. It is likely that the report will be discussed at the meeting called at the Hotel Marion for noon tomorrow by Joshua K. Shepherd, president of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, to deal with the water problem.

The alternative suggestion by George C. Branner, state geologist, for improvement of the water supply is installation of a water-softening plant, which "should provide a reasonably satisfactory water . . . and would be the most practical course to take . . . from the standpoint of cheapness and expediency."

A new water supply from deep or shallow wells was not found practicable in the survey, because of the cost and because it would not achieve the desired results—softening of the water and reduction in chloride content.

Surface-Water Supply Deemed Preferable

"Of the suggested water supplies discussed," the report concluded, "it is believed that the surface-water supply is preferable. Of the surface supplies discussed, it is believed the Little Maumelle basin, perhaps linked with that of the North Fork of the Saline or the Alum Fork of the Saline, or both, offers the greatest chance of providing a satisfactory supply. The second supply, in order of preference, is the Saline river, and the third the Little Red river.

A supply of surface water from the highland area west of Little Rock would be advantageous with respect to the present system, for the following reasons:

- "1. The supply would be permanent, and would be adequate to meet any emergency.
- "2. The water would be very low in hardness, probably less than 60 parts per million, and might be as low as 50 parts per million, as compared with the present average of 150 parts per million.
- "3. There would be no expense incidental to softening.
- "4. The chloride content of the water would probably be exceptionally low, perhaps less than 10 parts per million, as compared with the 10-year average of 208 parts per million for the present supply.

"5. The expense of treating such water would probably be less than the cost of treating the present supply.
"6. The flow to Little Rock would be a gravity flow.
"A permanent, adequate supply of water, very low in chlorides and exceptionally soft, would obviously constitute a valuable asset to the city of Little Rock, not only as a means of industrial economy, but as an added convenience to those who live here and as an added attraction to prospective residents.
"It is, therefore, recommended that a careful study be undertaken of the surface-water supply systems outlined in this report, and of the deep-well supplies of the Wilcox formation southeast of Little Rock, with the end in view of eventually developing one, or a combination of them, as a source of new municipal water supply."

Capacity of Wells Southeast of City 6,000,000 Gallons

The survey indicated that an aggregate capacity of 6,000,000 gallons of soft water per day probably could be obtained from wells in the deep stratum (Wilcox formation) in northeast Jefferson county, southwest Lonoke county, or southeast Pulaski county, at 600 to 700 feet in depth.
The estimated initial cost would be in excess of \$2,225,000, Mr. Branner estimated, or about the same as the combined cost of the Little Maumelle, North Fork, and Alum Fork surface-supply systems. One disadvantage of the deep-well system, it was pointed out, is that it is not certain whether the quantity could be depended upon for a long period of time.
"The conclusions, therefore," he reported, "are that a soft water supply from deep wells for Little Rock probably would be less economical than a surface-water supply and would be, so far as is definitely known, less desirable."

Annual Savings In Soap Expense \$53,085

Whatever method is used to obtain soft water for Little Rock, the report pointed out, "it is estimated that the total savings in soap expense to Little Rock consumers would be \$53,085, or an average savings of \$2.65 per year per family of five."
The cost of constructing a soda-lime water-softening plant for Little Rock should not exceed \$400,000 and that figure, it was reported, is probably too high since much of the equipment is already in use here.
The added operating cost to the water company for softening the water

for an average family would be approximately 20 cents per month, based upon the \$400,000 estimate, Mr. Branner said.

"In relying upon a softened supply of ground and river water, however, it must be kept in mind," Mr. Branner warned, "that the auxiliary well water is essential for the dilution of the river water during periods when the latter is high in chlorides. In relying upon a ground-water supply obtained from wells adjacent to the river, it is to be recognized that there is a possibility of the supply from that source going to high chlorides following an extended period of extremely low water in the river, accompanied by a period of prolonged well pumping."

It was explained that two of the auxiliary wells have gone to high chlorides and "it is not impossible that, under the conditions described, the water from all auxiliary wells... might go as high as 1,200 parts per million, which would render the water almost unusable."

(It might be explained here that presence of chlorides in a water supply is not so objectionable as its hardness. By "hard" water is meant water which contains certain compounds in solution which prevent the formation of soapsuds. These are, for the most part, calcium and magnesium bicarbonates, causing temporary hardness which can be removed by heating, and calcium and magnesium sulphates, causing permanent hardness, which cannot be removed by heating.)

In case the chemical softening method should be approved, the report recommended that the City Council require that the chloride content be reduced to a maximum of 250 parts per million and that the total hardness be reduced to a maximum of 100 parts per million on the calcium carbonate basis. This could be done under the authority of Act 124 of 1931.

Little Maumelle Held Most Desirable Reservoir

The surface reservoir favored in the geologist's report is the Little Maumelle, about 16 miles from the present Little Rock pumping station. The west end of Shinnall mountain has been suggested as the location for the impounding dam. Such a reservoir would furnish a daily average supply of 15,000,000 gallons, it is estimated, sufficient to supply a city of 200,000 population. The catchment area would include about 32 square miles and the flooded area about five square miles. The elevation of the surface of the impounded water would be about 400 feet. A rough estimate of the cost of dam, fill, land, clearing, flowline, right-of-way and incidentals would be \$1,370,000.

Two Forks of Saline River.
Next, the reports favors the headwaters of the North Fork of the Saline river. This reservoir would have an elevation of 600 feet, a catchment area of 62 square miles and a flooded area of 9.7 square miles.
"This reservoir might be used independently," it was reported, "as a source of water for Little Rock, or as an additional supply supplemental to the Little Maumelle reservoir." The estimated cost, if considered as a supplemental supply to the Little Maumelle reservoir, would be about \$570,000.
Third on the list is the Alum fork of the Saline river. The surface of this reservoir would have an elevation of 750 feet; the catchment area would be 44 square miles and the flooded area 2.6 square miles. The cost of the Alum fork reservoir, as supplemental to the North fork, is estimated roughly at \$325,000.
Hence, the series of three, having a total catchment area of 138 square miles and a flooded area of 17.3 square miles would cost an estimated total of \$2,269,000.

Similar estimates are given for other, less practicable reservoirs, on the South Fourche La Fave river, the Saline river (estimated cost \$2,750,000) and the upper Little Red river (estimated cost \$5,541,000).

Data Gathered by Engineers.
The major part of the data on which the report is based was assembled by H. B. Allen Sichel, water supply engineer of Hazen, who has had 24 years' experience in the development of water supplies. He was assisted by E. Curtis, water supply engineer of DeQueen, a stenographer and a draftsman.

The expense of the study was borne by the Civil Works Administration, the city of Little Rock, and the Arkansas Geological Survey.
The material was organized and conclusions drawn by Mr. Branner.

To Determine Attitude on Water Supply Aug 12, 1934 Meeting Monday Will Precede Submission of Survey to Council.

A definite step toward determining the attitude of Little Rock citizens toward demanding a better supply of water will be taken by the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon called for noon Monday at the Hotel Marion.
The meeting will precede by a few hours submission to the City Council of a local water supply survey report, made by the Arkansas Geological Survey at the request of Mayor Knowlton.

This report said that, "from the standpoint of cheapness and expediency," the softening of the present water supply, as proposed by the franchised Arkansas Water Company, "should provide a reasonably satisfactory water for domestic and industrial consumption and would be the most practical course to take."

From the standpoint of civic betterment, however, the report concluded with the recommendation: "That a careful study be undertaken of the surface water supply systems outlined in this report, and of the deep-well supplies of the Wilcox formation southeast of Little Rock, with the end in view of eventually developing one, or a combination of them, as a source of new municipal water supply."

Interest Is Shown.
The Chamber of Commerce announced yesterday that it had made many reservations for the luncheon during the day, and that requests for reservations starting coming in several days ago, immediately following the announcement of Joshua K. Shepherd, president, that the meeting was to be held for the purpose of discussing the desirability of obtaining a more satisfactory water supply for Greater Little Rock.

Comments of local citizens on Mr. Shepherd's announcement indicates a marked interest in improvement of the water for commercial and industrial purposes, as well as for domestic and personal uses, chamber officials said.

"The primary purpose of this meeting," said Mr. Shepherd, "is to find

out accurately the desires of Little Rock citizens with respect to a more satisfactory water supply and to determine their willingness to support a movement looking towards the securing of such a supply. Though we have not as yet made an exhaustive study of the problem and cannot say just how big such an undertaking might be, still we know the matter is of major importance to this community and if it is clear to us that the people of Greater Little Rock desire to take the necessary steps then the Chamber of Commerce will expect to see the project through to accomplishment."

D. Hodson Lewis, manager of the chamber, requested Saturday that all persons desiring to attend the luncheon who have not made reservations do so before 10 o'clock Monday morning in order that the hotel might be advised. Reservations will close at that hour, he said.

Says Water Tests Standard.
Dr. W. B. Grayson, state health officer, and M. Z. Bair, chief sanitary engineer, said the Little Rock water supply is up to standard from a bacterial standpoint, and is harmless as drinking water, but contains an excessive percentage of solids due to the low stage of the Arkansas river.

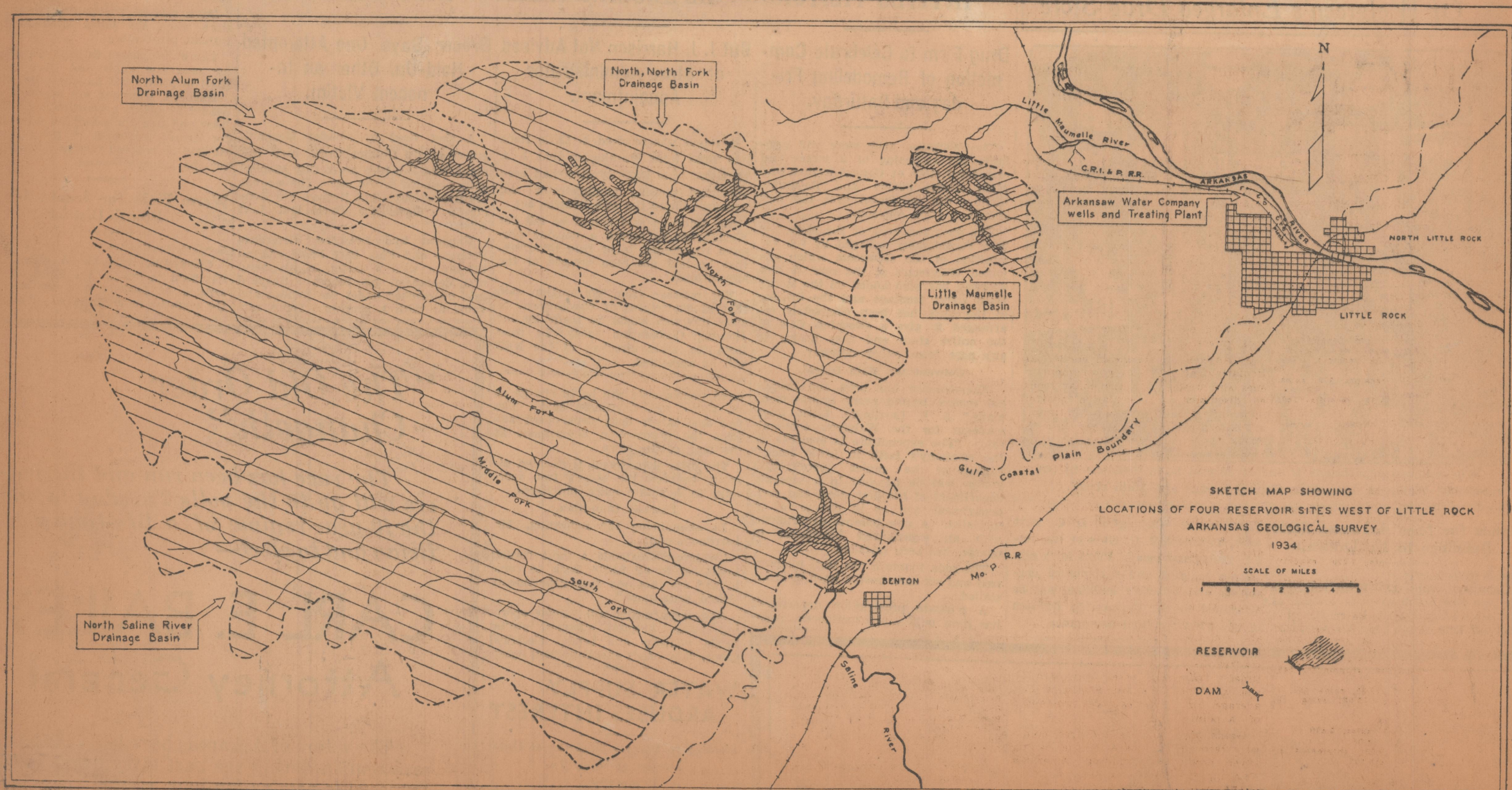
They said an analysis filed with the report of George C. Branner, state geologist, shows the water contains a large percentage of phosphates and magnesia and other chemicals which in no wise affects its health qualities, but makes its use difficult for general uses, except for drinking purposes.

The report submitted by Dr. George C. Branner, head of the state geological survey, at the request of Mayor Knowlton and following several months' study, discussed various possible new water supplies for Little Rock, including both surface water and well water. The greatest discussion was given to surface supplies, such as those which would be available from the Little Maumelle river, the North Fork of the Saline river, the headwaters of Alum Fork of the Saline river, the South Fourche La Fave basin, the Saline river, the upper Little Red river.

Surface Supply Favored.
Those who made the survey, which was conducted under the direction of H. B. Allen Sichel with funds provided by the city, the state and the CWA, seemed to favor most the use of surface water, and emphasized principally the plan of developing a reservoir on the Little Maumelle river about 16 miles from the present Little Rock pumping station, supplementing this, if necessary, with lines from reservoirs on forks of the Saline river and possibly from other sources mentioned above.

In suggesting the Little Maumelle development, reference was made to a report made in 1914 by Edward Flad,

Map Showing Where Little Rock Might Obtain New Water Supply



Three of the four surface reservoir sites indicated in the above map would permit flow of water by gravity to Little Rock, according to the report on a water supply survey submitted to the city of Little Rock yesterday by the Arkansas Geological Survey. They are, in the order of preference given in the report, the Little Maumelle, the Northfork and the Alum fork of the Saline river. Any one of the three

could furnish an adequate water supply for Little Rock, or the three could be linked in one system, it was reported. The reservoir site shown near Benton is in the Saline river drainage basin, and such impounded water would require pumping to reach Little Rock, as the elevation there is lower.

waterworks engineer engaged by the municipality, who suggested the west end of Shinall mountain as the location of the impounding dam. Mr. Flad estimated that the reservoir would have a capacity of 3,000,000-000 gallons of water and would be capable of furnishing a daily average supply of 15,000,000 gallons, which he stated was sufficient to supply a city of 200,000 population.

The catchment area, as shown in an exhibit submitted in the report of Dr. Branner's office, includes about 32 square miles, and the flooded area about five square miles. The elevation of the surface of the water would be 400 feet, allowing a gravity flow to Little Rock.

A rough estimate of the cost of this installation follows:

Dam, fill, land and clearing	\$ 615,000
85,000 feet flowline at \$8 Right-of-way and incidentals	75,000

\$1,370,000

Of this water, the report said: "It seems reasonable to assume that such a supply might prove to be entirely satisfactory, and would be a soft water very similar in character to that of the Saline river (hardness less than 60 parts per million).

Softening Plants Costly.

Quoting from an authority named Charles P. Hoover, the report said that a water softening plant such as might be needed to soften Little Rock's present water supply sufficiently would cost about \$400,000 and would bring an added cost of operation, interest, maintenance and depreciation of approximately five cents per 1,000 gallons, or a cost of about 20 cents per month for the average family in Little Rock, assuming that this family uses about 4,000 gallons a month. It was estimated that on soap alone, softening of the water to an average of 100 to 150 parts per million would save this average family 22 cents per month, or over-

ance, on one item, the increased rate by two cents, providing the increase in rate did not exceed the increase in cost.

It was also pointed out that the present hardness of the water causes much loss in corrosion. The report said that a supply of water from the highland area west of Little Rock, as outlined, would be advantageous over the present supply for the following reasons:

1. The supply would be permanent and would be adequate to meet any emergency.
2. The water would be very low in hardness, probably less than 60 parts per million, and might be as low as 30 parts per million, as compared with the present average of 150 parts per million.
3. There would be no expense incidental to softening.
4. The chloride content of the water would probably be exceptionally low, perhaps less than 10 parts per million, as compared with the 10-year average of 208 parts per million in the present supply.
5. The expense of treating such

BETTER WATER FOR CITY TO BE SOUGHT

C. of C. President Appoints Committee to Work on Problem.

Residents of Greater Little Rock want a better water supply than is now available, it was indicated yesterday at a luncheon at the Hotel Marion attended by 130 persons, and Joshua K. Shepherd, president of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, appointed a committee of five to see what can be done about getting it.

Charles L. Thompson, architect, was named chairman of the committee. Other members are: Thomas S. Buzbee, Henry H. Tucker, M. Z. Bair and George Suter.

Before accepting the chairmanship, Mr. Thompson asked for assurance from the 130 persons present that they were sincerely interested in obtaining a new water supply for Little Rock. This assurance was given in a standing vote that was practically unanimous.

The appointment of the committee followed an explanation of the purpose of the conference by Mr. Shepherd, and a defense of the Arkansas river as a source of water supply by S. R. Brough, president of the Arkansas Water Company.

Suggests City Sell Water.

A suggestion that the city itself, might develop a satisfactory water supply, with funds borrowed from the federal government, was advanced by Herbert L. Thomas, president of the Pyramid Life Insurance Company.

"This supply could be sold to the present water company, as distributing agent," he said, "and the city thus could maintain control not only of the supply but of the rates."

Mr. Thomas said he is confident the desire for a better water supply is practically unanimous among consumers, as a result of a private survey through questionnaires which he made several years ago.

No Attack on Company.

"It is neither my purpose nor desire to make an attack upon the Arkansas Water Company," Mr. Shepherd said. "I understand and believe that the water company is furnishing the citizens of this community water that is chemically pure and of a type that meets the legal requirements of its contract."

"I simply join others in feeling that the time has come when we can afford to procure a supply of water which will be more satisfactory to a large number and which water, being softer, would actually cost us less—all things counted—though its cost per 1,000 gallons might be greater than the amount we now pay to the water company for the present hard water we get from it."

He listed additional expenses resulting from the use of hard water, and added:

"If we could be relieved of that extra expense, we could afford to pay a marked increase in the price per gallon of the water that comes through our pipes and yet we would not be out any more money. Mind you, I'm not saying it would be necessary to pay an increased price; I merely point out that we could do so."

The duties of the committee, he said, will be to "review the Arkansas Geological Survey's recent report on the situation, with any other surveys or available data, consider the improvements or advances in the field of chemistry that might be available for the perfection of our water, confer with officials and councilmen of both cities, consult with the water company, and make any other inquiry the committee deems advisable, then inform us what, in its opinion, are the steps Little Rock should take to get a year-round abundant supply of potable, soft water."

Company Executive's Statement.

Mr. Brough made the following statement in defense of the present water supply:

"Some 20 years ago the question of the potability and the adequacy of the river water as a source of supply, was thoroughly investigated. The city brought suit against the company contending that the supply was not potable. The case was heard before the Hon. John E. Martineau, who was then chancellor. The court appointed Edward Flad, a nationally known water supply engineer, to investigate the question, including other sources of supply than the river. He worked on the case about two years, made a thorough investigation and his report was made an order by the court and was consented to by the city and the water company. That: The Arkansas river was the most logical source of supply, supplemented by a well supply to dilute the river water when it was high in salt or high in turbidity. It further provided for certain additions to the plant, such as additional boilers, pumping equipment, buildings, filters, basins and pipe lines, to be constructed, and during this 20 years we have strictly adhered to the orders set forth in that decree and are doing so now."

"The use of the well supply corrects the salt condition of the river, but imparts a greater degree of hardness to the water."

"The officials of your company decided to provide for softening some three months ago, and recently announced it. All of the material necessary for the construction of this plant, other than that obtainable locally, has been ordered and we expect to have the plant in operation early this fall. When in operation, the hardness of the water will be materially reduced. The reduction of the salts that causes hardness makes it more convenient and desirable for use in the home and it is roughly estimated that the saving to each consumer will average between \$5 and \$15 per year. Taking the lower figure the economies resulting in the home should approximate an economic saving to the population of Greater Little Rock of over \$100,000. We hope it will not be necessary to delay this."

"The Arkansas river is a dependable supply of water. In the serious drouth of 1930 when many water plants failed and others curtailed service, your local company, with the river as a source, had an abundance of water, and again this year we continue to have water in an unlimited quantity for any consumption demand the people of Little Rock may require."

"The purity of the water is of the utmost importance, and I want to assure you we take every precaution to safeguard and maintain that. We make numerous bacteriological and chemical tests every day. You may always be sure this water is pure and healthful."

"It is possible that your body may appoint a committee to investigate this matter further. If you do, we hope that we can have the pleasure of conducting this committee through our plant and assure you we will give your committee complete co-operation in their investigation."

TO STUDY THE QUESTION OF WATER SUPPLY.

The movement which has been definitely launched by the appointment of a committee to study the whole question of Little Rock's water supply meets with the almost universal approval of the public.

The people want from community representatives an impartial verdict on the water they are using and practical recommendations on what should be done to provide a permanently satisfactory supply.

And the community is fortunate in the committee selected by President Shepherd of the Chamber of Commerce to make this investigation. This well balanced body has for its chairman Charles L. Thompson, who has so often been called on to serve Little Rock in important matters. As colleagues Mr. Thompson has one of the leading business men of Arkansas, Henry H. Tucker; a man so well known as a citizen and as a lawyer as Thomas S. Buzbee, and on the technical side two engineers, M. Z. Bair and George Suter, specialists in the field of water supply. The findings of such a committee will have the greatest weight with the public.

FERA TO SURVEY RESERVOIR SITES

Data Will Be Utilized by C. of C. Water Supply Committee.

A detailed survey of the areas in the highlands west of Little Rock proposed as sites for a series of surface reservoirs for a new water supply will be made by the FERA, it was announced yesterday by R. C. Limerick, assistant state administrator in charge of the Work Division.

A crew now at work on a Coast and Geodetic Survey project here will survey the proposed flood and catchment areas of reservoir sites at Little Maumelle and the North Fork and Alum Fork of the Saline river.

These sites were recommended by George C. Branner, state geologist, in a report on the possibilities of securing a new water supply for Little Rock.

The physical survey of the areas was requested, through the city, by a Water Supply Committee recently appointed by the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce to study the situation. The survey will serve as a check on old topographical maps of the areas used by Mr. Branner as a basis for his report.

RESERVOIRS AREA SURVEY PROPOSED

Mayor Willing to Apply for FERA Project to Aid Committee.

A detailed survey of the land in the highland area west of Little Rock proposed as sites for surface reservoirs for a new water supply may be sought as a work project under the FERA.

Charles L. Thompson, chairman of the New Water Supply Committee appointed last week by Joshua K. Shepherd, president of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, has discussed the matter with R. C. Limerick, assistant administrator in charge of the Work Division of the FERA.

Mayor Knowlton has indicated he will apply for the project, if the chamber committee deems the survey necessary and if Mr. Limerick appears favorably disposed toward it.

The committee has held one meeting since its appointment, resulting in the election of George D. Suter as secretary.

In a report compiled by George C. Branner, state geologist, at the request of Mayor Knowlton, it was recommended that a series of surface reservoirs impounding the waters of Little Maumelle and North fork and Alum fork of the Saline river would afford the city an adequate supply of soft, potable water.

This report is being studied by the chamber committee, the members of which feel that a survey of the lands suggested as flooded area and catchment area is the next logical step.

PWA Loan Considered.

Mayor Knowlton's thought in initiating the general survey of the water situation by the Arkansas Geological Survey, he said yesterday, was that the city might borrow funds from the federal government to develop a new source of water supply, which could then be sold to the Arkansas Water Company as distributing agent.

"The city could not obtain funds to purchase the water system," he said, "since no labor would be involved, but it could borrow funds to develop a new supply, which would provide work for the unemployed, and the project would be self-liquidating, with the sale of the water to the present water company."

The mayor was of the opinion that deep wells in the coastal plain area south and east of Little Rock would offer the best solution of the new water supply problem. Mr. Branner's report, which the mayor said he has not had time to study, sets forth that an adequate supply of good water could be obtained from deep wells southeast of Little Rock, but points out that the cost would exceed the cost of three surface reservoirs west of the city, from which water could be brought to Little Rock by gravity flow.

WATER SURVEY TO BE STARTED TODAY

FERA Project Will Furnish Committee Data on Reservoirs Proposal.

A field party of six will go out today to begin a survey of the highland watersheds west of Little Rock to determine the practicability of establishing surface reservoirs for a new water supply for the city.

The survey has been approved as an FERA project, and is being undertaken at the request of a Water Supply Committee recently appointed by the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce.

The site to be surveyed first is the basin of North Fork of Saline river, 24 miles west of Little Rock. The first point to be determined is whether it would be feasible to bring the water from the proposed reservoir to Little Rock by gravity flow.

The catchment area to be surveyed at this site is approximately 62 square miles. After that survey is completed, it is probable that the adjacent Alum fork area will be surveyed also.

M. Z. Bair, state Health Department sanitary engineer, and member of the Chamber of Commerce Committee, estimated that about 90 days will be required to complete the survey.

A series of reservoirs west of the city was suggested by George C. Branner, state geologist, in a report on the water situation submitted a few weeks ago to Mayor Knowlton.

Water Survey to Last Several Weeks Longer

M. Z. Bair, engineer supervising the FERA new water supply survey being made for Little Rock west of the city, said Tuesday that he expected the survey to consume about two-and-a-half months more time.

Actual work of the survey, which was requested by the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, was begun about 15 days ago. Mr. Bair conferred with members of the field party Monday afternoon and Tuesday forenoon and was to give a report on progress to the New Water Supply Committee of the Chamber of Commerce at a meeting of the committee Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Bair said the field party already has done about 24,000 feet of traverse work and 30,000 feet of leveling.

SURVEYS POINT TO LOGICAL RESERVOIR

Work Incomplete, but North Fork of Saline River Favored.

Preliminary surveys indicate that North Fork of Saline river is probably the most practical of three proposed sites for a surface reservoir to supply Little Rock with better water, M. Z. Bair, member of the Chamber of Commerce Water Supply Committee, said yesterday.

The committee, using FERA labor, hopes to complete a flow line survey from the North Fork area by December 1. Mr. Bair reported, and work already done indicates that water could be piped to the city from a reservoir there without the necessity for pumping at the filtering station.

"It appears that at least 80 per cent of the pumping problem could be eliminated with a reservoir at North Fork," Mr. Bair said. "The Maumelle catchment area now appears to be too small to take care of Little Rock's needs, and, besides, it would be necessary to pump the water into the reservoirs at the filter plants."

The flow line survey from North Fork, however, is being tied in with a survey from Little Maumelle, and may be extended later to Alum Fork, the third site recommended for a surface reservoir in a report prepared for the city by George C. Branner, state geologist.

Engineer's Report Of 20 Years Ago Studied.

Meanwhile, the committee and R. E. Overman, who was nominated for mayor on a "better water" platform, are studying the 20-year-old Edward Flad report growing out of litigation between the city and the Arkansas Water Company.

Comparison of the original degree prepared by Mr. Flad as a special master in chancery with the subsequent program of the water company reveals that three of the additions ordered by him were constructed, while one, the largest, was not.

Under terms of the decree, the water company built additional filters with a total capacity of 4,000,000 gallons and a 2,500,000 settling basin. The special chancellor also ordered:

"A dam and selective reservoir to be constructed at a point about five miles west of the present pumping station. The reservoir to have a capacity of approximately 300,000,000 gallons of water."

Option of Constructing Storage Reservoir Given.

The company was given the option of building a storage reservoir of 150,000-000 gallons, to be doubled later if and when consumption of water demanded it. It was further ordered:

"The construction of the selective reservoir shall be commenced within three months from date hereof, and the reservoir and pipe line shall be completed and in operation within two years and three months from date hereof."

This improvement, which Mr. Flad estimated would cost about \$275,000, never materialized. Instead, the company compromised several years later with the city and substituted six shallow wells for the selective reservoir.

Purpose of the proposed reservoir, according to the Flad report, was to "permit bypassing the river at times of excessive turbidity or chlorine." The auxiliary wells were intended to serve a similar purpose.

Wells Blamed For Growing Dissatisfaction.

However, the Branner report indicated that the wells, because of the hardness of their water, have been largely responsible for the growing dissatisfaction in recent years with the quality of the city water supply.

The water company is now completing a softening plant at a cost of about \$50,000 to improve the quality of the well water, but members of the Chamber of Commerce committee point out that two of the six wells have turned salty, and that the Branner report cites a grave possibility that the others might fail similarly at any time. In such an event, the softening plant would be of no use unless other and better wells

(which might have the same fate) were provided.

1914 Report Suggested Little Maumelle Reservoir.

A surface reservoir on the Little Maumelle was suggested by Mr. Flad in his report 20 years ago. He estimated that such a reservoir would impound 3,000,000,000 gallons of water and would furnish an average daily supply of 15,000,000 gallons, sufficient for a population of 200,000 at the then rate of consumption.

Mr. Bair said, however, that subsequent surveys show that Mr. Flad was far too liberal in his estimate of the capacity of the Little Maumelle catchment area.

Mr. Flad mentioned the Little Maumelle reservoir as a possibility, but concluded:

"The cost of developing this supply is prohibitive under the conditions of the contract between the city of Little Rock and the Arkansas Water Company, except under a readjustment as to terms of the franchise, including water rates, life of the franchise, and other important features."

Mr. Flad did not touch at all upon the possibility of reservoirs at North Fork or Alum Fork of the Saline river. His conclusion was that:

"Certain additions to and alterations in the present plant of the Arkansas Water Company will, with proper operation, enable the company to provide a satisfactory supply of clear, pure and wholesome water, free from objectionable quantities of chlorine."

Mr. Flad also made no mention of water "hardness" which is a development since the installation of the auxiliary wells.

The Branner report shows increased dependence of the water company on the wells in the last five years—running 6 per cent and more during the summer months—with resultant increase in the hardness of the water and increased dissatisfaction on the part of the consumers.

Water Supply Survey Is Nearing Completion

A flow line survey from the North Fork of Saline river, one of three proposed sites for a surface reservoir to supply Little Rock with better water, probably will be completed by December 1. M. Z. Bair, member of the Chamber of Commerce Water Supply Committee, has reported.

It was said preliminary surveys indicate that North Fork is the most practical site. The committee is using FERA labor in its survey. Those in charge announce that water could be piped to the city from the reservoir there without the necessity for pumping at the filtering station.

"The Maumelle catchment area now appears to be too small to take care of Little Rock's needs, and besides, it would be necessary to pump the water into the reservoir at the filter plants," Mr. Bair said.

The flow line survey from North Fork is being tied in with a survey from Little Maumelle, and may be extended later to Alum Fork, the third site recommended for a surface reservoir in a report by George C. Branner, state geologist.

WATER SUBJECT OF TALK TO ENGINEERS

Nominee for Mayor Says Supply Inferior to Other Cities'

The Little Rock water supply was compared unfavorably with that of other cities by R. E. Overman, Democratic nominee for mayor, in an address before the Little Rock Engineers Club yesterday noon at the Hotel Ben McGehee.

Mr. Overman, whose campaign was based chiefly on a pledge to secure better water for Little Rock, pointed out that the local supply is inferior to that of most cities of this size, and said that rates are higher.

He told of the survey being made for a committee for the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce to determine the feasibility of building a system of surface reservoirs west of the city.

Mr. Overman mentioned the special election next Tuesday on the commission-city manager form of government, and declared that the adoption of such a government in most cities has been the result of some scandal arising from the mayor-aldermanic form of government. There has been no such scandal in Little Rock, he said.

The club adopted a resolution asking the newspapers to publish Act 311 of the 1931 General Assembly, which authorizes such elections. The act is contained in all volumes of the 1931 acts, which are available in the office of practically every lawyer in the city as well as in many public officials' offices.

Proposed Water Supply Site For Fort Smith Inspected.

Fort Smith, Ark., Aug. 27.—(P)—Physical features of the site of Fort Smith's proposed \$1,650,000 water supply were inspected today by Alexander Allaire of Little Rock, state engineer for the Public Works Administration, accompanied by Engineer W. R. Holway of Tulsa.

Formal contract for the new water source, situated in the Boston mountains near Mountainburg, was executed by city officials Saturday for the loan and grant from the PWA.

Mayor J. K. Jordan today expressed hope that the test suit, which is required before final consummation of the loan, may reach the state Arkansas Supreme Court during September. In a telephone conversation with Mayor Jordan before inspection of the site, Allaire said he saw no reason why work on the project should not get under way next fall.

Softening Plant Near Completion.—The water softening plant, being installed by the Arkansas Water Company west of the company's settling basin east of Martin street in Pulaski

Heights, practically has been completed and will be in operation by December 15. L. A. Jackson, assistant superintendent, said yesterday. Water will be softened by a chemical process including treatment of water with lime to take out hard salts, Mr. Jackson said.

New Well Assures Warren Of Ample Water Supply.

Special to the Gazette. Warren, Aug. 13. — The Arkansas General Utilities Company, which serves Warren with water and electricity, announced today that the new well which has been drilled by O. D. Hartzo of El Dorado has been completed. The water has been tested and is of excellent quality.

The old well, which ceased to function several years ago, was found filled with cement. It was said dry cement had been poured into the well. Mr. Hartzo drilled this cement out so that the water could flow through the line. The old well restored produced soft water, and was said to be the best water ever used here.

Warren now has three wells and the best quantity and quality ever used.

All the water mains have been cleaned and the muddy appearance of the water has been cleared up.

THE NEW WATER SUPPLY FOR FORT SMITH.

The water supply problem, for which Little Rock is undertaking a survey of possible solutions, seems to have been worked out in a satisfactory way for Fort Smith.

That city has been drawing its supply from the Poteau river, a tributary of the Arkansas, and has had increasing difficulty in maintaining an acceptable quality. This summer, according to the Fort Smith Southwest American, consumers who could afford to buy drinking water have spent at least \$1,000 a day for that purpose, while many hundreds of families have been forced to drink unpalatable city water or get supplies from sources more questionable than the mains. And of course the whole city has had to depend on the treated Poteau river water for general domestic and industrial uses.

Fort Smith seems to be very fortunate in the source which it is proposed to tap. The new water project calls for the construction of a dam and reservoir on Clear creek, some 25 miles distant in the southern Ozarks. This pure and soft mountain water will flow by gravity down to the city. The saving in pumping costs is estimated at \$30,000 a year over the life of the plant.

There will be another substantial saving on the cost of purchased drinking water, and thanks to the PWA program a large saving on the initial investment and its carrying costs. An outright federal grant will take care of 30 per cent of the labor and material bill, and the government loan covering the remaining 70 per cent of the cost of the project will bear four per cent interest. Altogether, it is estimated, this method

of financing will save the city not less than \$700,000.

No wonder the Fort Smith newspaper speaks of this undertaking as "good business" in every way for the people of its city.

WELL DOWN 850 FEET FOR MUNICIPAL WATERWORKS SYSTEM

Water Level at 260 Feet—Will Make Test Soon

The drillers of the well for the municipal waterworks system here have reached the depth of 850 feet with considerable water. The water has raised in the well to 260 feet below the surface.

The amount of water the well will produce will not be known until a test is made, and preparations are being made for a test within the next few days. A turbine pump has arrived for making the test. A test of 150 gallons of water a minute for a period of 72 hours is necessary before authorities will approve the well.

CITY WATER SUPPLY WILL BE 'SOFTENED'

Company Preparing to Install New Equipment Costing \$50,000.

Preparations are being made by the Arkansas Water Company to install equipment at its filtration plant, located in Pulaski Heights, near Ozark avenue, which, by a chemical process, will take the "hardness" out of Little Rock's water supply. S. R. Brough, superintendent of the company here, announced yesterday.

This announcement, relayed to housewives and to officials of business concerns that use water in large quantities, was greeted with expressions of gratification. The improvements, costing \$50,000 to install, will be completed in time for use in the fall, Mr. Brough said.

Superintendent's Statement. Mr. Brough's announcement of the company's plans follow:

"The Arkansas Water Company is preparing to install new equipment as an addition to its purification plant, which will soften the entire water supply during periods of extreme hardness. It is estimated that the cost of these additions to the purification plant will exceed \$50,000, and that the softening treatment will add many thousand dollars a year to the operating expenses.

"The Arkansas river provides a source of water supply which is relatively soft. There are periods of the year when the flow in the river becomes low and the salt content of the water increases. At times, the salt content becomes so high in the river as to become somewhat objectionable. At these times a portion of the water supply is drawn from a system of wells which are practically free from salt. The two waters are mixed before the water passes through the purification and filtration plant, reducing the salt content.

"The use of the well water as a part of the supply for reducing the salt content of the water furnished the consumer, no matter how high it may be come in the river water, has been used for many years. It is a practical solution of the salt problem but unfortunately the water from the well supply is hard. The hardness from the well water supply is what is known as temporary hardness which, to a large extent, can be removed. It is because of the fact that it can be removed that it gives trouble when heated, precipitating a deposit in gas heating coils, pipes, etc. It is not practical and not necessary to remove all of the hardness in the water, but merely to reduce the temporary hardness to a sufficient extent to reduce the trouble of deposits in coils, etc., to a minimum.

"At the period of the year when it is necessary to use a large portion of well water, the hardness of the entire supply is materially increased. From the consumers' standpoint the hardness of a public water supply is usually measured by the soap consuming property of the water. It is also true that rapid changes in hardness can be as troublesome to the consumer as continuing hardness.

"The salt content of the river is likely to change rapidly, so the proportion of well water used at times increases rapidly. The result is that the hardness of the water furnished the consumer is thus unavoidably changed rather rapidly.

"Many homes in Little Rock are provided with water heating systems that are not well adapted for heating a hard water. As the water is heated, the hardness is precipitated in the coils of the heater causing stoppage. In the past, such trouble has been experienced by some consumers during the hard water periods. Softening of the water will reduce, very materially, the trouble with the gas heater coils, pipes, etc.

"The work will be started in the near future and completed in time to be in service this fall, at which time of year the trouble is greatest."

New Well to Augment Warren Water Supply Being Drilled.

Special to the Gazette. Warren, July 24.—The Arkansas General Utilities Company has begun drilling a new water well for Warren, O. D. Hartzo of El Dorado is contractor. It was said in a letter mailed to all water consumers in Warren that more water had been used in the past month than ever before.

James G. Barr, manager, said if the consumers use only such water as is necessary the present supply will be ample until the new well is completed. Barr said his company had anticipated this lowering of the water supply and in the spring had bought a new and more powerful pump. He said that this pump, after being installed, had to be lowered further because of the continued fall of the water level. On several occasions the Bradley Lumber Company has furnished additional water due to the increased demand.

For Those Who Want to Know—

'Soft' and 'Hard' Water Defined

Dissolved Substances Account for Difference, but Either Type May Be Just as Healthful as the Other, Chemists Explain.

Prospective installation of equipment for softening the Little Rock water supply by chemical processes, recently announced by S. R. Brough, superintendent of the Arkansas Water Company, has given rise to inquiries as to the exact nature of "hard" water and "soft" water and the difference between the two.

"Hardness" is the peculiar quality possessed by water containing certain dissolved substances. Water of this type interferes with the action of soap by forming with it an insoluble compound or curd, and such water prevents soap from emulsifying grease.

The hardness of natural waters is chiefly due to salts of calcium and magnesium. "Soft" water is characterized by the practical absence of substances such as calcium and magnesium salts, which prevent the formation of lather with soap.

Hardness in water is of two types, temporary and permanent. Temporary hardness is removable by boiling, and is due largely to the presence of such chemical substances as calcium carbonate. Permanent hardness is caused by the presence of calcium sulphate or magnesium sulphate, and cannot be removed by boiling.

The chief test of the hardness of any water, from a practical standpoint, is its soap-consuming power. Soft water does not destroy soap.

River Water Comparatively Soft.

Water drawn from the Arkansas river is said to be comparatively soft, but at certain periods of the year, when the flow in the river becomes low, the saline content of the river water becomes objectionably high. To overcome this, a

part of the water supply is drawn from a system of wells and mixed with the river water before it passes through the purification and filtration plant. This reduces the salt content of the river water, but since the well water is hard, there is a resultant and variable degree of hardness in the water supply which eventually reaches the consumer.

Hardness of the well water is of the temporary type, which, to a large extent, can be removed by heating. The residue, which settles in gas heating coils, pipes and other appliances after the water is heated, causes considerable plumbing trouble.

Either May Be Healthful.

From the standpoint of health, there is no difference between hard water and soft water, so far as the average normal person is concerned, chemists say. Many Little Rock consumers, becoming apprehensive over the large residue left in water after boiling, have inquired of state and city health authorities regarding the healthfulness of the water.

Dr. W. F. Manglesdorf, state chemist, said recently that he had received many such inquiries and had repeatedly replied that he uses the Little Rock water supply in his own home and considers it a safe and potable water for use of average, normal individuals. He added that the softening processes contemplated will result in economic benefit and domestic convenience, and that the water will be equally as healthful as heretofore.

M. Z. Bair, chief sanitary engineer of the state Board of Health, also endorsed the proposed water softening system and commended the purity of the city water supply.

Expenses for the survey were paid by the city, the state and the CWA. The survey, under direction of H. B. Allen Sickle of the state Geological Survey, began May 3; the report is dated Tuesday, August 7. All possible supplies of surface and sub-surface water, which were not economically out of the question because of too great distance from the point of consumption or other reason, were canvassed, said Dr. Branner.

The report which will be submitted to the mayor is about 30 pages long and is illustrated with maps.

While Dr. Branner did not release for publication particular details of the report, it is apparent that some of the chief water sources under consideration are the Maumelle, Saline and Ouachita rivers, all of which would provide soft potable water.

Some of the sources studied, said Dr. Branner, would provide more satisfactory water than others, but, it Little Rock citizens get a new water supply, the kind of water they get will depend upon the size of the investment they are willing to make.

Meeting Is Called.

Joshua K. Shepherd, president of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday initiated efforts to learn whether or not Little Rock's water consumers are satisfied with the water supplied them by the Arkansas Water Company. He has called a meeting of the chamber's members, to be held at the Hotel Marion at 12:15 p. m. Monday, for consideration of this matter.

In announcing his call, he said, "Neither personally nor as president of the chamber of commerce do I wish to appear as instigating or desiring a fight with the Arkansas Water Company. As far as I know, the water company is doing all that could be expected of it under present circumstances.

"I appreciate the fact that even now the water company is planning improvements that will give the city a softer water than it has been receiving, but it has occurred to me, and I know from conversations with others that many have the same idea, that it might be better, in planning the future of the city to provide for an entirely different source of supply.

"We have many things in Little Rock of which we have been and are proud, but our water is not one of them."

Artificial Lake Project Near Cabot Proposed.

Special to the Gazette. Cabot, July 30.—Hoot Hill, engineer in charge of Public Works projects in this vicinity has recommended a project to federal authorities for the formation of an artificial lake several miles north of here in the Ozark foothills.

Mr. Hill said that, with relatively small cost, a small dam could be constructed between two hills which would impound several small streams into a lake that would rival Lake Hamilton, near Hot Springs.

Sportsmen here are enthusiastic over the proposal as it is necessary for them to drive from 20 to 40 miles to reach a lake in which to fish. Duck shooting ground are much farther, but the proposed lake would provide sufficient sport for the entire section.

The land which would be covered by the proposed lake can be bought for as low as \$1 an acre, and in some instances, Mr. Hill said, the land has reverted to the state for delinquent taxes.

Survey Made For Source of Water Supply Geologist to Submit Completed Report to Mayor Knowlton.

A survey of possible sources of a new and softer water supply for Little Rock has just been completed under the supervision of the Arkansas Geological Survey.

The survey was requested several months ago by Mayor Knowlton, and Dr. George C. Branner, head of the state Geological Survey, said Wednesday that the preliminary report which has been prepared will be submitted to the mayor upon his expected return from an out-of-town trip Wednesday night.

It is believed that the survey came as a result of the expressed desire of a considerable body of public sentiment for a softer and more potable water for Little Rock, especially since the river water has reached an unusually low stage and has to be diluted with well water which has a high degree of hardness.

Water Supply Discussed at Meeting Here

Democrat Aug 13, 1934
C. of C. Head Declares Change Would Be of No Greater Cost.

Expressing the opinion that softer, more potable water actually would be of no greater cost to the citizens of Greater Little Rock than the kind of water now being supplied by the Arkansas Water Company, Joshua K. Shepherd, president of the Little Rock chamber of commerce, brought the much-mooted water supply question out into the open at a luncheon meeting sponsored by the chamber at the Hotel Marion Monday.

When called upon for an expression of sentiment, those at the meeting voted unanimously for a complete investigation looking toward supplying Greater Little Rock with a new source of softer, more potable water, if this is found advisable from information to be gathered by a committee appointed by Mr. Shepherd.

The report of a water supply survey made under the direction of the Arkansas geological survey was presented at the meeting. Mr. Shepherd appointed Charles L. Thompson as chairman of a committee to go more thoroughly into a study of new water for Little Rock. Other members of this committee are Thomas S. Buzbee, Henry H. Tucker, M. Z. Bair and George D. Suter. Mr. Bair and Mr. Suter, both of whom are past presidents of the Little Rock Engineers Club, were selected for their technical knowledge of the problem and because of their special interests in the subject. Mr. Bair is state sanitary engineer and Mr. Suter is chief engineer of the Arkansas Fire Prevention Bureau.

Possibly 150 attended the meeting, called by Mr. Shepherd for the specific purpose of getting public sentiment on the advisability of getting a new and better water supply for Little Rock. There was also some tentative discussion of rates. Among those present were city officials, members of the chamber and other interested persons.

Mr. Shepherd, who presided, precluded his statement opening the water supply discussion with a report of various chamber activities for civic betterment. S. R. Brough, superintendent of the Arkansas Water Company, was present at the meeting. The invocation was spoken by the Rev. Homer B. Reynolds, pastor of the Baptist tabernacle, Tenth and Pine streets.

Mr. Shepherd based his declaration that better water would not cost more on the theory that the difference in rate would be saved to the consumer in the decreased expenses in use of softer water.

His complete statement follows:

Should Find New Supply.

"Whom the Gods would destroy, they first make mad." Remembering that, let us prevent the gods of mischance from leading into acrimony or disturbing personal references the discussions which may follow concerning a subject of so great interest to so many of us in Little Rock and North Little Rock—water.

"It is neither my purpose nor desire to make an attack upon the Arkansas Water Company. I understand and believe that the water company is furnishing the citizens of this community water that is chemically pure and of a type that meets the legal requirements of its contract. I simply join others in feeling that the time has come when we can afford to procure a supply of water which will be more satisfactory to a larger number and which water, being softer, would actually cost us less—all things counted—through its cost per 1,000 gallons might be greater than the amount which we now pay to the water company for the present hard water we get from it. The present cost of our use of water, in our homes and industries, is not limited to the monthly bills of Arkansas Water Company, for to them, at this time, must be added the extra expense of more frequent attention to, and repairs and replacements of, heaters, boilers, pipes and plumbing equipment; extra soap consumed; cost of softening agents or processes, and the cost of drinking water in those many cases that cannot make satisfactory use of hard water that has a high chemical content. If we could be relieved of that extra expense, we could afford to pay a marked increase in the price per gallon of the water that comes through our pipes and yet we would not be out any more money.

Selects Committee.

"The use of potable soft water—palatable to the taste, pleasant to the skin, and refreshing to our flowers and shrubs—would be a joy and a delight that would add much to the comfort of living in our fair community. I have understood that such a water is available to the people of

Little Rock, if they should determine to have it, and my prime object in presenting this question to you is to ascertain whether or not a sufficient number of you hold similar opinions to justify my asking a committee—composed of competent, fair-minded, level-headed, thoroughly experienced, and home-loving citizens—to investigate the possibilities along this line; review the Branner survey recently made and any other surveys or available data; consider the improvements or advances in the field of chemistry that might be available for the perfection of our water; confer with officials and councilmen of both cities; consult with the water company and

make any other inquiry the committee deems advisable, then inform us what, in its opinion, are the steps which Little Rock should take to get a year-round abundant supply of potable soft water.

Reiterating my earnest request that we all be of a charitable opinion, I now open the meeting for your dispassionate comments.

Mr. Brough made a statement in which he declared the Arkansas river water, which is now being used with supplementary wells, to be "the most logical source of supply," and reminded those at the meeting that the water company is already making plans for installing equipment to soften the present water supply.

Mr. Brough's Statement.

His statement follows:

"I am glad to have the opportunity of meeting with you on this occasion and feel that it will result in a better understanding between the company and its consumers. I want to assure you that the water company will cooperate fully in providing complete and true information regarding the local water supply.

"Some 20 years ago the question of the potability and the adequacy of the river water as a source of supply was thoroughly investigated. The city brought suit against the company contending that the supply was not potable. The case was heard before the Hon. John E. Martineau, who was then chancellor. The court appointed Edward Fladd, a nationally known water supply engineer, to investigate the question, including other sources of supply than the river. He worked on the case about two years, made a thorough investigation and his report was made an order by the court and was consented to by the city and the water company, that; the Arkansas river was the most logical source of supply, supplemented by a well supply to dilute the river water when it was high in salt or high in turbidity. It further provided for certain additions to the plant, such as, additional boilers, pumping equipment, buildings, filters, basins and pipe lines be constructed, and during this 20 years we have strictly adhered to the orders

set forth in that decree and are doing so now.

"The use of the well supply corrects the salt condition of the river, but imparts a greater degree of 'hardness' to the water.

"The officials of your company decided to provide for softening some three months ago, and recently announced it. All of the material necessary for the construction of this plant, other than that obtainable locally, has been ordered and we expect to have the plant in operation early this fall. When in operation, the hardness of the water will be materially reduced. The reduction of the salts that cause hardness make it more convenient and desirable for use in the home and it is roughly estimated that the saving to each consumer will average between \$5 and \$15 per year. Taking the lower figure the economies resulting in the home should approximate an economic saving to the population of greater Little Rock of over \$100,000. We hope it will not be necessary to delay this.

River Is Dependable.

"The Arkansas river is a dependable supply of water. In the serious drouth of 1930 when many water plants failed and others curtailed service, your local company, with the river as a source, had an abundance of water, and again this year we continue to have water in an unlimited quantity for any consumption demand the people of Little Rock may require.

"The purity of the water is of the utmost importance, and I want to assure you we take every precaution to safeguard and maintain that. We make numerous bacteriological and chemical tests every day. You may always be sure this water is pure and healthful.

"It is possible that your body may appoint a committee to investigate this matter further. If you do, we hope that we can have the pleasure of conducting this committee through our plant and assure you we will give your committee complete co-operation in their investigation.

"Mr. chairman, I thank you for this privilege of presenting these few brief facts before you."

Council to Receive Water Supply Survey

A joint meeting of the finance and health committee of the city council was held at the city hall Monday to consider routine matters which are to be presented to the city council at its regular meeting Monday night.

The health committee will recommend that repairs be made to the nurses' home at the city hospital if labor for the work can be furnished by the state agency of the Federal Relief Administration. The city will furnish materials for the project if the council decides to go ahead with the work.

July bills and payrolls are to be presented to the council for approval and a report on a recent survey of sources for a new supply of city water is to be turned over to the council. The report probably will be referred to the utilities committee.

No action was taken by the finance committee with reference to a proposal that articles in the museum on the third floor of the city hall be turned to some new agency which will provide a suitable place for the exhibits.

LITTLE ROCK'S WATER SUPPLY.

The Little Rock public will approve the action of President Joshua K. Shepherd in calling a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce to consider Little Rock's water supply.

The great question is whether the present supply can be made satisfactory or whether Little Rock should demand water from a new source.

The answer should be based on complete and comprehensive investigation. That would call for a properly constituted body to undertake this responsible duty and it might require the services of engineers and other technical advisers.

The present supply is not polluted. It does not contain "germs." But the question of its potability remains open. Are an excessive number of families buying water to drink? Is the piped water acceptable for other domestic purposes? What about its effects on plumbing and on automobile cooling systems? On industrial machinery and processes? On Little Rock's industrial development?

If it should finally be decided, after due examination of all phases of the matter, that the Arkansas river is not a dependable and satisfactory source of supply the problem of finding a new supply would have to be solved.

That the supply has not been suitable or acceptable this summer is admitted by the Water Company when it proceeds to instal apparatus to soften the water. But the big question for the public is not how to meet the emergency of a low river. It is how to be assured of a permanent supply of satisfactory water for personal, household and industrial needs.

RESERVOIR SURVEY NEAR COMPLETION

Topographic Work on Proposed Little Rock Water Supply Starts Tomorrow.

Feb 10, 1935

A party from the United States Geological Survey will begin topographic work Monday on the proposed reservoir project west of the city, which would supply Little Rock with water under a plan sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

M. Z. Bair, state sanitary engineer and member of the Chamber of Commerce Committee who is supervising the work, said yesterday he hoped to have the entire survey completed within two or three weeks. He said that about six or seven miles of work remained for the survey crews furnished by the FERA and that completion would depend largely on the amount of time the government party is able to spend on the work, which is being undertaken in conjunction with a similar survey in the Little Rock area.

STATE REGULATION AND OUR WATER QUESTION.

If the legislature provides for state regulation of public utilities it should certainly take care that vital interests of municipalities are not made to suffer.

As Democratic nominee and virtual mayor-elect of Little Rock, R. E. Overman points out that the water franchise granted by the city 50 years ago expires this year. He contends that certain sections of the Ward-Johnson bill as introduced would have the effect of perpetuating the expiring franchise at least until the city might be authorized to purchase the water system.

The people of Little Rock are not satisfied with their present water supply. Surveys are going on to determine the feasibility of tapping an adequate and satisfactory supply and obtaining a PWA allotment for the construction work. If that should prove possible the question of a distribution system in the city would have to be settled next. No legislation should tie the city's hands in negotiations with the holders of the old water franchise.

LITTLE ROCK'S WATER AND THE NEW UTILITIES BILL.

The city water question gives the people of Little Rock a direct and vital interest in Senator Johnson's bill for state regulation of public utilities.

R. E. Overman as Democratic nominee for mayor and Floyd J. Terral as a member of the City Council object to provisions which they believe might make it impossible for Little Rock to obtain a new source of supply and eventually acquire and operate the present distribution system if municipal ownership of this utility should be found desirable. 2-18-35

Present law permits a city to issue, by a majority vote of the people, the bonds that might be required for acquiring a public utility. As the Johnson bill stands a two-thirds vote would be required.

At present the city could go into court in condemnation proceedings if it could not come to terms with the water company for the purchase of its property. But under the Johnson bill, Mr. Overman and Mr. Terral contend, failure to agree would throw the fixing of the purchase price into the hands of a state commission whose findings could be questioned in court only as to errors of procedure. If no such errors could be shown the finding of the commission on the purchase price would be final and binding on the city.

Little Rock may never want to purchase the Arkansas Water Company's plant. But surely no unnecessary difficulties should be placed by the legislature in the way of whatever action may eventually seem to be in the best interest of the Little Rock public.

Better Water for City, New Mayor's 'Prime Objective'

Mr. Overman, in Inaugural Address, Renews Pledge of His Campaign and Recalls Earlier Efforts to Improve Supply.

In his address to the City Council last night, Mayor R. E. Overman said:

Today government is getting out of the hands of the people, not in the sense that anybody is taking it away from them, but in the sense that with the rapid extension of its technical aspects it is becoming more and more difficult to comprehend and control.

Many of the duties and problems confronting the mayor and council of Little Rock in the immediate future are problems that in the beginning of your lifetime and even in the past few years were very simple and seem so today, and yet in their practical solution they become complex. A few of these duties are:

1. Regulation and control of traffic and use of our streets and highways with a view of making them safe for our people. Certain adjustments must be made in our parking regulations. Little Rock, by reason of its geographical location, is the point of convergence of the state's most prominent federal highways. This imposes upon our city the work of handling the traffic on these trunk lines, into and through our city, in the most expeditious manner. This, in itself, throws additional burden upon the Traffic Enforcement Department of the city.

Since Little Rock, which is, roughly speaking, Pulaski county, makes a larger contribution in taxes to the support of the state government than any other city of Arkansas, and since we pay two and one-half times as much as the other seven counties of the Fifth Congressional District, it is incumbent, therefore, upon the state Highway Department to make liberal concessions to us in the administration of its biennial program. Therefore, we shall expect and accept such contributions of co-operation from the state Highway Department commensurate with proper handling of the enormous amount of traffic passing over the streets and highways through our city.

Other Matters Deemed Of Major Importance.

2. Other matters coming before the administration for immediate and intelligent consideration are: The completion of the airport field, the new hangar and Administration building to the end that Little Rock may take its place among the leading cities of the nation in matters relating to air transportation.

Such matters as city planning, parks, streets, fire protection, the library and the markets will be given careful attention by the council.

A thorough study, with a view of correlating and co-ordinating our hospitalization, health and sanitation program is incumbent upon the incoming administration and in this connection I have some definite plans to lay before the council at an early date.

The complexity of this problem is hardly discernible by our citizenship, but I made this question a major plank in my platform and shall, to the best of my ability, make it one of the major accomplishments of my administration.

By way of parenthesis, I might suggest that at some future date a consolidation of the County and City hospital requirements, in such a program, should be consummated under a unit control.

3. Before any plans of expansion or betterment can be undertaken thought must be given to the city's finances. The revenue, from all sources, for the operation of the city for the year of 1935 is estimated at approximately \$555,000 of which \$55,000 is the estimated revenue from the three-mill road tax. I am informed that approximately \$165,000 of this amount has already been appropriated and either expended or pledged, for the first three months of the year, leaving approximately \$385,000 with which to carry on the other three-fourths of the year. It appears, therefore, that an excess of approximately \$25,000 has been expended for the first quarter.

Monthly pay rolls and bills are constant and must be met regularly, whereas, our receipts are quite irregular, the bulk of it coming at taxpaying times. Financing the city's operation is vital and constitutes the first immediate duty of the council. The aldermen assure me that they have every desire to operate the city on the present income without levying any additional taxes, but they also assure me that the cost of operation must be paid for by the citizens and shall expect the fullest co-operation on the part of each citizen in support of his city's needs.

Sees Endorsement Of Views on Water Issue.

4. In addition to the subject just enumerated, which will be properly assigned to standing committees of the council, there remains the major issue which absorbed the attention and received the overwhelming endorsement of our citizens, who on October 30 nominated a mayor on the "water question."

In January of this year, the federal government, through the Department of Public Works, sent out a questionnaire, over the entire nation, which was returnable by February 11, requesting public bodies to submit to the department, public works projects comprehending the needs of the community responding. The city of Little Rock, through its authorized officials, submitted such a list of public works projects, the total estimated cost of same being in excess of \$9,000,000. It is not presumed that all of these projects will be acted upon favorably and allowed, but it is generally conceded that in the matter of priority the first and paramount requirement for the city of Little Rock is a better "water supply."

It is quite significant, therefore, that in reply to the mass demand of our citizens that all organized civic bodies who have to do with the problems of our social and industrial life, were as a unit in listing the "water supply" as project No. 1 and should have priority in our request of the federal government for funds with which to carry to a successful accomplishment this important matter.

The civic bodies to which I refer are, the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, the Engineers Club and the City Planning Commission, which includes in its personnel representatives of our two daily newspapers.

The struggles on the part of our citizens to get relief from the bad water furnished to them by the Arkansas

Water Company has been going on for years. This is not a new demand of our people.

Twenty years ago, Mayor Charles E. Taylor and the council undertook to secure a "satisfactory water" for the citizens of Little Rock and filed complaint in Chancery Court of Pulaski county in the name of the city, in which it "prayed" that the defendant, Arkansas Water Company, be required to perform its contract by securing and constantly maintaining a supply of pure and wholesome water for cooking and drinking and all other domestic purposes and that it be restrained from procuring its water supply from the Arkansas river.

The outcome of that suit was the appointment, by the court, Hon. John E. Martineau, judge of Pulaski Chancery Court, of Edward Flad as special master to investigate the possibility of a new source of supply and the feasibility of same. This report was made and filed. The principal feature of the report was that a satisfactory supply of water could be developed by constructing a dam on the Little Maumelle river, forming a reservoir, which would collect the rainfall from an area of approximately 30 square miles. Water from this reservoir would undoubtedly be of exceptional purity.

At Mr. Flad's direction, samples of water from the Maumelle were analyzed by John F. Wexford, chemist, St. Louis, Mo.

Listen to what he says about the water from Little Maumelle:

Next to rain water or the water of melting snow, the samples of water, the analysis of which I reported to you on January 2, 1914, represent the purest natural waters with which I have thus far had any experience.

"I unhesitatingly recommend the impounding of water as pure as that represented by any of the samples for the water supply of the city of Little Rock."

Dr. Branner, state geologist, says in his report of August 7, 1934: "A supply of surface water from the highland area west of Little Rock would be advantageous, with respect to the present system for the following reasons:

"1. The supply would be permanent and would be adequate to meet any emergency.

"2. The water would be very low in hardness, probably less than 60 parts per million gallons, and might be as

low as 30 p. p. m. as compared with the present average of 150 p. p. m.

"3. There would be no expense of softening.

"4. The chlorid content would probably be exceptionally low, perhaps less than 10 p. p. m. as compared to 10-year average of 208 p. p. m. present supply.

"5. The expense of treating such water would probably be less than the cost of treating the present supply.

"6. The flow to Little Rock would be a gravity flow.

"7. A permanent, adequate supply of water very low in chlorides and exceptionally soft would obviously constitute a valuable asset to the city of Little Rock, not only as a means of industrial economy, but as an added convenience to those who live here and as an added attraction to prospective residents."

Also Quotes From Company's Statement.

Thus you see by the statements of experts the feasibility of procuring a satisfactory water supply.

The Arkansas Water Company says in its report to the Chamber of Commerce Committee, dated January, 1935:

"Undeniably, the Arkansas river water, at certain times of the year, contains sufficient sodium chloride or common salt to make it impalatable for drinking purposes."

The report also says: "There is no denying the fact that the hardness of existing supply without treatment (special softening) is unsatisfactory water for use in boilers."

You see, therefore, that hardness of our water constitutes the basis of all our complaints.

The variability of the hardness is very marked. It runs from a low of 142 p. p. m. to high of 276 p. p. m. according to the water company's statement, covering 10 years average.

However, much of the time the content exceeds 300 and up to 400 p. p. m.

The water from the highland area west of Little Rock, Saline river forks, shows an analysis of 42 to 59. This is really soft water.

The drinking water bill for Little Rock is estimated to exceed \$200,000 per year. I notice that bottled water is used at the statehouse, at the city hall and other public buildings as well as many private office buildings and also our residences.

Consider the loss to our people in soap, heating bills, plumbing bills, pipe cleaning bills and linen renewal.

There are only two of the 48 major cities of the United States that do not own their water plants. The cities are not continually and forever begging some private corporation, owned by a New York company, to live up to their contract with its customers in spirit as well as in technical observance.

With the profits made by the water company, during the 20 years of controversy, they could have built these dams and impounded a pure water and the increased consumption per capita would have paid off the debt.

They spend more money resisting our attempts to better our condition than

it would require to fulfill our demands.

Therefore, as mayor of Little Rock, I accept for myself and for the City Council the mandate of its citizens, so expressed, that this important matter of furnishing our people with "satisfactory water" constitutes the prime objective of this administration.

AYOR EMPOWERED TO PROVIDE WATER

ouncil Authorizes Him to Take All Steps to Utilize New Source.

IAY BUY PRESENT PLANT

upply Furnished City Declared 'Undesirable' and Rate Held 'Excessive' by Resolution.

The City Council last night adopted a resolution empowering Mayor Overman to make all arrangements for acquiring a new source of water supply and to take steps for acquisition of the present water plant and distributing system by purchase, condemnation "or any other lawful manner."

The resolution described the present water supply as "unpotable, undesirable and damaging to citizens, vegetation and machinery," and said the water is supplied at "a grossly excessive rate."

Sweeping powers given the mayor included authority to purchase necessary properties, to impound and maintain a reservoir, to construct necessary pipelines and dams, and to fix a reasonable price and terms for payment.

A provision giving the city attorney partial supervision of contract arrangements was written into the resolution in pencil.

The resolution was agreed upon at a closed meeting of the council, sitting as a Committee of the Whole, and roll call at the public session later in the council chamber was a mere formality. The 16 aldermen present voted for the resolution. Aldermen Winder and Turner was absent.

At the meeting from which newspapermen were barred, Mayor Overman told the council that immediate passage of the resolution was necessary to enable him to take advantage of the opportunity of obtaining federal funds through the \$4,000,000,000 work relief program.

Text of Resolution Giving Mayor Broad Powers.

The resolution follows:

A resolution giving and granting unto the mayor of the City of Little Rock full power and authority to take all necessary action for requiring improvements in the waterworks system of the city of Little Rock, lowering the rates, and acquiring the present waterworks system and for the financing of such acquisition.

"Whereas, it is the consensus of opinion of the City Council that the Arkansas Water Company is now and has for many years been furnishing water to the citizens of Little Rock, which is unpotable, undesirable, and damaging to its citizens, vegetation and machinery, at a grossly excessive rate, and it is believed that the mayor should be given full power and authority to remedy this condition by negotiation or necessary action to remedy the source of supply, type of water, and rates charged, to bring to the citizens of Little Rock a palatable and desirable water for domestic and industrial use at a fair and reasonable rate and to acquire the present water plant and its property and a new source of supply within or without the county of Pulaski and to make the necessary financial arrangements therefor; and

"Whereas, the city is now authorized by law to acquire said existing system and to construct and provide a new source of supply and the necessary pipe line for conveying same to the city of Little Rock for distribution and to pay therefor or finance the same solely from the revenues of said waterworks system and without pledging the credit or taxing power of the city of Little Rock;

"Now, therefore:

"Be it resolved by the City Council of the city of Little Rock, Ark.:

"Section 1. That R. E. Overman, mayor of Little Rock, be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to take such steps as he may deem necessary for the adjustment of water rates, the furnishing of a new water supply, or for the acquisition by purchase, condemnation, or in any other lawful manner of such properties, of the Arkansas Water Company in the city of Little Rock, Ark., and all rights, easements, and franchises relating thereto, and necessary or convenient for the operation thereof, as may be deemed advisable and for the acquisition of a new source of water supply of potable and desirable water, the necessary properties and rights to impound same and maintain a reservoir therefor and for

(Continued on Page 10, 7th Column).

FURTHER AID IN SURVEY DESIRED

C. of C. Water Supply Committee to Request Six Assistants From FERA.

The FERA will be asked to furnish six additional assistants in the city water supply survey being made by the special committee of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce. It was announced yesterday following a meeting of the committee in the offices of the chairman, C. L. Thompson.

The progress report filed by M. Z. Bair, chief sanitation engineer with the state Board of Health, indicated that while no definite conclusions for consideration by the committee had been reached, 30 or 35 miles of territory west of Little Rock had been surveyed. Topographical maps were being prepared. The survey of this land which parallels Highway 10 west of the city will require three weeks more, Mr. Bair said.

Several locations for a proposed site for a dam to make it possible to bring water into Little Rock by gravity are being examined by the committee. George C. Branner, state geologist, is conducting a survey of the area between Little Rock and Pine Bluff to determine if a supply of water from deep wells would be practicable, Mr. Thompson said.

OVERMAN MAY ASK U. S. AID ON WATER

Mayor-elect Indicates He Will Apply for Federal Funds to Get Supply.

That the new city administration will apply for federal funds to secure a water supply for Little Rock was indicated in an address by R. E. Overman, mayor-elect, before the Co-operative Club at the Peacock yesterday.

If the water supply could be obtained, the city then could wholesale it to the Arkansas Water Company which has distribution facilities, he said.

The water project would be self-liquidating, he explained, and pointed out that similar developments have been carried out in other sections of the country through loans from the government.

Mr. Overman's subject was "A Better Versus a Bigger Little Rock." He was introduced by Charles S. Lawson, city collector.

Joe Schwalzer and Albert Hanger were appointed as the committee in charge of arrangements on the club's Christmas party which will be given at the Peacock next Wednesday.

DEFINITE STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY MAYOR

Applications to PWA and Forest Service Next Moves for Water Supply.

PRIVATE CAPITAL MAY AID

Little Chance of U. S. Funds to Buy Out Company After Utilities Commission Helps Fix Value.

Mayor Overman returned to Little Rock yesterday from Washington confident the government will advance the money for construction of a water reservoir and dam west of the city, but he reported the city may have to go to private capital to finance municipal purchase of the plant and distribution system of the Arkansas Water Company.

"Officials of the PWA informed me we could not count on more than 15 or 20 per cent assistance in buying the water plant," he said, "but there should be no difficulty in financing the remainder of the cost, because it is a sound, first-class investment."

The mayor's next three moves will be: Filing of an application with the National Forest Service in Hot Springs for permission to use government forest lands for the catchment area of the reservoir.

Filing of an application in the Little Rock office of the PWA for a loan of \$2,500,000 to construct the reservoir, dam, and 37 miles of gravity flow conduits to Little Rock.

Negotiating with the Arkansas Water Company, with the co-operation of the state Department of Public Utilities, to reach a "fair and proper price" for the purchase of the company's plant and distribution system.

Disagrees With Water Executive as to Price.

Mayor Overman does not agree with S. R. Brough, superintendent of the water company, that the price to be agreed upon will be around \$5,000,000.

"I am advised," he said, "that Mr. Brough feels the figure will be around \$5,000,000. If that be true, then I will be greatly disappointed in their valuation and feel the matter will result in litigation. From what I know of their operations I cannot conceive of that figure being a fair valuation of their present plant. We will await their valuation, however, before taking definite action in the matter."

The mayor indicated that he hopes to accomplish both projects—construction of the new water supply system and acquisition of the plant—for little more than \$5,000,000 and certainly no more than \$6,000,000.

He pointed out that the 1922 inventory, upon which he asked New York officials of the holding company to base a tentative price, was less than \$3,000,000 and he feels that subsequent improvements have been offset by deterioration.

Reports PWA Officials Highly Encouraging.

The mayor said officials of the PWA in Washington were strongly encouraging.

Clarence E. McDonough, director of engineers, told him that allocations under the new works program will be based on the unemployment situation in the cities applying for aid, on the permanence and usefulness of the proposed projects, and on the possibilities for employment in the projects.

"He added that Little Rock and the water supply project seemed to qualify in these respects," Mayor Overman said.

He conferred with the assistant director of the Finance Division, Mr. Thoron; W. A. Shappard, senior finance examiner, and Charles Brooks, assistant finance examiner.

"They examined our plans," the mayor said, "and were unanimous in agreeing that the project is very sound. Mr. Thoron even went so far as to estimate the per capita obligation, and told me:

"A city of the size of Little Rock could very well contract an obligation of that size."

Two Who Will Be Assigned To PWA Office Here.

Incidentally, the mayor said he was informed that Mr. Brooks, a son of W. E. Brooks, superintendent of the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company, and M. W. Amis, an attorney in the Finance Division of the PWA, will be sent to Little Rock soon to work with Alexander Allaire, state PWA engineer.

This is in keeping with the government's program of decentralizing authority in administering the new public works program. Mayor Overman will deal directly with the representatives here, he said.

Finds Forestry Officials Ready to Co-operate.

Mayor Overman, with the way paved by Senators Robinson and Caraway and Congressman McClellan, in whose district the proposed reservoir will be built, went to the National Forest Service and the Public Land Office.

He conferred with F. A. Silcox, chief forester, and C. H. Squires, an assistant. They went over maps of the catchment area and the mayor said he was assured that the National Forest Service heartily approves such use of forest lands. He was instructed to file a formal application with the chief forester of the Ouachita National Forest.

The Public Land Office promised to furnish a detailed acquisition map showing the public land domain in the area.

"By the use of the government land around the Alum Fork dam site," Mayor Overman said, "we should be able to construct the reservoir cheaper than the \$2,844,500 estimated by the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce's Water Supply Committee, for we will be spared the necessity of acquiring much of the land from private interests."

Mayor Overman did not approach RFC officials in Washington, he said, because of its policy of lending money

on terms too short to permit repayment from the profits of the water system.

"It is possible," he said, "that a plan might be worked out to borrow from the RFC on short terms, buy the water company's plant, and then retire the loan by a private long-term bond issue that could readily be paid off from the income of the system."

Convinced Water Company Officials' Agreement Sincere.

He said Mr. Brough's account of the conference in New York with officials of the holding company was essentially correct, and he is convinced of the sincerity of the offer to sell the Little Rock plant if an agreement satisfactory to both sides can be reached.

"We were gratified to find the officials of the water company 'agreeable to sell at the proper fair price,'" the mayor said. "Of course, ascertaining the 'proper fair price' for the city is just as important as for the water company."

"A copy of the Chamber of Commerce report has been forwarded to New York and the 10 officials we conferred with were familiar with it."

"My visit was timely, since the officials of the water company had just returned to New York from Little Rock, where they had got first hand information from the Chamber of Commerce and others on the attitude of our people toward good water."

The mayor was accompanied on the trip by John A. Sherrill, Little Rock lawyer, and Herbert Thomas, president of the Pyramid Life Insurance Company, both of whom, he said, were going to New York on private business and arranged their schedules to coincide with his.

At the conference in New York he was also accompanied by a friend who is a New York lawyer, and Superintendent Brough was there also.

ENGINEER TALKS ON NEW WATER SOURCE

M. Z. Bair Tells Realtors Company's Wells in 'Hazardous Location.'

M. Z. Bair, sanitary engineer for the state Board of Health, explained the proposed method for obtaining a water supply for Little Rock from the watershed of the Saline river area at a meeting of Little Rock Real Estate Board at the Hotel Ben McGehee at noon yesterday.

The well area now used by the Arkansas Water Company was described as a "hazardous location."

The water company wells are in the floor of the valley near the river, Mr. Bair explained, and the well water is very hard. This water is used during dry weather to counteract salt in the river water.

If the drain on the wells should become heavy and constant during dry weather, there is danger that the level of the well reservoir might drop until river water would seep through from the bottom of the river, he said. This

would cause the wells to become as salty as the river water.

The natural water reservoir which supplies the wells runs under the river, he said, and several years ago, two wells used by the water company had to be abandoned because they became salty.

Thinks Proposal Feasible.

Mr. Bair, who is assisting in completing the water supply survey, said indications point toward the feasibility of the proposed plan. He said that the possibility of bringing the supply into Little Rock by gravity was being considered.

Another month or six weeks will be required to complete the survey, he said.

R. E. Wait, chairman of the board's Public Affairs Committee, reported that he had discussed with Mayor Knowlton the necessity of improving the sewage disposal system in the Fourche area, where broken lines have created an unsanitary condition.

Syd Willbanks, president of the board, presided.

Work Begun on New Cotter Water System.

Special to the Gazette.

Cotter, Jan. 8.—The Volz Construction Company of Memphis, Tenn., which has the contract for installing the water system here, has started excavating pipe line ditches. The system is a PWA project. Cost will be approximately \$50,000.

Two deep wells have been completed which will furnish a water supply sufficient for a town of from 5,000 to 7,000 population. A steel tower, 100 feet high, will be erected on Cotter Heights to supply the upper residence section. The water supply for the business and lower residential section will be furnished from a steel reservoir.

SOURCE OF WATER INDICATED BY MAP

Prepared From U. S. Geological Survey Data by Engineer.

George C. Branner, state geologist, has had prepared a relief map of the sections of Pulaski and Saline counties where it is proposed that reservoirs be constructed to provide a new source of water for Little Rock.

The map, made by Earl Cato, Little Rock engineer, from a United States Geological Survey contour map of the state in the state Geological Department, shows the areas proposed to be included in catchment basins and lakes and the route of a proposed pipe line to the reservoir on Pulaski Heights.

The first lake or reservoir on the North Fork of Saline river would contain 9.7 square miles and would have a catchment area of 62 square miles. The Alum Fork, which would supplement it, would contain 2.6 square miles with a catchment area of 44 square miles.

The outlet to the Saline reservoir would be about 27 miles from Little Rock, necessitating construction of a pipe line of that length. The elevation of the reservoirs is believed to be sufficient to bring the water to the stand pipe in Little Rock by gravity flow.

ALUM FORK URGED AS WATER SOURCE

C. of C. Committee Report
Estimates Project Cost
at \$2,844,500.

COMMENDED BY MAYOR

Executive Takes Data to Washington,
Where He Will Seek Financial
Aid From PWA.

Text of the Chamber of Commerce
Water Supply Committee's report,
will be found on Page 7.

The Water Supply Committee of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, in a report filed yesterday, recommended that Mayor Overman and the City Council take steps immediately to establish a new source of water supply for Little Rock through construction of a dam and reservoir on Alum Fork of Saline river, 38 miles west of the city.

The committee, which began a study of possible sources of supply last August, estimated that the project would cost \$2,844,500, and that it could be financed through a 30-year bond issue at an annual fixed charge of \$150,397, if a four per cent loan and a 30 per cent grant could be obtained from the federal government.

Mayor to Washington On Water Supply Mission.

Mayor Overman left last night for Washington to discuss the project with PWA officials and members of the Arkansas delegation in Congress.

He took with him a copy of the committee's report, which contains several maps, drawings and exhibits showing details of the proposed project.

The mayor said he first will take up with the National Forest Service the question of obtaining title to approximately 500 acres of land in the Ouachita National Forest which would be flooded by the proposed lake.

He will attempt to obtain a tentative allotment from PWA funds to construct the dam and 37.7 miles of 39-inch flow line which would deliver water by gravity flow from the lake near Reform, Saline county, to the distribution reservoir on Pulaski Heights. He also will confer with officials of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation regarding possibility of obtaining a self-liquidating loan from that agency, if the project can be handled more expeditiously through the RFC.

Alternative Proposals Regarding Contracts.

The committee recommended that a new contract be made with the Arkansas Water Company, whereby the company would provide a new source of soft water, or that the city provide the new source and sell water to the distributing company, or that the city acquire the water company's plant, equipment and distributing system, and then build the Alum Fork reservoir and conduits to bring the new supply to the city.

The Chamber of Commerce Committee consists of Charles L. Thompson, chairman; George D. Suter, secretary; H. H. Tucker, president of the chamber; M. X. Bair, T. S. Buzbee and Dr. George C. Branner.

The report will be considered by the Board of Governors and membership of the Chamber of Commerce at a special meeting to be called one day this week by Mr. Tucker, president of the chamber.

The committee members expressed hope that the investigation will be of assistance in forwarding the community purpose—to secure a new water supply.

Mayor Comments Before Leaving for Washington.

In a statement before he left for Washington, Mayor Overman expressed appreciation for the work performed by the committee. He added that he approved its conclusions and recommendations and believed the demand for a new water supply is unanimous.

The mayor took exception to an excerpt from a letter from Arkansas Water Company officials in which they promised co-operation, but said they wanted it understood the company now is supplying "pure, wholesome and potable water."

Mayor Overman's statement follows: "The time at my disposal has limited my examination of the report of the committee to a cursory study. I am impressed with the thoroughness displayed by the committee in their investigations, as revealed by the report.

"The committee, over the signatures of each member, expresses the hope that their investigations will be of assistance 'in forwarding the community purpose—to secure a new water supply.'

"The committee quotes from a letter written to it by the Arkansas Water Company which states that the water company will co-operate with the committee, and in which the water company says: 'But we want it thoroughly understood that we are now supplying pure, wholesome and potable water from our present sources of supply.' The people of Little Rock will not believe this statement, and it is doubtless made with the idea of a technical defense of its inertia over a period of more than 20 years.

"The report shows the feasibility of an impounded surface water supply and in this respect sustains the report of Dr. George C. Branner to Mayor H. A. Knowlton, on August 7, 1934, and which was made the principle feature in my platform as a candidate for mayor, as announced August 9, 1934.

"One of the conclusions of the committee, that 'Studies of the history and financial set-up and returns of the water company, together with the reports and investigations on which present rates are based, convince us not only that a new supply is needed, but also that this supply can be made available to the community at no increase in total cost for water service to the consumer,' is very interesting and with which I am in hearty accord.

"In conclusion I might state that the City Council and the mayor are very

much pleased with the findings of the committee and wish to thank the committee for the very thorough and exhaustive study given the subject matter.

"The public, I am sure, will be interested to learn that the investigations made by the committee, together with the work and study given the matter by the mayor, are in thorough harmony, so much so that it can be stated, without fear of contradiction, that the demand for a new water supply for Little Rock is unanimous."

Three Possible Basins Discussed in Detail.

After reviewing the history of Little Rock's water supply and assuming that desirability of a new supply is not open to argument, the committee went into considerable detail concerning the three possible catchment areas—Little Maumelle, North Fork of Saline river, and Alum Fork of that river.

Alum Fork was recommended by the committee as the most desirable and economical source, although it is farther from the city than the others, because the dam would be located at a point which would bring water to the city reservoir and settling plant on Pulaski Heights by gravity flow, whereas the nearer sites have sufficient elevation to bring the water only to the present pumping plant on the Arkansas river, from where it would have to be pumped to the reservoir, thus involving a continuous expense for pumping.

The catchment basin and dam site recommended by the committee lies in a sparsely settled area in the extreme northwestern section of Saline county and most of the watershed lies within the Ouachita National Forest. The catchment basin consists of 42.4 square miles or 27,100 acres, and if it ever became necessary two or three supplemental sources could be provided at low cost by impounding small catchment areas adjacent to the gravity flow line to Little Rock.

The committee estimated that the Alum Fork source, involving formation of a lake of 850 acres, would supply nearly 9,000,000,000 gallons annually, or almost four times the present annual consumption of water in Greater Little Rock. This supply could be increased by about 5,000,000 gallons per day by utilization of supplemental catchment areas, if a sudden increase in population or other emergency should require a greater source than the estimated capacity of the Alum Fork project, which the committee said would be sufficient to provide an ample supply for a population of 225,000.

Appreciation of Aid From Others Expressed.

A letter transmitting the report to the Chamber of Commerce, gave a brief history of the committee's origin, the nature and scope of its work, and expressed appreciation for the services of M. Z. Bair, sanitary engineer for the state Board of Health; Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist, whose preliminary report to former Mayor Knowlton last year was utilized in the study of a new water supply, and George Sutor, chief engineer for the Arkansas Fire Prevention Bureau.

Acknowledgment was made for assistance of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, the United States Geological Survey and the FERA in carrying out the preliminary survey.

Appreciation was expressed for courtesies extended by officials of the Arkansas Water Company, including S. B. Brough, superintendent of the Little Rock company; George W. Biggs of New York, chief engineer, and other officials of the parent company.

The letter said a visit of water company officials to the proposed supply territory brought renewed assurance of company co-operation, although the committee was without legal standing and had no authority to enter into negotiations with the company.

Company Willing To Co-operate in Project.

A letter from water company officials was quoted in the letter of transmittal, in part, as follows:

"We appreciate fully the sentiment that prevails against the use of the Arkansas river as a source of supply.

If your committee considers it feasible and it is the desire of the city to secure a water supply of a maximum hardness of less than 100 parts per million and a chlorine content of less than 250 p.p.m., by the development of an impounded supply remote from the city, we shall be glad to co-operate with you as previously stated, but we want it thoroughly understood that we are now supplying pure, wholesome and potable water from our present sources of supply, and our co-operation in respect to developing another source of supply arises solely from our desire to comply with the city's wishes and not on account of any detrimental qualities of the existing supply."

"The public, I am sure, will be interested to learn that the investigations made by the committee, together with the work and study given the matter by the mayor, are in thorough harmony, so much so that it can be stated, without fear of contradiction, that the demand for a new water supply for Little Rock is unanimous."

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Dam on Saline Proposed for Water Supply

Survey Committee Offers Plan for \$3,000,000 Project.

Mayor to Capital Overman Leaves Seeking Federal Funds to Finance Plan.

Coincident with the filing of the report of the Water Survey Committee of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce yesterday recommending the construction of a reservoir in the mountains 38 miles from the city and piping the water to the city by gravity at an estimated cost of nearly \$3,000,000, Mayor R. E. Overman left last night for Washington to confer with members of congress and federal officials in an effort to secure a PWA or RFC loan to enable the city to carry out the recommendations for a new source of water supply.

The committee report will be submitted to the board of governors of the Chamber of Commerce tomorrow.

Mayor Overman in a statement yesterday said that he found the report thorough, but took issue with the Arkansas Water Company, which was quoted in the report as having informed the committee it is now supplying the city with wholesome and potent water from the Arkansas river.

Mayor Overman expects to spend a week or 10 days in Washington discussing financial arrangements for the water project, which was the major issue in his campaign for office last fall, and other projects the city plans to launch under the new public works program of the federal government.

Since the recommended site for the reservoir to impound waters of the new supply for the city is partly within the bounds of a government reservation, Mayor Overman plans to discuss with the Arkansas delegation in congress the possibility that legislation will be needed to give the city the right to construct the reservoir on government-owned lands.

Thinks Report Thorough.

"If legislation is necessary," he said, "we should make every effort to secure it before congress adjourns."

After making a brief study of the report of the Chamber of Commerce committee, Mayor Overman issued the following statement:

"The time at my disposal has limited my examination of the report of the committee, to a cursory study. I am impressed with the thoroughness displayed by the committee in their investigations, as revealed by the report.

"The committee, over the signatures of each member, expresses the hope that their investigations will be of assistance" in forwarding the Community Purpose—to secure a new water supply.

The committee quotes from a letter written to it by the Arkansas Water Company, which states that the Water Company will co-operate with the committee and adds:

"But we want it thoroughly understood that we are now supplying pure, wholesome and potable water from our present sources of supply." The people of Little Rock will not believe this statement, and it is doubtless made with the idea of a technical defense of its inertia over a period of more than 20 years.

The report shows the feasibility of an impounded surface water supply and in this respect sustains the report of Dr. Geo. C. Branner, to Mayor H. A. Knowlton, on August 7, 1934, and which was made the principal feature in my platform, as candidate for mayor, as announced August 9, 1934.

Agrees New Supply Needed. "One of the conclusions of the committee, that:

"Studies of the history and financial set-up and returns of the water company, together with the reports and investigations on which present rates are based, convince us not only that a new supply is needed, but also that this supply can be made available to the community at no increase in total cost for water service to the consumer," is very interesting and with which I am in hearty accord.

"In conclusion, I might state that the City Council and the mayor are very much pleased with the findings of the committee and wish to thank the committee for the very thorough and exhaustive study given the subject matter."

"The public, I am sure, will be interested to learn that the investigations made by the committee, together with the work and study given the matter by the mayor, are in thorough harmony, so much so that it can be stated, without fear of contradiction, that the demand for a new water supply for Little Rock is unanimous."

Favor Saline River Dam.

Construction of a dam across Alum Fork of Saline river at a point 37.7 miles west of Little Rock is the most desirable project in a plan for furnishing the city with a new source of water.

Following nine months of work, the water supply committee will make this report tomorrow to the board of governors of the Chamber in a summary of surveys of all available sources of supply.

The report estimates that such a project could be carried through for a total of \$2,844,500. Of his amount, \$706,500 would be for the dam, land, clearing, road re-location, spillway and intake; \$1,952,000 would be for a 39-inch flow line from the dam to the filter plant; and \$186,000 would be for administration, legal work, and engineering. It would result in no additional total cost to the consumer, it is stated.

On the basis of a 30 per cent grant from the federal government on labor and material, the net loan required would be \$2,064,500, which is equivalent to approximately \$18 per capita on the basis of a total population of 115,000 for both Little Rock and North Little Rock, the report states. With 30-year bonds and an interest rate of four per cent, the annual fixed charges should not exceed \$150,397, it is pointed out.

Supply Would Be Adequate.

"This project would be capable of furnishing an average of 10,000,000 gallons of water per day, which would be equivalent to 80 gallons per capita for a population of 225,000 people," the report states. "Both from the standpoint of adequacy and the quality of the water available, as well as the net cost considered over a period of years, this supply seems to be the most favorable available."

The surveys in the Alum Fork area revealed several damsites of sufficient elevation to discharge water by gravity to the existing purification plant, it is stated. The proposed site is located within the National Forest at a point where the watershed has an area of 27,110 acres, or 42.4 square miles. Geological formations are of shale and sandstone which would practically eliminate possibility of the water having objectionable mineral characteristics. The formations also provide excellent footings for a dam and should prevent excessive seepage.

A suitable dam site is available at a point where the banks of the stream have an elevation of 650 feet, 138 feet above the flow line in the settling basin at the purification plant. A dam having a spillway elevation of 725 feet is practically a spillway discharging through a tributary of Alum Fork, it is stated. The lake created by such a dam would cover 850 acres and would have a storage capacity of 700,000,000 gallons, approximately 3.8 times the present annual consumption of water.

A study indicates that the lake charge of 11,000,000,000 gallons. Stream flow measurements last month indicated a discharge of 86,832,000 gallons a day, equivalent to 4.7 times the annual consumption when the average daily rate of consumption reached 18,000,000 gallons.

Gravity Would Cut Cost.

The flow line would traverse rolling country and in a number of low valleys would require siphons where high pressure pipe would be needed. However, gravity flow would reduce delivery cost as compared with any system requiring use of pumps, it was pointed out.

"The supply from the stream can readily be supplemented at low cost by impounding several small catchment areas, located east of the Alum Fork project and in close proximity to the flow line, and at sufficient elevation to permit discharge by gravity," the report states. "Approximately 8,000,000 gallons per day additional are available from these supplementary impounded supplies."

A proposed auxiliary development which was investigated was the south fork of Fourche La Pave river, 15 miles northwest of the Alum Fork project.

No estimate of cost was made, as it would be much more costly than the Alum Fork project, but attention was called to the fact that this would be available for development as a part of the proposed source should further demands require such additional source of supply.

Another proposed source of supply which was included in the survey was the north fork of Saline river. A suitable dam site was found three miles east of Paron but elevation would permit gravity flow only to the pumping station, making necessary pumping of the water. "As the estimated cost of the project is high, it is not considered the most desirable," the report states.

Fourth Source Surveyed.

The fourth prospective source investigated was Little Maumelle. Construction of a dam across from the west end of Shinall mountain with a spillway elevation of 400 feet would create a lake impounding 3,000,000,000 gallons of water but the lake would provide a high percentage of shallow water, "a feature generally undesirable in an impounded supply," it is stated.

The report also includes data on surveys made in connection with proposed ground water supplies. The survey revealed that the most suitable areas available for ground water supply development are apparently areas underlain by the Wilcox formation in northern Jefferson, western Lonoke and southwestern Pulaski counties, at least 20 miles from Little Rock.

Such water, although found in abundant quantities, is frequently high in iron content and would require chemical treatment. "The fixed charges on the investment necessary in connection with the development of a well supply, combined with the very high cost of pumping, indicate that such a project is economically less desirable than available surface sources of supply," the report states.

The summary of findings of the committee include the following: That the highland area west of Little Rock will provide adequate supplies of soft water suitable for all domestic and industrial use; that the supply may be available from three or more catchment areas; that the most satisfactory source of supply appeared to be the Alum Fork project; that the cost would be moderate as compared with expenditures of other cities of similar population; that substantially increased consumption would result from a new source of supply; that a substantial saving would accrue to the consumers, and that the new source is needed and could be provided at no increase in total cost to the consumer.

Asks City to Act.

The committee, commending Mayor Overman and the city council for a resolution to provide a new source of water supply, recommended that the city take such steps as are necessary to accomplish this purpose. Courses of action suggested include a change in existing contractual relations between the city and the distributing company to provide a new source of water, for the city to construct reservoirs and conduits and sell water to the distributing company, and for the city to acquire the present plant and supply a new source of water. It also was recommended that if new contractual relations are entered into, a thorough study of costs be made to ascertain the justification for the rates contemplated.

The report is accompanied by six maps and plans showing Little Rock and the area west of the city with the proposed sites covered by the survey, topography of the proposed lake and dam on Alum Fork, the flow line from the proposed dam to the city, topography at the dam site,

and location of wells located in Pulaski, Prairie, Lonoke, Jefferson, Grant and Arkansas counties.

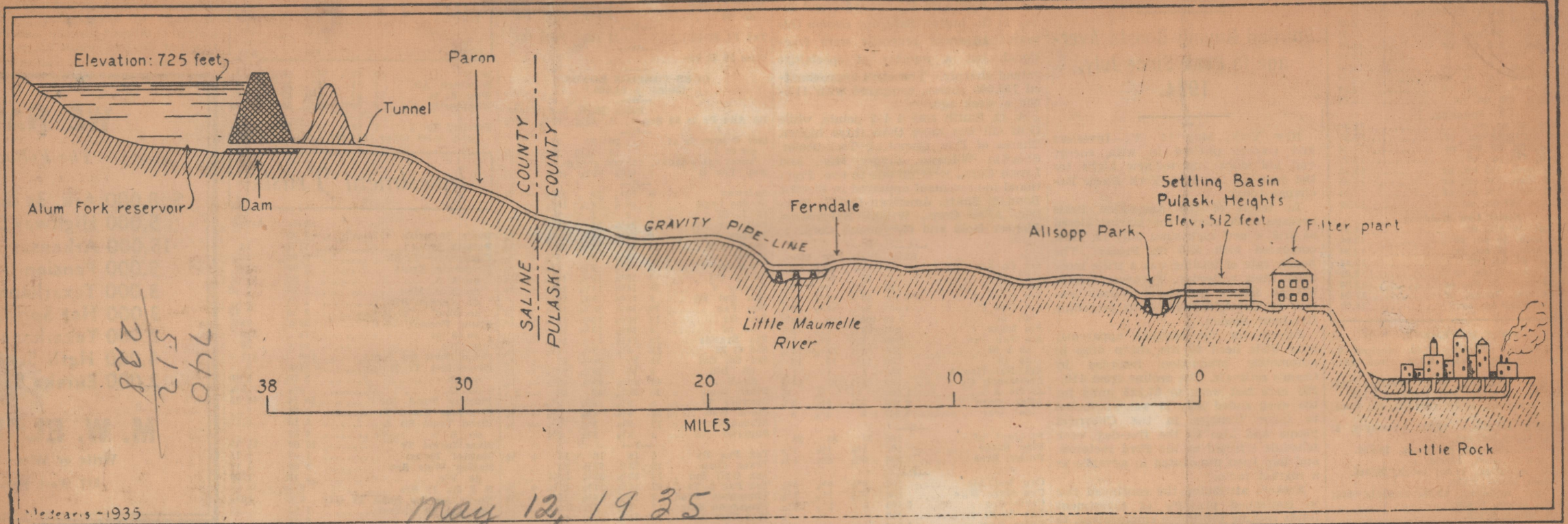
Plan Is Submitted.

A plan for the proposed dam also is submitted. The dam would have a concrete mid-section extending not less than three feet into solid rock. On each side would be a slope of selected material, covered by a slope of earth and stone.

The committee expresses its thanks for assistance to Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist; the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Geological Survey, the ERA, Judge John E. Martineau and officials of the Arkansas Water Company. "Untiring personal services, which were essential to our purpose and which would usually have cost many thousands of dollars, have made possible our report," it is stated.

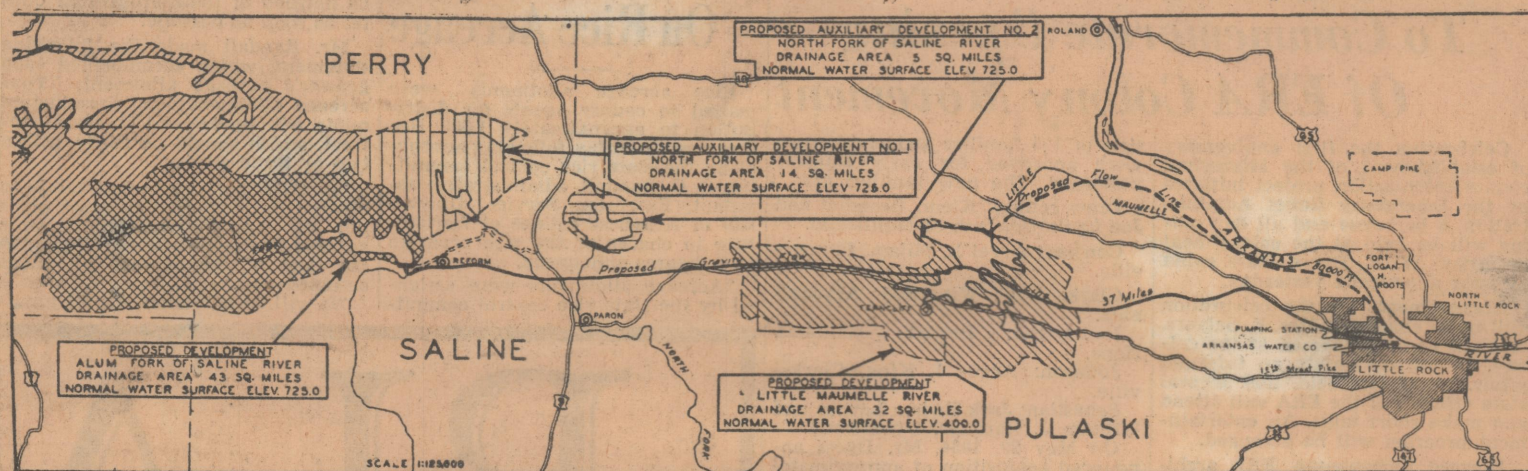
The committee includes C. L. Thompson, chairman, and M. Z. Bair, H. H. Tucker, T. S. Buzbee and George Suter.

Illustrating Proposal for Supplying Little Rock With Water From Alum Fork



This sketch, drawn by Ted Medearis, a draftsman in the state geologist's office, shows the location of the proposed dam, lake and catchment basin in Saline county, and the approximate course of the gravity flow pipe line which would bring a new supply of soft water from the proposed Alum Fork reservoir to the present settling basin on Pulaski Heights. The pipe line would leave the bottom of the lake through a tunnel. The normal surface of the lake would be 725 feet above sea level, compared with the elevation of 512 feet at the Pulaski Heights settling basin and distribution reservoir. This difference in elevation would give sufficient pressure to cause the water to flow uphill at many points before it reached the final outlet in Little Rock.

Plan for Project to Furnish City New Water Supply



The proposed site for construction of a dam on Alum Fork of Saline river which would supply by gravity flow a new source of water supply for Little Rock is shown on the map. The proposed location is shown at the left, surrounded by

shading showing the watershed which would supply water to create a lake impounding 8,700,000,000 gallons. The auxiliary development No. 1 is on the North Fork of Saline but the water survey committee declared the estimated cost pro-

hibitive. Another proposed site which was investigated was Little Maumelle river but it was found that a dam at the point indicated would impound water at a very shallow depth at most points. A survey also was made of the South

Fork of Fourche La Fave but this was not favored because of high cost, although it was cited as an auxiliary supply when needed. The report, prepared after nine months of surveys, will be submitted by the committee to the board of governors of the Chamber of Commerce tomorrow.

THERE'S THE WATER AND NOW'S THE TIME TO GET IT.

That Little Rock should have another water supply is something on which this community is agreed. To furnish a satisfactory supply the Water Supply Committee of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce recommends a dam and reservoir on Alum Fork of the Saline river. This would mean building 38 miles of flow line in addition to the impounding works, and the estimated cost of the whole project would be \$2,844,500. The committee's plan represents the results of long and exhaustive study. It must be taken as embodying the best information and the best thought it is possible to obtain. 5-14-35

In the surveys and studies on which the report is based the Chamber of Commerce Committee, which was headed by Charles L. Thompson, was fortunate in having the assistance of Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist; M. Z. Bair, sanitary engineer of the state Board of Health; George Suter, chief engineer of the Arkansas Fire Prevention Bureau, and the federal Coast and Geodetic and Geological Surveys. Much expense was saved by the co-operation of FERA in the field work. GAZETTE

Assurance is given that water from the Alum Fork reservoir would be soft, pure and well adapted to all domestic and industrial uses. The

supply would be abundant for a population of twice the present size.

There can be no question that the time to move in the matter is now, when we can hope to finance the undertaking on favorable terms in connection with the federal recovery and work relief programs. For a community of the size and expected growth of ours the estimated expenditure is not large. An urban community of more than 100,000 population need not hesitate to spend \$2,800,000 to provide itself with a satisfactory water supply.

Mayor Confers With Terry On Little Rock Water Project.

Washington, May 15 (AP).—Mayor Overman of Little Rock talked today with government officials in an effort to ascertain whether federal funds could be obtained for a new water supply project for the city.

He discussed the matter with Representative Terry of Arkansas, who said the mayor proposed to use the Alum fork of the Saline river as a source of water supply. The project, Terry said, would involve traversing a national forest preserve with an aqueduct or main, and the mayor sought to learn whether this could be done. Terry said the mayor also sought to ascertain whether the city could obtain money from the \$4,000,000,000 work fund for the project.

WATER COMPANY AGREES TO SELL

Superintendent Reports on New York Conference With Mayor.

PRICE TO BE DETERMINED

S. R. Brough Quotes City's Executive as Announcing No Other Course Being Considered.

A tentative agreement for purchase of the plant and distributing system of the Arkansas Water Company by the city, using the 1923 federal court valuation of approximately \$3,267,000 as the basis for computing a purchase price, was reached in New York city Monday at a conference between Mayor Overman and officials of the American Waterworks and Electric Corporation, S. R. Brough, superintendent of the water company, announced following his return from New York yesterday.

Mayor Overman was in Washington yesterday, where he was seeking to arrange with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the Public Works Administration for financing construction of a reservoir system west of the city and purchase of the Arkansas Water Company's plant and distributing system, at a total cost of about \$8,000,000.

The report of a Little Rock Chamber of Commerce Committee, made public last Sunday, placed the cost of the reservoir system and connecting pipeline at approximately \$3,000,000.

It is believed by water company officials that its properties will be valued at about \$5,000,000 when improvements are credited and abandonments deducted from the 1923 estimate of \$3,267,000.

Company Said to Be Willing to Sell.

Mr. Brough said officials of his company told Mayor Overman they would be glad to sell the plant and distributing system at a fair price if the people of Little Rock desired to purchase it. Because it was estimated a complete inventory would require eight months and considerable expense, it was decided to use the existing inventory as a base figure.

Development of the agreement will await the return of Mayor Overman from the East, where he was accompanied by J. A. Sherrill, attorney, and Herbert Thomas, president of the Pyramid Life Insurance Company. Robie Mitchell, of the New York law firm of Masslich & Mitchell, also attended the conference with Mayor Overman's party.

J. F. Loughborough, Little Rock attorney, accompanied Mr. Brough to New York.

Company Executive's Report of Conference.

"I have just returned from New York where I sat in on a conference between the officials of our company and Mayor Overman, which was arranged at his request to discuss the matter of securing a new source of supply of water for the city," Mr. Brough said, in a prepared statement.

"We had the report of the committee of the Chamber of Commerce which we had gone over, and in which it was recommended that a new source of supply should be secured. The report suggested that it be done by the water company, or partly by the water company and the city, or by the purchase of the water company plant by the city.

"The meeting was short. Mayor Overman merely announced that all that he was interested in was the purchase of the plant by the city and asked what agreement could be made to that end.

"E. S. Thompson, vice president of our company, stated that if it was the desire of the people to purchase the plant the company certainly would not try to obstruct it, and would be entirely agreeable to selling it to the city at the proper fair price.

"The making of a complete inventory of the company's property was discussed and it was estimated that it would take about eight months to get that up and would cost a considerable amount. Therefore, it was agreed that the valuation fixed on the property by the United States District Court in 1923 be used as a basis and a tentative or approximate figure built up from that by adding additions and betterments to plant and deducting abandonments since that date, the figure to be submitted to the respective parties and an effort made to agree on the present fair value of the property.

"That was the only matter that Mayor Overman desired to discuss and that was all that was discussed. The attitude of our people is completely co-operative with the city in any effort it may desire to make in securing a new source of supply."

MAYOR TO ASK USE OF FOREST LANDS

Will File Application With Supervisor at Hot Springs.

May 25, 1935
A definite step preliminary to securing an improved water supply for Little Rock will be taken by Mayor Overman this morning, with the filing of a formal application for use of forest land as a reservoir site with A. W. Hartman, supervisor of the Ouachita National Forest at Hot Springs.

The mayor will leave for Hot Springs this morning, accompanied by M. Z. Bair, sanitary engineer for the state Board of Health, and consultant for the Water Supply Committee of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce during its recent survey.

The survey suggested construction of a reservoir on the Alum Fork of the Saline river and estimated that 50 per cent of the land to be flooded in the proposed reservoir is embraced in the Ouachita National Forest.

On his recent visit to Washington, Mayor Overman conferred with officials of the National Forest Service and was assured that the service approves use of forest land for such projects. He was instructed to file a formal application with the chief forester of the Ouachita National Forest.

Mayor Overman has said that if the city could acquire government land around the Alum Fork dam site, the reservoir could be constructed for less than the \$2,844,500 estimated by the Chamber of Commerce Committee.

Since returning from the East, the mayor has conferred informally with S. R. Brough, superintendent, regarding purchase of the plant and distributing system of the Arkansas Water Company and has made preliminary plans for filing application with the PWA for a loan of \$2,500,000 to construct the reservoir and 37 miles of gravity flow conduits to Little Rock.

FORT SMITH WATER SYSTEM PLAN O.K.'D

Bids for \$1,600,000 Addition Will Be Received There June 17.

May 29, 1935
Approval of specifications for a \$1,600,000 addition to the Fort Smith waterworks system was announced yesterday by Alexander Allaire, state PWA engineer, who said the state Health Department also had approved the plans. The specifications were sent to Fort Smith last night, and bids will be received there June 17.

John G. Pipkin, business manager of the Little Rock Public Schools, conferred with Mr. Allaire regarding the allotment for construction of an addition to the Pulaski Heights Junior High School.

County Judge A. B. Strozler of Sebastian county and Henry Armstrong, Fort Smith attorney, discussed a proposed application for PWA funds to build a new Sebastian county courthouse. County roads of the black top type were also discussed as possible PWA projects.

Information on Other Projects Requested.

M. W. Greeson of Prescott conferred with Mr. Allaire in regard to a dam which Pike county officials wish to construct on the Little Missouri river near Murfreesboro as a flood control project. He also represented County Judge E. H. Weaver of Nevada county in seeking information regarding a loan to purchase road machinery.

F. E. Hatch and A. H. Christian of Little Rock presented additional information in regard to a proposed application for a private flood control, navigation and power project in the Buffalo river at Carver, with which a smelter would be combined. Mr. Allaire told them private projects are not being considered in any considerable number at present.

Kenneth O. Warner, director of the Arkansas Municipal League, secured detailed information in regard to the preparation of applications.

E. L. Bailey, mayor of Cabot, sought information regarding the refilling of an application for a loan and grant to build a waterworks system.

Another Phase of Works Relief Program Discussed.

Allocation of funds for navigation, flood control and waterways projects in Arkansas under the works relief program was discussed at a conference between Lieut. Col. David McCoach Jr., representative of the Mississippi River Commission, and James J. Harrison, director of the National Emergency Council for Arkansas.

Other conferences will be held to determine the extent of the work after additional instructions are received from Washington, Mr. Harrison said.

TO SUBMIT REPORT ON WATER SURVEY

Engineer Says Preliminary Data Will Be Ready for Committee Next Week.

April 5, 1935
Preliminary survey of a catchment basin on Alum fork of Saline river, 32 miles west of Little Rock, where it is proposed to build a dam and reservoir to provide a new source of water for the city, will be completed within a few days and a report will be filed with the special Water Supply Committee of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, it was said yesterday by M. Z. Bair, sanitary engineer for the state Board of Health.

The survey, being made with FERA labor, is designed to determine whether the required quantity of water could be impounded by construction of a dam on Alum fork near Paron.

The committee is expected to meet about the middle of next week to consider the survey report.

Water Survey Is Completed

April 12, 1935
Report to Be Made Soon on New Source of Supply for City.

Work has been completed on a survey in connection with the proposed new source of water supply for Little Rock and a complete report on the project will be submitted to the water survey committee of the Chamber of Commerce at a meeting within the next few days.

The last division of the survey was completed yesterday and compilation of this data was completed this afternoon. M. Z. Bair, chief sanitary engineer of the state board of health and a member of the committee, announced. The committee is expected to meet early next week to review the report.

The final survey was that made by ERA workers to determine the storage capacity should a dam be located at a proposed site on Alum Fork, about 32 miles west of Little Rock. Data on this survey was in the hands of Mr. Bair this afternoon to complete the report.

Combined with this report are precise level surveys, made by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, and surveys of the proposed dam site and adjoining water shed, made by the United States Geological Survey. The State Geological Survey has co-operated in determining formations at the proposed dam site. This has shown that a sand and shale formation a short distance below ground level is adaptable to holding water stored by the dam.

The proposed site is located at a point where water will flow to Little Rock by gravity, Mr. Bair said. No estimate of the cost of land, the dam and piping of water to Little Rock can be made until a thorough check has been made of data contained in the survey, Mr. Bair said.

The meeting of the committee will be called by C. L. Thompson, chairman, who said that he did not expect the group to meet before early next week.

WATER COMMITTEE MEETS AGAIN TODAY

C. of C. Representatives Confer With Officials of Utility Company.

April 19, 1935
Four officials of the American Waterworks and Electric Company of New York, parent firm of the Arkansas Water Company, met yesterday and will meet again at 10 a. m. today with the Water Survey Committee of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce. The New York officials, who came to Little Rock at the request of the committee, are furnishing physical data on the operation of waterworks which the committee needs to complete its report on a survey for a new water supply for Little Rock.

The committee plans to submit its report to the Board of Governors next week, D. Hodson Lewis, manager of the chamber, said.

The New York officials of the company are: George W. Biggs, chief engineer; Charles E. Trowbridge, chief chemist; William E. Stoney, president, and Earl S. Thompson, vice president, of the holding company. All expressed a desire to co-operate in every way with the committee.

Chairman of the committee is C. L. Thompson and the other members are Henry H. Tucker, president of the chamber; George Suter, of the Arkansas Fire Prevention Bureau and M. Z. Bair, chief sanitary engineer of the state Board of Health.

The survey of a proposed reservoir system for a water supply, west of Little Rock, was completed last week.

MEETING ON WATER SUPPLY TOMORROW

C. of C. Committee Continues Conferences With Representatives of Company.

April 21, 1935
Members of the Water Supply Committee of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce and a group of New York city engineers representing the Arkansas Water Company conferred yesterday at the Chamber of Commerce regarding the proposed new water supply for Little Rock.

Findings based on the survey completed recently at the proposed site for a dam and reservoir, west of the city on Alum Fork, were discussed.

D. Hodson Lewis, chairman of the chamber and a member of the committee, said no conclusions were reached, as the engineers were unable to supply the committee with information it desired. Another meeting will be held at 3 p. m. tomorrow.

DAM SUBJECT OF TALK BEFORE CLUB

Colonel Fordyce Tells Engineers Benefits Would Result From Project.

April 21, 1935
What he regards as certain advantages of a dam on the Arkansas river at Little Rock were outlined yesterday by Col. John R. Fordyce in an address before the Little Rock Engineers Club at the Frederica hotel. His talk was illustrated by a map prepared by W. Terry Field.

Colonel Fordyce discussed probable effects on flood control, navigation, power production and irrigation. Creation of a reservoir of approximately 236 acres in Faulkner, Conway and northern Pulaski counties by construction of the dam from Big Rock to the ridge on which the Country Club is located would be the most practical way to control the river in Arkansas, he said. Such a structure would help retard floodwaters and give time for a run-off below, he said.

The lake created by the dam would back water up to Dardanelle and thereby would provide navigation on the river, he continued. Hydro-electric power could be developed, although it would not be 100 per cent effective when the water was drawn down in anticipation of a flood, he said. Water in the reservoir would flow by gravity through canals for irrigation of prairie lands.

"A dam at Little Rock could not be constructed so that it would be 100 per cent perfect for solution of all four problems, but I believe it would provide solutions for the greater number from the standpoint of flood control, navigation, hydro-electric power, and irrigation," Colonel Fordyce said.

At the time of heavy flood, Colonel Fordyce said that water in the reservoir could be held at such a height that the surplus could be passed off through Bayou Two Prairies into the Wattensaw and then into the White river to relieve the lower Arkansas of flood waters.

Col. Walter E. Winn, civil engineer, objected to building a dam at Little Rock because, he said, water from the reservoir would flood Levy, North Little Rock, most of southeastern Pulaski county and territory between Little Rock and Dardanelle.

He said also that it would be impractical to divert surplus waters through Palarm creek into Bayou Two Prairies and then into the White river because of cost of digging a channel from the junction of Jacks Bayou and Bayou Two Prairies to Palarm.

Capt. E. N. Chisolm Jr., engineer attached to Seventh Corps Area, headquarters at Omaha, Neb., who has been in Little Rock this week making new maps of Camp Pike, spoke briefly at the meeting. Carl L. Sadler, formerly of Little Rock, now in charge of the Central Section of the United States Geological Survey with headquarters at Rolla, Mo., and W. DeWoody Dickinson Jr., were guests.

Water Supply Committee Called.—C. L. Thompson, chairman of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce Water Supply Committee, announced yesterday that the committee would meet at the Chamber of Commerce Friday afternoon to consider the water supply survey report completed last week. The survey was made at the proposed dam site and reservoir west of the city on Alum Fork. Mr. Thompson called the meeting after a conference with Henry H. Tucker, president of the Chamber of Commerce, who has just returned from a meeting of the Mississippi Valley Association Water Resources Committee.

SURVEY OF WATER SUPPLY COMPLETE

Engineers Determine Capacity of Proposed Alum Fork Reservoir.

Work on the survey started here several months ago in connection with obtaining a new water supply for Little Rock has been completed and will be submitted to the Water Supply Committee of the Chamber of Commerce at a meeting which probably will be called for early next week by C. L. Thompson, chairman of the committee.

M. Z. Bair, chief sanitary engineer of the state Board of Health, announced that compilation of data on the last division of the survey was completed yesterday afternoon. Mr. Bair is a member of the Water Supply Committee.

Final survey work was done by FERA engineers, who determined capacity of a reservoir that would be formed by construction of a dam across Alum Fork about 32 miles west of Little Rock. Impounded water would flow to Little Rock by gravity.

No estimate of costs can be made until data obtained in the survey is checked fully, Mr. Bair said.

Combined with the report of FERA engineers are precise level surveys made by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey and surveys of the proposed dam site and adjacent watershed made by the United States Geological Survey. The state Geological Survey also co-operated in determining formations at the dam site and found that a sand and shale formation a short distance below the ground level is adaptable to holding water.

ADMIT FEASIBILITY OF RESERVOIR PLAN

Water Company Representatives Conclude Conferences With C. of C. Committee.

April 23, 1935
Engineering feasibility of a reservoir system west of Little Rock to supply the city with water was demonstrated to the satisfaction of four officials of the New York holding company of the Arkansas Water Company before they left last night after a conference of several days with a committee of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce regarding a new water supply.

M. Z. Bair, chief sanitary engineer for the state Board of Health, conducted the four officials, including George W. Biggs, chief engineer, over the proposed watershed of the reservoir system. They spent the entire day Sunday inspecting the area, which has been surveyed by Mr. Bair and a field crew for the Water Supply Committee of the chamber.

"Mr. Biggs and the other officials from New York were convinced that the proposed plan is sound from an engineering standpoint," Mr. Bair said. "Of course, their attitude is that the present water supply, with softening equipment and other improvements, should be adequate, but, if Little Rock demands a new supply, they are willing to co-operate as far as possible."

"The principal question, from their standpoint—and the city's as well, of course—is one of finance. Development of a new water supply, after the preliminary survey and report, will depend upon what arrangements can be made with the government for financing it."

The final conference between the officials and the Water Supply Committee was held yesterday afternoon in the office of Charles L. Thompson, chairman. Besides Mr. Biggs, the visiting officers of the American Waterworks and Electric Company were L. S. Thompson, president, and C. A. Trowbridge and C. C. Stoney, vice presidents.

The committee's final report on the possibilities of a new water supply probably will be submitted to the Board of Governors this week, Mr. Bair said.

Well for Calico Rock Water System Approved.

Special to the Gazette.

Calico Rock, March 26.—The well, drilled to a depth of 150 feet for the Calico Rock water system that is being installed by McEachin & McEachin of Little Rock, has been approved by the government engineer. Ditching for pipe lines is expected to start next week. The system will represent an expenditure of \$40,000.

\$5,001,704 SOUGHT FOR WATER SYSTEM

Company's Appraisal Submitted at Conference With Mayor Overman.

June 14 1935

The plants and distributing system of the Arkansas Water Company in Little Rock and North Little Rock were offered to the city yesterday for \$5,001,704.

The price quoted to Mayor Overman by officials of the American Waterworks and Electric Company was:

Little Rock system \$4,367,079
North Little Rock 634,625

Total \$5,001,704

However, if the city should purchase the Little Rock properties separately, a severance charge of \$250,000 would be added, making the Little Rock properties cost \$4,617,079.

Presented at Conference With Company Officials.

The offer was submitted at a conference attended by E. S. Thompson of New York, vice president and treasurer of the American Waterworks Company; George W. Biggs Jr. of New York, chief engineer for the company; W. E. Stoney of New York, president of the Arkansas Water Company; S. F. Brough, superintendent, and J. F. Loughborough, attorney, representing the company, and D. H. Daugherty, member of the city's Board of Public Affairs; M. Z. Bair, state sanitary engineer, in charge of preliminary plans for the city's proposed new water supply; Ben D. Brickhouse, former mayor; Alderman Muswick, chairman of the City Council Utilities Committee; Alderman Erwin, chairman of the Finance Committee; City Attorney Ed I. McKinley Jr., John A. Sherrill, attorney; Herbert L. Thomas, insurance executive, and Mayor Overman. Mr. Sherrill and Mr. Thomas accompanied Mayor Overman on his recent trip to New York and Washington, when negotiations were opened for purchase of the water company's properties by the city.

The appraisal will be submitted to Chase & Gaunt, auditors for the city, and a firm of engineers not yet named, and Mayor Overman said he hoped to have a report within a short time.

Based on Valuation Fixed by U. S. Court.

The appraisal, compiled by the American Waterworks and Electric Company's engineers and auditors, is based on a \$3,367,972 valuation of the Arkansas Water Company by order of federal court in 1922.

The adjusted value of that appraisal as of March 31, 1935, is placed at \$2,788,150, to which the company added \$1,280,547 for improvements to plant and distributing system plus \$5,888 as the value of transportation equipment, making a total of \$4,074,585, which was given as the cost of reproduction January 1 (1935) price levels for construction and equipment.

From that figure, the company deducted \$410,230 accumulated in the retirement of reserve and replacement fund, leaving \$366,355, to which the following items were added:

Preliminary expense \$ 40,746
Materials and supplies on hand March 31, 1935 18,425
Cost of financing (should the present plant be replaced) 317,586
Going value (good will and other intangible assets at the eight per cent figure fixed by the federal court) 325,967

Total value of Little Rock property \$4,367,079

The appraisal submitted by the company used the Engineering News Record construction cost index for all years between 1922 and 1935, and the Burns & McDonald index for water plant equipment and supplies for all intervening years.

Company Sees Next Move as City's.

Water company officials were un-

willing to comment on the appraisal, but indicated they considered the next move up to the city.

Following his return from New York a few weeks ago, Superintendent Brough indicated the company's appraisal of the properties would be in the neighborhood of \$5,000,000 and at that time Mayor Overman said he considered the figure too high.

Should the accountants and engineers retained by the city find the appraisal high, the city could ask that the state Department of Public Utilities make an appraisal as an impartial agency and, failing to reach an agreement on that figure, might appeal to the courts, the mayor indicated.

New York officials of the American Waterworks and Electric Company, parent company for the Arkansas Water Company, planned to leave today for New York and no further conferences are anticipated pending a reply by the city.

Mayor Overman plans to apply to PWA for financing the construction of a reservoir system west of the city and a connecting pipe line to obtain a new water supply, at a cost of \$2,800,000, and private financing of purchase of the existing properties has been considered.

The properties appraised yesterday include the pumping plant, filtration plant and reservoirs on Ozark Point in Pulaski Heights and the distributing system with meters and all other equipment.

WATER PROPERTIES' VALUE IN QUESTION

Mayor Hopeful of Adjustment After Confering With Company Officials.

June 15 1935

An agreement that the price of \$4,617,079 for Little Rock properties of the Arkansas Water Company, which was suggested Thursday, can be adjusted downward was reached yesterday at a conference between E. S. Thompson of New York, vice president and treasurer of the American Waterworks and Electric Company, George W. Biggs Jr. of New York, chief engineer for the company, and Mayor Overman.

Mayor Overman termed the price quoted by the parent company "excessive," and following the conference expressed hope a readjustment can be worked out between the company, city and the state Department of Public Utilities without resort to the courts.

Task for Engineers.
The next step in the city's program to acquire the properties will be the filing of a formal notice with the Utilities Commission that the city cannot agree with the company on the price quoted. After the notice is filed, Mayor Overman said engineers probably will be appointed by the city to work in co-operation with the commission's engineers and company experts in arriving at a "fair price."

Mayor Overman said the notice would be filed with the commission in the next few days and that a thorough appraisal of the Little Rock properties of the company could be completed within four months.

The company officials agreed that a new source of supply for the city is desirable, Mayor Overman said, but the question of the company continuing operation of its Little Rock properties, distributing water from a new source provided by the city, was not discussed.

The city's application for approximately \$2,800,000 to construct reservoirs west of here, with a connecting gravity flow pipeline, will be filed with the PWA when compilation of necessary data is finished.

TO SEEK ELECTION ON WATER SYSTEM

July 7 1935

Mayor Says Arrangements for Private Loan Completed.

Mayor Overman said yesterday arrangements have been made with private interests to borrow at four and a half per cent interest sufficient funds to finance purchase of the plant and distributing system of the Arkansas Water Company, and said he would ask the City Council at its next session, July 15, to declare its intention of purchasing the plant and call a special election to give voters an opportunity of deciding the question.

The city is proceeding under the authority of Act 131 of 1933, and Act 3 of 1935 creating the Department of Public Utilities, Mayor Overman said, and a majority of voters will be sufficient to authorize purchase of the plant by the city.

Sixty days must elapse before the election can be held, he said, because the law requires that the city allow 30 days for presentation of protests and a public hearing.

To Seek Lower Appraisal.

He said that after the Council had announced its intention to purchase the plant, the city proposed to put engineers to work on an appraisal, with a view to reducing the price of \$4,367,079 fixed by the American Waterworks and Electric Company, parent company of the Arkansas Water Company.

In the event the city and the waterworks company are unable to compromise their individual appraisals, an appeal may be taken to the State Utilities Commission and in the event of a disagreement there an appeal may be taken to the courts.

Mayor Overman said he had arranged with a firm of engineers to make the necessary appraisal of the plant and that money necessary to purchase it can be obtained at four and a quarter per cent on a 30-year basis, to be repaid out of revenue derived from the plant. The city is hopeful of purchasing the plant for about \$3,000,000.

To File for PWA Loan.

In connection with purchase of the plant and distributing system application will be filed with the PWA next week, for construction of a system of reservoirs west of the city, estimated to cost \$2,800,000, to provide a new water supply through a gravity flow pipeline.

Preliminary engineering data for the reservoirs and pipeline has been compiled by M. Z. Bair, sanitary engineer for the state Board of Health, and the PWA application will be filed as soon as required data on the total bonded indebtedness of the municipality including improvement districts, can be compiled. It is estimated that about three weeks will be required to complete the compilation.

Mayor Overman said he had been assured by officials of the National Park Service that no difficulty will be experienced securing government land for site of the reservoir and dams which will reduce the cost to the city. In

addition 45 per cent of the construction cost will be a grant if the project is approved by the PWA.

A report on the city's financial standing must accompany all other PWA applications as well as the water reservoir project and Mayor Overman said the Civic Projects Authority will meet tomorrow night, to discuss details of filing applications for other projects.

OFFICIALS HOPEFUL OF BETTER WATER

Both Alum Fork and Little Maumelle Projects Under Consideration.

CITY ESTIMATES STUDIED

Company Will Submit Figures Showing Amount Available to Pay for New Supply.

July 20 1935

Officials of the city and of the Arkansas Water Company agreed yesterday, that they are "hopeful" that as a result of a conference in Chicago Thursday, a plan can be worked out whereby the city will obtain a PWA loan and grant to secure a new source of water supply while the company contracts to purchase water at a rate sufficient to amortize the loan over a 30-year period.

The company will submit figures next week showing the amount of money available to pay for the new water supply after deducting bond and interest charges, operating cost and investment return from its present income.

John A. Sherrill, attorney for the city, who accompanied Mayor Overman, City Attorney Ed I. McKinley Jr. and M. Z. Bair, state sanitary engineer, to the Chicago conference, said analysis of the report will determine whether sufficient funds are available to guarantee either the Alum Fork or the Little Maumelle reservoir projects.

Water Company Engineers Check City's Figures.

Engineers for the water company are checking the city's preliminary estimates that the Alum Fork project can be carried out for \$2,800,000 to \$3,000,000 and the Little Maumelle project for \$1,600,000. The city would be required to repay 55 per cent of either loan over

a 30-year period. It is estimated that approximately \$100,000 annually would be sufficient to retire a loan for the Alum Fork reservoir and pipe line, which is preferred by the city.

The company indicated a preference for the Little Maumelle project, which would require continuance of the present pumping station. However it is believed that an attempt is being made to work a program for realization of the Alum Fork reservoir system.

Should the city reach an agreement with the company and enter into a contract to supply water for distribution by the Arkansas Water Company, the city would retain its right to buy the distributing system at any time, Mr. Sherrill said. The city also would retain title to the reservoirs and pipe line should the contract be carried out for a full 30-year period and the loan retired.

The American Waterworks Company, parent company of the Arkansas Water Company, has offered to sell the Little Rock property to the city for \$5,000,010 but the offer was rejected as excessive. The company's apparent willingness to aid the city in securing a new source of supply is regarded as a compromise proposal, which will relieve the city of the necessity of issuing bonds or engaging in long expensive court proceedings to acquire the property.

Company's Report Will Be Submitted Next Week.

Mr. Sherrill said that the company's report will be submitted early next week. It will determine whether additional engineering work, necessary to filing a PWA application, will be done on either the Alum Fork or Little Maumelle projects. He was hopeful that a new water supply can be secured while federal funds are available under the present plan which makes it necessary for the city to repay only 55 per cent of a loan.

PARLEY ON WATER ISSUE TO CONTINUE

Agreement Between City and Company This Week Considered Possible.

July 31 1935

An agreement between the city and the Arkansas Water Company for construction of a reservoir and pipe line with PWA funds to give the city a new source of water supply is expected to be arranged here this week at a conference between John A. Sherrill, attorney for the city, and J. F. Loughborough, representing the water company.

It is reported that the company at a conference in Chicago last week, agreed to pay approximately \$94,000 annually, which would be sufficient to amortize the proposed \$3,000,000 PWA loan and grant over a 30-year period and in addition maintain the reservoir and pipe line.

The city has contended for the right to acquire the distributing system and plant of the company at any time during the period. Differences over that contention are expected to be adjusted at the coming conference.

Realization of the pending proposal would give the city the new water supply which it has sought over a long period of time and would eliminate the necessity for issuing bonds and increasing the present indebtedness. Details of the financial arrangements as well as engineering details remain to be worked out.

A reservoir on Alum fork of the Saline river, which would have a far greater potential capacity than a reservoir on the Little Maumelle river, would cost approximately \$3,000,000. The Little Maumelle project is estimated to cost \$1,600,000 but would necessitate continuance of the company's present

company to take from reservoir all water needed by it to supply Little Rock, North Little Rock and adjacent territory when such supply is reasonably available.

The Company shall maintain its pumping plant, accessories, and auxiliary water supply works as a stand-by for additional water supply in the event of interference in the contemplated supply, in a useful and operating condition until such time as the City or Company may provide the necessary reserve supply by duplication of pipe line, reservoir or other means, eliminating the necessity of said pumping plant, and the obligations between the City and the Company in that regard shall be mutual, and proper provision shall be made to make them legal and binding on both.

8. There shall be installed a proper measuring device adjacent to the Company's settling basins to measure the water delivered to the Company. For the annual payment on the City's loan, to be made by the Company as provided in Paragraph 3 hereof, the Company shall be entitled to receive in each calendar year two billion, five hundred million (2,500,000,000) gallons of water; and for all water taken by the Company in excess thereof in any calendar year the Company shall pay to the City an additional amount of three and one-half cents (3½c) for each one thousand (1,000) gallons; but from the sums so payable to the City by the Company for such excess water each year there shall be deducted by the Company an amount annually equal to the difference between the sum of Eighty-three Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$83,600.00) and the amount necessary to be paid to the City annually for the purpose and as limited in Paragraph 3 hereof.

9. Each calendar year shall stand alone in the computation of the mutual charges provided for herein that is, should the Company fail to use enough water in any one calendar year to repay the payments to or charges against the City here provided for for water for that year the excess payment or charge on account thereof shall not constitute a carry-over charge against the City nor be deducted from any amounts becoming due City in future years.

10. On letting of the contract for construction of the reservoir and pipe line, following approval of the loan by the PWA and the first payment by the PWA on said loan, the Company shall pay to the City Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) in cash to reimburse the City for its expenses incurred in connection with the project.

11. The Company will co-operate with the City in the consummation of said project and at its own expense, lend such aid, advice and services to the City as it deems proper, without requirement, however, to do so.

12. No payments so made by the Company to the City upon said project shall be written up as a capital investment by the Company, but shall be included in operating expenses.

13. This contract shall not waive any right the City now has to purchase the property of the Water Company at a date subsequent to the date of this contract if it should so desire and thereby relieve the Company of the liabilities under this contract.

We understand that the foregoing is the agreement reached between the representatives of our respective clients, subject to the approval of the City Council and the Board of Directors of the Company, respectively; and that immediately thereafter a formal contract will be drawn between the City and the Company covering the points outlined above.

Signed at Little Rock, Arkansas, this August 1, 1935.
JOHN A. SHERRILL,
Attorney for the City.
J. F. LOUGHBOROUGH,
Attorney for the Company.

Alum Fork in Saline County

To Be Source

Democrat
\$3,000,000 to Be Expended in Construction of New Line.

To Seek PWA Loan

August 4 1935

Company to Retire Obligation and Retain Distribution Plant.

An agreement with the Arkansas Water Company, whereby the city of Little Rock will build a new water supply system, bringing water from the Alum Fork of Saline river, in Saline county, to the city, was reached by Mayor R. E. Overman and representatives of the water company today.

The city will take immediate steps to obtain a combination grant and loan from the Public Works Administration of \$3,000,000 to finance construction of the system. It is believed that 45 per cent of the amount can be obtained as an outright grant, the remainder to be a loan to be repaid over a 30-year period. It is estimated it will take two years to complete the project.

Under the agreement, the city will, in effect, wholesale water to the company for distribution in both Little Rock and North Little Rock, without any increase in rates.

The company agreed to set aside sufficient of its income each year to retire the maturing bonds, and interest, on the loan, until the full loan is retired. Title to the new system would be held by the city. The agreement provides that the door will not be closed to the city to acquire the company's distributing system although signing of the agreement is believed to have precluded any further action along that line for the present.

The agreement provides that the company, in return for operating the new system, and retiring the maturing bonds, shall receive from the new source of supply 2,500,000,000 cubic feet of water per year. Should the company find a market for more than this amount of water, and obtains it from the new source of supply, the company will reimburse the city for the additional water.

To Maintain Present Plant.

The agreement requires that the company maintain its present pumping plant and facilities for emergency purposes after completion of the proposed reservoir and pipe line system.

Mayor Overman, in announcing completion of the agreement, said he had received assurance from national park authorities that the city could use lands in the national forest, which includes part of the proposed reservoir site.

The Alum fork reservoir site is approximately 700 feet above sea level. Engineers advised Mayor Overman that water from a reservoir on this site would flow to the local distributing system by gravity.

Completion of the agreement marked the culmination of a vigorous fight made by Mayor Overman from the day he assumed office as mayor, to insure Little Rock an adequate supply of good water. He based his campaign for mayor chiefly on the demand for a better water supply.

Little Rock's water supply has been a bone of contention for more than a quarter of a century. The Arkansas river water has been objectionable periodically from the time it was first used. The company endeavored to overcome objections by utilizing wells as an auxiliary supply, but hardness of the well water precluded a satisfactory result. The company recently installed a softening plant, and it has been in operation about 10 days. The agreement reached today provides that the softening plant be kept in operation pending completion of the new project.

A joint statement issued by Mayor Overman and S. R. Brough, manager of the water company, follows:

Mayor's Statement.
Mayor Overman, gratified over completion of the negotiations, issued the following statement:

On August 9, 1934, in announcing my campaign for mayor I promised the citizens of Little Rock a better water supply. Three months ago I took office as mayor and I am very much pleased to be able to report that I have today received authentic information from the United States Forest Service that our application for a permit to construct a dam and pond a reservoir in the national forest on the Alum Fork of the Saline river has been approved.

Text of Water Agreement

Democrat
August 11 1935

The full text of the agreement reached by Mayor Overman, representing the city of Little Rock, and representatives of the Arkansas Water Company, looking to a new water supply for Little Rock, follows:

To secure water from a new source of supply on Alum Fork, the City of Little Rock, herein referred to as "City," and Arkansas Water Company, herein referred to as "Company," agree as follows:

1. The City to construct complete dam, reservoir and pipe line with gravity flow to Company's settling basins, as now contemplated, at estimated cost of three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00).
2. The Company to supply all users of such water.
3. The Company to pay annually, beginning when water from reservoir is delivered to it, an amount sufficient to retire City's debt to PWA for construction of dam, reservoir and pipe line, not exceeding fifty-five per cent (55%) of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00), payable serially over thirty (30) years; interest not exceeding four per cent (4%) per annum; annual payment not to exceed Ninety-four Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-five Dollars (\$94,875.00) in any year.
4. The Company will pay to the City an additional Eight Hundred Thirty-three Dollars and Thirty-three Cents (\$833.33) per month the estimated cost of normal maintenance and policing if the City shall elect to maintain and police said completed project as provided for in the next paragraph.
5. The Company to have charge of and pay for normal maintenance of water supply and pipe line consisting of treatment of water, cutting grass, patrolling water shed and pipe line and ordinary repairs and shall likewise have control over the surface of the water in the reservoir with the right to regulate or prohibit boating, fishing, swimming or any other such uses. At the election of the City it may take over said duties and control and pay all costs thereof at any time, after ninety (90) days written notice to the Company, in which event the Company shall pay to the City the additional Eight Hundred and Thirty-three Dollars and Thirty-three Cents (\$833.33) per month as set forth in paragraph four (4) hereof.

\$5,001,704 SOUGHT FOR WATER SYSTEM

Company's Appraisal Submitted at Conference With Mayor Overman.

June 14, 1935
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North Little Rock 634,625

Total \$5,001,704
However, if the city should purchase the Little Rock properties separately, a severance charge of \$250,000 would be added, making the Little Rock properties cost \$4,617,079.

Presented at Conference With Company Officials.

The offer was submitted at a conference attended by E. S. Thompson of New York, vice president and treasurer of the American Waterworks Company; George W. Biggs Jr. of New York, chief engineer for the company; W. E. Stoney of New York, president of the Arkansas Water Company; S. R. Brough, superintendent, and J. F. Loughborough, attorney, representing the company, and D. H. Daugherty, member of the city's Board of Public Affairs; M. Z. Bair, state sanitary engineer, in charge of preliminary plans for the city's proposed new water supply; Ben D. Brickhouse, former mayor; Alderman Muswick, chairman of the City Council Utilities Committee; Alderman Erwin, chairman of the Finance Committee; City Attorney Ed I. McKinley Jr., John A. Sherrill, attorney; Herbert L. Thomas, insurance executive, and Mayor Overman. Mr. Sherrill and Mr. Thomas accompanied Mayor Overman on his recent trip to New York and Washington, when negotiations were opened for purchase of the water company's properties by the city.

The appraisal will be submitted to Chase & Gaunt, auditors for the city, and a firm of engineers not yet named, and Mayor Overman said he hoped to have a report within a short time.

Based on Valuation Fixed by U. S. Court.

The appraisal, compiled by the American Waterworks and Electric Company's engineers and auditors, is based on a \$3,267,972 valuation of the Arkansas Water Company by order of federal court in 1922.

The adjusted value of that appraisal as of March 31, 1935, is placed at \$2,788,150, to which the company added \$1,280,547 for improvements to plant and distributing system plus \$5,888 as the value of transportation equipment, making a total of \$4,074,585, which was given as the cost of reproduction January 1 (1935) price levels for construction and equipment.

From that figure, the company deducted \$410,230 accumulated in the retirement of reserve and replacement fund, leaving \$366,355, to which the following items were added:

Preliminary expense	\$ 40,746
Materials and supplies on hand March 31, 1935	18,425
Cost of financing (should the present plant be replaced) ..	317,586
Going value (good will and other intangible assets at the eight per cent figure fixed by the federal court) ..	325,967

Total value of Little Rock property \$4,367,079
The appraisal submitted by the company used the Engineering News Record construction cost index for all years between 1922 and 1935, and the Burns & McDonald index for water plant equipment and supplies for all intervening years.

Company Sees Next Move as City's.

Water company officials were un-

willing to comment on the appraisal, but indicated they considered the next move up to the city.

Following his return from New York a few weeks ago, Superintendent Brough indicated the company's appraisal of the properties would be in the neighborhood of \$5,000,000 and at that time Mayor Overman said he considered the figure too high.

Should the accountants and engineers retained by the city find the appraisal high, the city could ask that the state Department of Public Utilities make an appraisal as an impartial agency and, failing to reach an agreement on that figure, might appeal to the courts, the mayor indicated.

New York officials of the American Waterworks and Electric Company, parent company for the Arkansas Water Company, planned to leave today for New York and no further conferences are anticipated pending a reply by the city.

Mayor Overman plans to apply to PWA for financing the construction of a reservoir system west of the city and a connecting pipe line to obtain a new water supply, at a cost of \$2,800,000, and private financing of purchase of the existing properties has been considered.

The properties appraised yesterday include the pumping plant, filtration plant and reservoirs on Ozark Point in Pulaski Heights and the distributing system with meters and all other equipment.

WATER PROPERTIES' VALUE IN QUESTION

Mayor Hopeful of Adjustment After Confering With Company Officials.

June 15, 1935

An agreement that the price of \$4,617,079 for Little Rock properties of the Arkansas Water Company, which was suggested Thursday, can be adjusted downward was reached yesterday at a conference between E. S. Thompson of New York, vice president and treasurer of the American Waterworks and Electric Company, George W. Biggs Jr. of New York, chief engineer for the company, and Mayor Overman.

Mayor Overman termed the price quoted by the parent company "excessive," and following the conference expressed hope a readjustment can be worked out between the company, city and the state Department of Public Utilities without resort to the courts.

The next step in the city's program to acquire the properties will be the filing of a formal notice with the Utilities Commission that the city cannot agree with the company on the price quoted. After the notice is filed, Mayor Overman said engineers probably will be appointed by the city to work in co-operation with the commission's engineers and company experts in arriving at a "fair price."

Mayor Overman said the notice would be filed with the commission in the next few days and that a thorough appraisal of the Little Rock properties of the company could be completed within four months.

The company officials agreed that a new source of supply for the city is desirable, Mayor Overman said, but the question of the company continuing operation of its Little Rock properties, distributing water from a new source provided by the city, was not discussed.

The city's application for approximately \$2,800,000 to construct reservoirs west of here, with a connecting gravity flow pipeline, will be filed with the PWA when compilation of necessary data is finished.

TO SEEK ELECTION ON WATER SYSTEM

Mayor Says Arrangements for Private Loan Completed.

July 1, 1935
Mayor Overman said yesterday arrangements have been made with private interests to borrow at four and a half per cent interest sufficient funds to finance purchase of the plant and distributing system of the Arkansas Water Company, and said he would ask the City Council at its next session, July 15, to declare its intention of purchasing the plant and call a special election to give voters an opportunity of deciding the question.

The city is proceeding under the authority of Act 131 of 1933, and Act 324 of 1935 creating the Department of Public Utilities. Mayor Overman said, and a majority of voters will be sufficient to authorize purchase of the plant by the city.

Sixty days must elapse before the election can be held, he said, because the law requires that the city allow 30 days for presentation of protests and a public hearing.

To Seek Lower Appraisal.

He said that after the Council had announced its intention to purchase the plant, the city proposed to put engineers to work on an appraisal, with a view to reducing the price of \$4,367,079 fixed by the American Waterworks and Electric Company, parent company of the Arkansas Water Company.

In the event the city and the waterworks company are unable to compromise their individual appraisals, an appeal may be taken to the State Utilities Commission and in the event of a disagreement there an appeal may be taken to the courts.

Mayor Overman said he had arranged with a firm of engineers to make the necessary appraisal of the plant and that money necessary to purchase it can be obtained at four and a quarter per cent on a 30-year basis, to be repaid out of revenue derived from the plant. The city is hopeful of purchasing the plant for about \$3,000,000.

To File for PWA Loan.

In connection with purchase of the plant and distributing system application will be filed with the PWA next week, for construction of a system of reservoirs west of the city, estimated to cost \$2,800,000, to provide a new water supply through a gravity flow pipeline.

Preliminary engineering data for the reservoirs and pipeline has been compiled by M. Z. Bair, sanitary engineer for the state Board of Health, and the PWA application will be filed as soon as required data on the total bonded indebtedness of the municipality including improvement districts, can be compiled. It is estimated that about three weeks will be required to complete the compilation.

Mayor Overman said he had been assured by officials of the National Park Service that no difficulty will be experienced securing government land for site of the reservoir and dams which will reduce the cost to the city. In

addition 45 per cent of the construction cost will be a grant if the project is approved by the PWA.

A report on the city's financial standing must accompany all other PWA applications as well as the water reservoir project and Mayor Overman said the Civic Projects Authority will meet tomorrow night, to discuss details of filing applications for other projects.

OFFICIALS HOPEFUL OF BETTER WATER

Both Alum Fork and Little Maumelle Projects Under Consideration.

CITY ESTIMATES STUDIED

Company Will Submit Figures Showing Amount Available to Pay for New Supply.

July 20, 1935

Officials of the city and of the Arkansas Water Company agreed yesterday, that they are "hopeful" that as a result of a conference in Chicago Thursday, a plan can be worked out whereby the city will obtain a PWA loan and grant to secure a new source of water supply while the company contracts to purchase water at a rate sufficient to amortize the loan over a 30-year period.

The company will submit figures next week showing the amount of money available to pay for the new water supply after deducting bond and interest charges, operating cost and investment return from its present income.

John A. Sherrill, attorney for the city, who accompanied Mayor Overman, City Attorney Ed I. McKinley Jr. and M. Z. Bair, state sanitary engineer, to the Chicago conference, said analysis of the report will determine whether sufficient funds are available to guarantee either the Alum Fork or the Little Maumelle reservoir projects.

Water Company Engineers Check City's Figures.

Engineers for the water company are checking the city's preliminary estimates that the Alum Fork project can be carried out for \$2,800,000 to \$3,000,000 and the Little Maumelle project for \$1,600,000. The city would be required to repay 55 per cent of either loan over

a 30-year period. It is estimated that approximately \$100,000 annually would be sufficient to retire a loan for the Alum Fork reservoir and pipe line, which is preferred by the city.

The company indicated a preference for the Little Maumelle project, which would require continuance of the present pumping station. However it is believed that an attempt is being made to work a program for realization of the Alum Fork reservoir system.

Should the city reach an agreement with the company and enter into a contract to supply water for distribution by the Arkansas Water Company, the city would retain its right to buy the distributing system at any time, Mr. Sherrill said. The city also would retain title to the reservoirs and pipe line should the contract be carried out for a full 30-year period and the loan retired.

The American Waterworks Company, parent company of the Arkansas Water Company, has offered to sell the Little Rock property to the city for \$5,000,010 but the offer was rejected as excessive. The company's apparent willingness to aid the city in securing a new source of supply is regarded as a compromise proposal, which will relieve the city of the necessity of issuing bonds or engaging in long expensive court proceedings to acquire the property.

Company's Report Will Be Submitted Next Week.

Mr. Sherrill said that the company's report will be submitted early next week. It will determine whether additional engineering work, necessary to filing a PWA application, will be done on either the Alum Fork or Little Maumelle projects. He was hopeful that a new water supply can be secured while federal funds are available under the present plan which makes it necessary for the city to repay only 55 per cent of a loan.

PARLEY ON WATER ISSUE TO CONTINUE

Agreement Between City and Company This Week Considered Possible.

July 21, 1935

An agreement between the city and the Arkansas Water Company for construction of a reservoir and pipe line with PWA funds to give the city a new source of water supply is expected to be arranged here this week at a conference between John A. Sherrill, attorney for the city, and J. F. Loughborough, representing the water company.

It is reported that the company at a conference in Chicago last week, agreed to pay approximately \$94,000 annually, which would be sufficient to amortize the proposed \$3,000,000 PWA loan and grant over a 30-year period and in addition maintain the reservoir and pipe line.

The city has contended for the right to acquire the distributing system and plant of the company at any time during the period. Differences over that contention are expected to be adjusted at the coming conference.

Realization of the pending proposal would give the city the new water supply which it has sought over a long period of time and would eliminate the necessity for issuing bonds and increasing the present indebtedness. Details of the financial arrangements as well as engineering details remain to be worked out.

A reservoir on Alum fork of the Saline river, which would have a far greater potential capacity than a reservoir on the Little Maumelle river, would cost approximately \$3,000,000. The Little Maumelle project is estimated to cost \$1,600,000 but would necessitate continuance of the company's present

pany to take from reservoir all water needed by it to supply Little Rock, North Little Rock and all adjacent territory when such supply is reasonably available.

7. The Company shall maintain its pumping plant, accessories, and auxiliary water supply works as a stand-by for additional water supply in the event of interference in the contemplated supply, in a useful and operating condition until such time as the City or Company may provide the necessary reserve supply by duplication of pipe line, reservoir or other means, eliminating the necessity of said pumping plant, and the obligations between the City and the Company in that regard shall be mutual, and proper provision shall be made to make them legal and binding on both.

8. There shall be installed a proper measuring device adjacent to the Company's settling basins to measure the water delivered to the Company. For the annual payment on the City's loan, to be made by the Company as provided in Paragraph 3 hereof, the Company shall be entitled to receive in each calendar year two billion, five hundred million (2,500,000,000) gallons of water; and for all water taken by the Company in excess thereof in any calendar year the Company shall pay to the City an additional amount of three and one-half cents (3½¢) for each one thousand (1,000) gallons; but from the sums so payable to the City by the Company for such excess water each year there shall be deducted by the Company an amount annually equal to the difference between the sum of Eighty-three Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$83,600.00) and the amount necessary to be paid to the City annually for the purpose and as limited in Paragraph 3 hereof.

9. Each calendar year shall stand alone in the computation of the mutual charges provided for herein that is, should the Company fail to use enough water in any one calendar year to repay the payments to or charges against the City herein provided for for water for that year the excess payment or charge on account thereof shall not constitute a carry-over charge against the City nor be deducted from any amount becoming due City in future years.

10. On letting of the contract for construction of the reservoir and pipe line, following approval of the loan by the PWA and the first payment by the PWA on said loan, the Company shall pay to the City Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) cash to reimburse the City for its expenses incurred in connection with the project.

11. The Company will co-operate with the City in the consummation of said project and at its own expense, lend such aid, advice and services to the City as it deems proper, without requirement, however, to do so.

12. No payments so made by the Company to the City upon said project shall be written up as a capital investment by the Company, but shall be included in operating expenses.

13. This contract shall not waive any right the City now has to purchase the property of the Water Company at a date subsequent to the date of this contract if it should so desire and thereby relieve the Company of the liabilities under this contract.

We understand that the foregoing is the agreement reached between the representatives of our respective clients, subject to the approval of the City Council and the Board of Directors of the Company, respectively; and that immediately thereafter a formal contract will be drawn between the City and the Company covering the points outlined above.

Signed at Little Rock, Arkansas, this August 1, 1935.

JOHN A. SHERRILL,
Attorney for the City.
J. F. LOUGHBOROUGH,
Attorney for the Company.

Alum Fork in Saline County

To Be Source \$3,000,000 to Be Expended in Construction of New Line.

To Seek PWA Loan August 1, 1935 Company to Retire Obligation and Retain Distribution Plant.

An agreement with the Arkansas Water Company, whereby the city of Little Rock will build a new water supply system, bringing water from the Alum Fork of Saline river, in Saline county, to the city, was reached by Mayor R. E. Overman and representatives of the water company today.

The city will take immediate steps to obtain a combination grant and loan from the Public Works Administration of \$3,000,000 to finance construction of the system. It is believed that 45 per cent of the amount can be obtained as an outright grant, the remainder to be a loan to be repaid over a 30-year period. It is estimated it will take two years to complete the project.

Under the agreement, the city will, in effect, wholesale water to the company for distribution in both Little Rock and North Little Rock, without any increase in rates.

The company agreed to set aside sufficient of its income each year to retire the maturing bonds, and interest, on the loan, until the full loan is retired. Title to the new system would be held by the city. The agreement provides that the door will not be closed to the city to acquire the company's distributing system although signing of the agreement is believed to have precluded any further action along that line for the present.

The agreement provides that the company, in return for operating the new system, and retiring the maturing bonds, shall receive from the new source of supply 2,500,000,000 cubic feet of water per year. Should the company find a market for more than this amount of water, and obtains it from the new source of supply, the company will reimburse the city for the additional water.

To Maintain Present Plant.

The agreement requires that the company maintain its present pumping plant and facilities for emergency purposes after completion of the proposed reservoir and pipe line system.

Mayor Overman, in announcing completion of the agreement, said he had received assurance from national park authorities that the city could use lands in the national forest, which includes part of the proposed reservoir site.

The Alum fork reservoir site is approximately 700 feet above sea level. Engineers advised Mayor Overman that water from a reservoir on this site would flow to the local distributing system by gravity.

Completion of the agreement marked the culmination of a vigorous fight made by Mayor Overman from the day he assumed office as mayor, to insure Little Rock an adequate supply of good water. He based his campaign for mayor chiefly on the demand for a better water supply.

Little Rock's water supply has been a bone of contention for more than a quarter of a century. The Arkansas river water has been objectionable periodically from the time it was first used. The company endeavored to overcome objections by utilizing wells as an auxiliary supply, but hardness of the well water precluded a satisfactory result. The company recently installed a softening plant, and it has been in operation about 10 days. The agreement reached today provides that the softening plant be kept in operation pending completion of the new project.

A joint statement issued by Mayor Overman and S. R. Brough, manager of the water company, follows:

Mayor's Statement.

Mayor Overman, gratified over completion of the negotiations, issued the following statement:

On August 9, 1934, in announcing my campaign for mayor I promised the citizens of Little Rock a better water supply. Three months ago I took office as mayor and I am very much pleased to be able to report that I have today received authentic information from the United States Forest Service that our application for a permit to construct a dam and pond a reservoir in the national forest on the Alum Fork of the Saline river has been approved.

Text of Water Agreement

The full text of the agreement reached by Mayor Overman, representing the city of Little Rock, and representatives of the Arkansas Water Company, looking to a new water supply for Little Rock, follows: To secure water from a new source of supply on Alum Fork, the City of Little Rock, herein referred to as "City," and Arkansas Water Company, herein referred to as "Company," agree as follows:

1. The City to construct complete dam, reservoir and pipe line with gravity flow to Company's settling basins, as now contemplated, at estimated cost of three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00).
2. The Company to supply all users of such water.
3. The Company to pay annually, beginning when water from reservoir is delivered to it, an amount sufficient to retire City's debt to PWA for construction of dam, reservoir and pipe line, not exceeding fifty-five per cent (55%) of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00), payable serially over thirty (30) years; interest not exceeding four per cent (4%) per annum; annual payment not to exceed Ninety-four Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-five Dollars (\$94,875.00) in any year.
4. The Company will pay to the City an additional Eight Hundred Thirty-three Dollars and Thirty-three Cents (\$833.33) per month the estimated cost of normal maintenance and policing if the City shall elect to maintain and police said completed project as provided for in the next paragraph.
5. The Company to have charge of and pay for normal maintenance of water supply and pipe line consisting of treatment of water, cutting grass, patrolling water shed and pipe line and ordinary repairs and shall likewise have control over the surface of the water in the reservoir with the right to regulate or prohibit boating, fishing, swimming or any other such uses. At the election of the City it may take over said duties and control and pay all costs thereof at any time, after ninety (90) days written notice to the Company, in which event the Company shall pay to the City the additional Eight Hundred and Thirty-three Dollars and Thirty-three Cents (\$833.33) per month as set forth in paragraph four (4) hereof.

This means that after 25 years of effort on the part of the citizens of Little Rock to secure a change in the source of their water supply from the Arkansas river, this ambition has been achieved and Little Rock's water supply will come from the pure uncontaminated spring-fed Alum Fork of Saline river. The new water supply will be made possible through a PWA loan and grant of \$3,000,000 from the United States government, 55 per cent to be repaid by the city of Little Rock over a period of 30 years and 45 per cent, or \$1,350,000 to be an outright grant to the citizens of Little Rock from the United States.

No Rate Increase.
"The Arkansas Water Company has agreed to make a contract with the city to distribute this water through its distribution system at no increase in rates and without waiving our rights or privilege to purchase the property of the Arkansas Water Company at any future date.

"The new dam and reservoir will be 37 miles west of the city of Little Rock, in the high land area which has an elevation of 125 feet, or 213 feet above the water level at the reservoir in the city limits; thereby permitting the water to flow from Alum Fork into the city of Little Rock by gravity, eliminating, for all times to come, the necessity for pumping, except as may be required as a standby in emergencies.

"Acting for and on behalf of the citizens of Little Rock I have agreed to the making of a contract with the Arkansas Water Company, whereby the Arkansas Water Company will purchase all the water from the city of Little Rock at a price which will permit the city to pay for the new reservoir, dam and flow line and will distribute it to the citizens of Little Rock at no increase in rates.

"I feel very much gratified that I have been able to secure this new water supply for I consider it the realization of one of the foremost desires and ambitions of the citizens of Little Rock."

Joint Statement.
"The tentative agreement was signed by John Sherrill and J. F. Loughborough, attorneys representing the city and the water company, respectively. Under the terms of this agreement an application for a \$3,000,000 loan will be made to the Public Works Administration to develop an impounded water supply on the North Alum Fork river, about 40 miles west of Little Rock.

"The water company will pay to the city each year a sum that will retire the principal and interest of the government loan over a period of 30 years. The water company will also pay the expense to maintain and operate the flow line, and patrol the water shed. For this expenditure the water company is to receive 2,500,000,000 gallons of water per year.

"By reaching a joint agreement to develop a new source of supply at this time allows the city to obtain a 45 per cent free grant of the total \$3,000,000 federal loan. Work of preparing plans and request for loan will be made immediately upon approval of agreement by the city council and the officers of the Arkansas Water Company.

"We estimate that it will require about two years before the new project is completed and ready for operation. During this period the water company will continue to operate its softening plant to reduce the hardness of the Arkansas river water to a point satisfactory to the consumer.

"While negotiating, many problems had to be worked out and smaller details had to be agreed upon. Both parties expressed appreciation for the fine spirit of co-operation displayed in the many conferences that were held.

"The desire to supply the cities of Little Rock and North Little Rock with a soft and better quality water was the prevailing motive at these meetings, and the completion of the project as proposed will assure both cities an abundant supply of pure soft mountain water."

AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR WATER SUPPLY

Attorneys for City and Company Approve Co-operative Action.

RATE OF PAYMENT FIXED

Contract Contingent on PWA Aid and Approval of Council and Utility's Directors.

An agreement was signed yesterday by attorneys representing the city and the Arkansas Water Company for construction through the PWA of a \$3,000,000 water reservoir on Alum Fork of Saline river and a 37-mile gravity flow pipeline to provide a soft water supply for Little Rock, North Little Rock and vicinity.

The agreement was signed by J. F. Loughborough, attorney for the water company, and John A. Sherrill, representing Mayor Overman, and is subject to approval by the City Council and Board of Directors of the company. Mayor Overman and S. R. Brough, superintendent of the company, attended the conference in Mr. Sherrill's office at 11 a. m. yesterday when the agreement was signed.

Summary of What Agreement Provides.

The contract provides: That the city shall construct a complete dam, reservoir and pipeline to the company's settling basins, with a PWA loan and grant not to exceed \$3,000,000.

That the company can draw a maximum of 2,800,000,000 gallons of water from the reservoir in any calendar year, and will pay not to exceed \$94,875 annually over a 30-year period to retire 55 per cent of the \$3,000,000 loan and grant, or a smaller amount if the project can be carried out at lower cost.

That the company shall pay to the city \$15,000 in cash as reimbursement for expenses incurred in connection with the project, following approval of the proposed loan and first payment by the PWA.

That, if the city decides to maintain the reservoir and pipeline, patrol and watershed and to police the project, the company will pay the city \$833.33 monthly.

That the company reserves the right of exclusive distribution of the water and will maintain its present pumping plant for emergency use.

That the city may purchase the plant and distributing system during the life of the 30-year contract. (It is generally believed that effectiveness of that provision depends on the PWA financing contract, which may bind the company rather than the city to payment of the bonds and thus assure full contemplated life of the contract.)

No Change in Rates While Contract in Effect.

The agreement was entered into with the understanding that there will be no change in present water rates, but company officials pointed out during negotiations that financing of the new supply will represent a 12 per cent rate reduction for consumers, as the company will pay \$94,875 toward retirement of the debt, plus \$10,000 for maintenance. The company will save several thousand dollars in pumping charges since it will be required to maintain the pumping plant only as a reserve unit and for pumping water to Pulaski Heights.

Payments made by the company will be charged to operating expenses. For all water used in excess of the 2,800,000,000 maximum the company will pay the city 3 1-2 cents per 1,000 gallons.

Superintendent Brough of the water company said yesterday that construction of the proposed reservoir and pipeline will require about two years.

"During this period the water company will continue to operate its softening plant to reduce the hardness of the Arkansas river water to a point satisfactory to the consumer," he said. "The new supply when completed should produce a water satisfactory for both domestic and industrial consumption. This should be conducive to the city's growth and should provide a supply of which citizens of Little Rock, North Little Rock and vicinity can be proud.

"Our negotiations with city officials have been exceedingly pleasant and all of us have worked with all speed to bring about a satisfactory arrangement for financing the project, thus making it possible to apply for federal funds under an attractive arrangement.

"The desire to supply the cities of Little Rock and North Little Rock with a soft water of better quality was the prevailing motive at all conferences and completion of the project as proposed will secure both cities an abundant supply of pure mountain water."

Forest Service Agrees For City to Use Land.

The United States Forest Service advised the city yesterday that a permit had been granted to construct a dam and reservoir on federal forest land along Alum Fork of Saline river in the Ouachita National Forest and a formal release is expected in the next few days. The permit will reduce the cost of the project by making it necessary for the city to purchase only a small acreage for the reservoir site.

A conference will be held at 9 a. m. today in the office of Alexander Allaire, state PWA director, at which final arrangements will be made for filing a PWA application for the project. The conference will be attended by Mr. Allaire, Mayor Overman, City Attorney Ed I. McKinley Jr., M. Z. Bair, sanitary engineer of the state Board of Health, and E. E. Bonewits of the state Planning Board.

A crew of engineers from the American Waterworks and Electric Company will arrive within 10 days to assist the city in assembling preliminary engineer-

ing data which must be gathered before the PWA application can be filed. Much of the field work for the dam and reservoir, as well as the survey for the proposed pipeline, has been completed but the company engineers will co-operate with whatever additional engineering work is required.

The reservoir site has an elevation of 725 feet above sea level, which is 213 feet above the water level at the company's reservoir, and little difficulty is anticipated in routing the flow line.

Data Assembled On Bonded Indebtedness.

One of the major obstacles to filing a PWA application was removed yesterday, with announcement of J. W. Purdom, special accountant, that data had been assembled regarding the bonded indebtedness of municipal improvement districts. Seven small districts and one larger district, Sewer Improvement District 104, had not reported but Mr. Purdom had compiled figures on 128 districts yesterday.

The 128 districts reported a total outstanding bonded indebtedness of \$1,340,605 of which bonds for \$157,707 were in default. Mr. Purdom said the 136 districts represented all in the city which have not paid out.

The city had a floating debt of \$50,000 and a bonded indebtedness of \$2,092,215 as of January 1, 1935.

Contract Will Be Sent To New York at Once.

The agreement signed yesterday will be forwarded immediately to the New York offices of the company for approval by its water company's Board of Directors and will be submitted to the City Council for approval Monday night.

Mayor Overman said appointment of Mr. Sherrill as attorney for the city in the negotiations with the water company had not been ratified formally by the council, but that he had designated the lawyer under blanket authority given him by a resolution adopted by the council. Mr. Sherrill's fees will be paid out of the \$15,000 payment which will be made the city by the water company, when the PWA makes first payment on the loan, the mayor said.

J. M. Mackey, Eighth ward alderman, said yesterday that he will propose to the council that the \$15,000 payment be made directly to the general fund of the city, and that all expenditures in connection with the water supply project be approved by the council before payment.

Mr. Mackey said he will also propose that any payments in future years by the water company for water in excess of 2,800,000,000 gallons go into the city general fund.

Text of Agreement As Signed by Lawyers.

Text of agreement follows: "To secure water from a new source of supply on Alum Fork, the city of Little Rock, herein referred to as 'city,' and Arkansas Water Company, herein referred to as 'Company,' agree as follows:

"1. The city to construct complete dam, reservoir and pipe line with gravity flow to company's settling basins, as now contemplated at estimated cost of \$3,000,000.

"2. The company to supply all users of such water.

"3. The company to pay annually, beginning when water from reservoir is delivered to it, an amount sufficient to retire city debt to PWA for construction of dam, reservoir and pipe line, not exceeding 55 per cent of \$3,000,000, payable serially over 30 years; interest not exceeding four per cent per annum; annual payment not to exceed \$94,875 in any year.

"4. The company will pay to the city an additional \$833.33 per month, the estimated cost of normal maintenance and policing if the city shall elect to maintain and police said completed project as provided for in the next paragraph.

Company's Authority Defined in Contract.
"5. The company to have charge of and pay for normal maintenance of water supply and pipe line consisting of treatment of water, cutting grass, patrolling water shed and pipe line and ordinary repairs and shall likewise have control over the surface of the water in the reservoir with the right to regulate or prohibit boating, fishing, swimming or any other such uses. At the election of the city it may take over said duties and control and pay all costs thereof at any time, after 90 days written notice to the company in which event the company shall pay to the city the additional \$833.33 per month as set forth in Paragraph 4 hereof.

"6. Company to take from reservoir all water needed by it to supply Little Rock, North Little Rock and all adjacent territory when such supply is reasonably available.

"7. The company shall maintain its pumping plant, accessories, and auxiliary water supply works as a standby for additional water supply in the event of interference in the contemplated supply, in a useful and operating condition until such time as the city or company may provide the necessary reserve supply by duplication of pipe line, reservoir or other means, eliminating the necessity of said pumping plant, and the obligations between the city and the company in that regard shall be mutual, and proper provision shall be made to make them legal and binding on both.

"8. There shall be installed a proper measuring device adjacent to the company's settling basins to measure the water delivered to the company. For the annual payment on the city's loan, to be made by the company as provided in Paragraph 3 hereof, the company shall be entitled to receive in each calendar year 2,500,000,000 gallons of water; and for all water taken by the company in excess thereof in any calendar year the company shall pay to the city an additional amount of 3 1-2 cents for each 1,000 gallons; but from the sums so payable to the city by the company for such excess water each year there shall be deducted by the company an amount annually equal to the difference between the sum of \$33,600 and the amount necessary to be paid to the city annually for the purpose and as limited in Paragraph 3 hereof.

Payments for Each Year Will Stand Alone.

"9. Each calendar year shall stand alone in the computation of the mutual charges provided for herein, that is, should the company fail to use enough water in any one calendar year to repay the payments to or charges against the city herein provided for for water for that year, the excess payment or charge on account thereof shall not constitute a carryover charge against the city, nor be deducted from any amounts becoming due city in future years.

"10. On letting of the contract for construction of the reservoir and pipe line, following approval of the loan by the PWA and the first payment by the PWA on said loan, the company shall pay to the city \$15,000 in cash to reimburse the city for its expenses incurred in connection with the project.

"11. The company will co-operate with the city in the consummation of said project and at its own expense, lend such aid, advice and services to the city as it deems proper, without requirement however to do so.

"12. No payments so made by the company to the city upon said project shall be written up as a capital investment by the company but shall be included in operating expenses.

"13. This contract shall not waive any right the city now has to purchase the property of the water company at a date subsequent to the date of this contract if it should so desire and thereby relieve the company of the liabilities under this contract.

"We understand that the foregoing is the agreement reached between the representatives of our respective clients, subject to the approval of the City Council and the Board of Directors of the company, respectively; and that immediately thereafter a formal contract will be drawn between the city and the company covering the points outlined above.

"Signed at Little Rock, Arkansas, this August 1, 1935.

"John A. Sherrill, Attorney for the city.
"J. F. Loughborough, Attorney for the company."

PWA OFFICIALS IN WATER DISCUSSION

Confer With Representatives of City and Utility Company.

APPLICATION READY SOON

Authority Found for Project in Act Passed by Legislature This Year.

Assurance was given PWA officials yesterday, at a conference with officials of the city and the water company, that the city's application for a loan and grant of \$3,000,000 or less to construct a new water supply will be filed within the next three weeks.

The conference was attended by Alexander Allaire, state PWA engineer; Don A. MacCrea, W. W. Mitchell, W. R. Crowell, C. C. Brooks and C. S. Sykes of the PWA staff; Mayor Overman, John A. Sherrill, attorney for the city; E. E.

Bonewits, former engineer with the state Planning Board; M. Z. Bair, state sanitary engineer; J. W. Purdom, accountant for the city; S. R. Brough, superintendent of the Arkansas Water Company, and J. F. Loughborough, attorney for the company.

New Law Gives Authority.
Mr. Sykes, PWA attorney; Mr. Loughborough and Mr. Sherrill discussed legal phases of the agreement signed Thursday by attorneys for the city and the company. It was agreed tentatively that the amendment to Act 131 of 1933, passed by the 1935 legislature, authorizing a municipality to provide a water supply and sell water to a private corporation provides full authority for the PWA application.

The company agreed to pay the city not more than \$94,875 annually over a 30-year period to retire the cost of the project, and it could use a maximum of 2,800,000,000 gallons of water in any calendar year without further payment to the city. Additional water would be paid for at the rate of 3 1-2 cents per 1,000 gallons.

If the agreement is ratified by the City Council and the Board of Directors of the American Waterworks and Electric Company, parent company of the Arkansas Water Company, the fixed annual payment guaranteed the city probably will eliminate the necessity for considering the bonded indebtedness of the city and municipal improvement districts in connection with the PWA application.

Debt Figures Prepared.
A report showing the bonded debt of the improvement districts to be in excess of \$1,497,000 has been compiled by Mr. Purdom and will be utilized in connection with the city's plan to construct extensive sewer improvements at a cost of \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 under the PWA loan and grant plan.

PWA officials indicated yesterday that, to protect PWA bonds, the city probably will be required to pledge that the annual bond payments on the project will be charged to operating cost in the event the city decides to purchase the plant and distributing system of the water company at any time during the life of the contract.

CITY WATER SUPPLY ENGINEERS CHOSEN

Members of Kansas City Firm Arrive for Preliminary Work.

August 9, 1935
PLAN INSPECTION TODAY

Municipalities Throughout Country Have Been Served by Burns & McDonnell.

Chester A. Smith and M. L. Crist, members of the engineering firm of Burns & McDonnell of Kansas City, Mo., which has been retained to supervise construction of Little Rock's new \$3,000,000 water reservoir and pipe line, arrived yesterday for a conference with Mayor Overman and will make a preliminary inspection today of the Alum Fork reservoir site and pipe line route.

They will be accompanied by Mayor Overman and M. Z. Bair, sanitary engineer for the state Board of Health, who directed preliminary engineering work.

Mr. Smith said he and Mr. Crist would review data already assembled and would begin work immediately on whatever additional information is required by the PWA when the city files its application for a loan and grant.

Mayor Overman said Little Rock engineers will be associated with Burns & McDonnell on the project and it is understood that E. E. Bonewits & Co. of Little Rock will be retained. The mayor estimated that about two weeks will be required to complete information required by the PWA application.

Company Engineers to Help.
S. R. Brough, superintendent of the Arkansas Water Company, promised Mayor Overman yesterday, that engineers of the American Waterworks and Electric Company, parent company, will arrive here early next week. Assistance of the engineers was promised when an agreement was signed with the city last week, whereby the city will provide the new water supply through a PWA loan and grant and sell the water to the company.

After the PWA application has been approved tentatively, the city will be required to file final plans for the project which will necessitate intensive engineering work at the reservoir site and along the route of the pipe line.

Mr. Smith said. Headquarters for the firm probably will be established with Mr. Bonewits here.

Mr. Smith is a graduate civil engineer of the University of Kansas. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Association of Engineers, American Public Health Association and American Waterworks Association. He served as captain in the Sanitary Corps during the World war, and has been in charge of design of many of water supply projects on which his firm served as engineers.

Mr. Crist, associate engineer, assisting Mr. Smith, is a graduate of Leland Stanford University and has been with the firm over 17 years, except for a period when he was with the Metropolitan Water District engineering organization of Southern California in the development and construction of the Colorado river supply for Los Angeles and other Southern California cities.

Firm 38 Years Old.

The Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company was organized about 38 years ago to specialize in municipal engineering problems of waterworks, water treatment, sewers and sewage treatment, power and light plants and appraisal of public utilities, Mr. Smith said.

The firm has executed more than 1,400 engineering engagements for over 600 cities in 39 states, embracing a territory from Alaska to Florida and Rhode Island to California. It has a personnel of six members, 10 principal associate engineers and more than 40 assistant engineers, and maintains offices in Kansas City, Cincinnati, O., and Albany, N. Y., he said. Cost of the projects was estimated at \$184,904,868.

Some of the principal waterworks engagements have been for Kansas City, Mo., Kansas City, Kan., Los Angeles, Cal., Sacramento, Cal., Springfield, Ill., South Bend, Ind., Lincoln, Neb., Beaumont, Tex., Cincinnati and Oklahoma City, Okla.

Recently Completed Project.

The new supply for Springfield, Ill., recently completed under the design and plans of the firm and dedicated July 12-14, involved the construction of a dam and lake impounding approximately 21,500,000,000 gallons of water, with a surface area of seven square miles. Mr. Smith said the total cost of the project exceeded \$2,500,000.

At present, he said, the firm is retained by Cincinnati on the design and improvement of the filtration plant and supply, at an estimated cost of \$3,000,000.

R. E. McDonnell served on a consultant board for the city of Los Angeles in reviewing the Owens river supply and the new Colorado river supply, as well as in making a complete study of storage reservoirs to replace the St. Francis dam.

Other cities which the firm has served include St. Paul, Minn., San Antonio, Tex., Milwaukee, Wis., Sacramento, Cal., Columbia, Mo., Fort Collins, Col., McPherson, Kan., Iowa City, Ia., Alliance, Neb. Ketchikan and Juneau Alaska, Newport, R. I., New Castle, Pa., Miami, Fla., Knoxville, Tenn., Lexington, Ky.

ENGINEERS IN VISIT TO RESERVOIR SITE

Find Data Already Assembled on Water Project Highly Useful.

August 10, 1935

Chester A. Smith and M. L. Crist of the Burns & McDonnell, engineering firm, of Kansas City, Mo., with Mayor Overman, M. Z. Bair, sanitary engineer for the state Board of Health, and George Rogers, survey supervisor, returned late yesterday from an inspection of the site of Little Rock's proposed water reservoir on Alum fork of

the Saline river, 37 miles west of the city.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Crist, whose firm has been retained to supervise construction of the reservoir and pipe line if the city obtains a PWA loan and grant, frequently consulted the preliminary engineering data assembled by Mr. Bair and Mr. Rogers. Mr. Bair directed the engineering survey and Mr. Rogers was superintendent of field crews for the FERA. The engineers estimated that work already done is worth \$10,000 to \$15,000 to the city.

Mayor Overman said the engineers were pleased with the general set-up of the project, particularly with the fact that the area where the reservoir will be located has few inhabitants.

To the Editor of the Gazette:
According to the report of J. W. Purdom, accountant, the total city indebtedness is approximately \$4,498,691, or \$55 per capita. These figures include all special improvement districts of the city and the floating debts. It is proposed by the present administration to further borrow from the PWA \$5,000,000 including what the PWA will grant to the city for a better water supply and a new sewer system. Granting that the PWA out of this new \$5,000,000, will grant 45 per cent of it, or \$2,250,000, it will then add to our indebtedness \$2,750,000, making a total of \$7,248,691. To off-set this, the city would have under the proposed plan with the Arkansas Water Company, an annual payment not to exceed \$94,875 to help meet the payments on the PWA loan. Assuming that the PWA loan would draw four per cent interest, this will call for the city to pay annually, beginning at \$100,000, interest and \$91,666 principle or a total of \$191,666, to meet the payments. After deducting the \$94,875 payment from the water company, the city would have to dig up \$96,791 to meet the balance due annually to the PWA. I don't see how it is possible for the city to meet such an undertaking and retain any public credit or borrowing power.

I believe that the city could finance the outright purchase of the water system and with the PWA loan and grant of \$3,000,000 construct the new proposed Alum Fork Dam.

The city of Little Rock with 85 per cent of the water system and North Little Rock with 15 per cent, could combine to take over the water system. The Arkansas Water Company reported the actual market value of its total capitalization for 1934 at \$4,364,626, of which there is a funded debt of \$3,180,000 and in addition \$56,000 preferred stock, leaving less than half the actual value of its plant as the equity owned by the water company.

The total operating revenues for the year ending December 31, 1934, was \$617,824.19. If the city owned the plant there are some material items of operating expense which would be turned into assets to the city which are now charged to the consumers of the water system. The water company paid taxes amounting to \$109,839.16; the city paid the water company \$42,380.04 fire protection, and the water company paid the American Water Works & Electric Company, the parent company, \$20,399.31 as a management fee, making a total of \$172,618 savings to the city in these three items. This saving would more than take care of the annual payments on the PWA loan. If the proposed agreement with the water company should go through, the city would have no additional income to help meet its payments to the PWA except the annual rental of not to exceed \$94,875 from the water company. Unless an outright bond issue is floated by the city according to the provisions of the constitution under the proposed agreement with the water company, the company will have to assume the greater responsibility to the PWA for the loan, which will only mean that the city will be used as a tool for the water company to secure a new water supply. This question should be submitted to a vote of the people.

A. L. Rotenberry.

Little Rock.

No Unusual Lowering of Wells At Gillham, Geologist Says.

Dr. G. C. Branner, state geologist, said yesterday upon his return from Gillham, Sevier county, where he went to investigate a reported lowering of the water level in wells in that vicinity, that he found no evidence that the fluctuation was uniform or unusual.

He said one resident reported that the water level in his well dropped more than 30 feet overnight, following heavy blasting by a road construction crew near his home.

The state geologist said the owner of this well is planning to sue the road contractor for damages. He said it is possible that blasting near a well would cause the water level to change but that it would be up to the owner to prove that the blasting was the probable cause of any unusual change. He said fluctuations in other wells in the town might be attributed to variation in rainfall and other causes.

As a result of Dr. Branner's visit, officials of the town may start a movement to obtain a PWA loan to install a municipal water system. Dr. Branner suggested the possibility, pointing out that a supply could be piped from a creek two or three miles from the town and that an adequate plant probably could be constructed, with a government loan and 40 per cent grant, at a cost that could be liquidated in a few years with a nominal monthly service charge.

RESERVOIR PLANS FOUND ADEQUATE

Engineers Report Water Supply Proposed Would Serve City 50 Years.

The proposed new water supply on Alum fork of Saline river will give Little Rock adequate water for the next 50 years, allowing for rapid growth and increased per capita consumption, and can be built within the budget of \$3,500,000 for land purchase and right-of-way, dam and pipe line construction, engineers reported to Mayor Overman yesterday.

Their report presents a study of rainfall, watershed, construction, per capita and gross water consumption of Little Rock and North Little Rock, growth in population and other data. The growth chart was computed on a graph of the two cities and on studies of Memphis, Atlanta and other Southern cities. It was prepared by Burns and McConnell, consulting engineers, Kansas City, Mo.

High Dam Favored.

A proposed reduction in height of the dam by 10 feet is not desirable, the report shows, as the storage area would be reduced by 6,200,000,000 gallons and little could be saved in construction costs. Stronger spillway facilities would be needed to care for flash floods, it was shown, and the cost of such spillway work would offset any savings.

The two cities consumed 2,259,200,000 gallons of water last year, a per capita figure of 63 gallons per day. The new supply can produce a maximum supply of 29,100,000 daily. An increase to 80 gallons per person per day is anticipated with better water than that now secured from the Arkansas river.

Average storage capacity of the reservoir which is served by a watershed of 42.54 square miles will be 14,900,000,000 gallons. Even with record dry years the supply would be sufficient, the report shows.

Division of costs for the project provides ample funds for the work, the engineers state. This allows \$65,000 for purchase of land and right-of-way, \$1,148,960 for dam and spillway construction and \$1,922,000 for pipe line.

Spillway measurements provide for a 10-foot depth flow over a 300-foot area and will take care of flash flood conditions of 75,000 second feet flowage with a wide margin of safety. This will exceed any flood emergencies ever encountered in this section according to Weather Bureau data shown in the report.

E. E. BONEWITS WILL WORK ON PROJECT

To Be Appointed Consulting Engineer, Mayor Overman Announces.

E. E. Bonewits of Little Rock will be appointed consulting engineer for the city's \$3,080,000 water supply improvement subject to approval of the PWA. Mayor Overman said yesterday Appointment of a consulting engineer to work with Burns & McDonnell engineers of Kansas City, Mo., employed by the city, was provided for with recent PWA approval of the project.

Five engineering crews were in the field yesterday, three at the dam site and two along the route of the proposed 40-mile pipe line, Mr. Smith said. He said he planned to submit sectional plans to the PWA office for examination as rapidly as they are completed to secure approval for specifications in advance of the November 7 deadline. Contract must be awarded by December 15.

The formal agreement under which the PWA will make a grant of \$1,386,000 to the city and purchase bonds for \$1,694,000 had not been received yesterday. Execution of the agreement by city officials is expected to make available immediately a preliminary grant of \$73,000 requested by the city to carry on engineering work and early construction.

The task of determining the final location of the dam site is receiving major consideration and drills will be started soon to determine the extent and quality of bed rock. Raising the height of the dam is expected to decrease cost of the pipeline by reducing the amount of necessary tunneling for the gravity flow line.

ALLOTS \$3,080,000 FOR WATER SYSTEM

President Roosevelt Approves \$5,992,984 for 54 Arkansas PWA Projects.

WORK WILL BE SPEEDED

Contracts Must Be Awarded by December 15 but State Director Warns Against Missteps.

President Roosevelt's approval of allotments totaling \$5,992,984 for 54 Arkansas PWA projects, including \$3,080,000 for Little Rock's proposed reservoir and pipeline and \$100,000 for additions to West Side Junior High School, was announced by Alexander Allaire, state PWA director, yesterday following receipt of a message from Washington.

The 54 projects listed are expected to cost \$6,078,002, and are among 180, with estimated cost of approximately \$1,000,000, submitted several weeks ago.

Grants totaling \$2,734,204 were made to cover 45 per cent of the cost of all the projects, and loans totaling \$3,258,780 were made from the PWA revolving fund on 52 projects.

Mr. Allaire warned sponsors against taking any legal steps without consulting his office.

"The entire program must be under contract all over the state by December 15, but ordinances authorizing bond sales or anything else should be held in abeyance until we are consulted," he said.

Certain That Funds For Water System Adequate.

Mr. Allaire said he was "certain Little Rock's water reservoir and pipeline can be constructed with the \$3,080,000 loan and grant of the PWA."

"In making the allotment our engineers drew on a wealth of previous experience, taking a great deal of time to check estimates on the city's application, which necessarily were compiled hurriedly," he said.

The city's original application was for a loan and grant of \$3,500,000.

One of the conditions of the PWA approval is that the Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company of Kansas City, Mo., shall retain a consulting engineer on the project subject to approval of Mr. Allaire. He said it was customary on all large projects to invite a consulting engineer to assist and his retention would entail slight additional expense.

The city's original application provided a five per cent engineering fee or approximately \$150,000, and \$45,000 for legal and administrative expense. Mr. Allaire said the latter fee had been "greatly reduced" by the Washington PWA office. Construction items also were reduced prior to approval.

The city will receive a direct grant of \$1,386,000 and a loan of \$1,694,000 which will be repaid through sale of water to the Arkansas Water Company at a rate not to exceed \$100,000 annually for 2,900,000,000 gallons of water. Construction of the project is expected to require 12 months. It will provide 3,098,767 man hours of employment and offer jobs to an average of 2,800 workers each month.

Mayor Grateful To Both Senators.

Mayor Overman, who has been working to improve the city's water supply since his inauguration in April, yesterday paid tribute to the efforts of Senators Joe T. Robinson and Hattie W. Caraway in sponsoring the project with the PWA.

"Senator Robinson has interested himself in the project since it was conceived and only last week contacted Washington officials after a conference with sponsors here," Mayor Overman said. "Senator Caraway has been active in behalf of the project in Washington and was responsible for telegrams announcing its approval."

Mayor Overman visited Congressman John L. McClellan at Trinity hospital yesterday, and received that official's congratulations. The reservoir site is in Mr. McClellan's district. The congressman is recovering from an operation.

After learning that the project had been approved Mayor Overman telephoned Burns & McDonnell at Kansas City. R. E. McDonnell, senior member of the firm, advised him that Chester A. Smith and M. L. Crist, engineers assigned to the project, would leave Kansas City tonight, arriving in Little Rock tomorrow.

Twenty-five engineers will be recruited immediately to speed work on the project, he said. The engineers will confer tomorrow with Mr. Allaire and Mayor Overman said he was hopeful that contracts for core drilling and sounding for the dam site and clearing

the reservoir site can be awarded within the next few days.

No Delay In Initial Allotment.

Mr. Allaire said yesterday the city's initial allotment for preliminary construction work and final engineering could be paid "immediately." The maximum allowed by the PWA for such work is 15 per cent of the grant or approximately \$200,000 for the Little Rock project. Mr. Allaire said he would be unable to determine how soon initial construction can be started until he had conferred with engineers for the project.

The water improvement job is the largest project which will be undertaken under the PWA program in Arkansas. It calls for construction of a dam and reservoir on Alum Fork of Saline river in Saline county, west of Little Rock, and a 39-inch pipeline about 39 miles long. Original estimates for the reservoir called for expenditure of \$1,148,960 plus \$1,922,000 for the pipeline. Contingencies, engineering, legal and administrative cost, interest during construction and miscellaneous costs accounted for the remainder of the \$3,500,000.

The maximum height of the dam above bed rock will be 115 feet and it will be approximately 2,800 feet long including the spillway section of 300 feet. The crest of the dam will be 20 feet wide with broad slopes. The pipeline of 39 inches diameter will have capacities ranging from over 17,000,000 gallons daily at low water to approximately 22,000,000 gallons daily at spillway crest and a possible 25,000,000-gallon capacity with a pump lift of 35-feet above spillway crest.

The city's average annual consumption of water is approximately 2,400,000,000 gallons and the report estimated that consumption would reach 2,916,000,000 in 1940 and 6,400,000,000 gallons in 1975.

School District Election On Bond Issue Necessary.

Plans for additions to the West Side Junior High School, Fourteenth and Marshall streets, call for three-story extensions to the north and south wings, on the west side to provide six additional classrooms, and a second story to the cafeteria annex to provide an auditorium and two large rooms which can be used for band practice and other purposes.

John G. Pipkin, business manager for the Little Rock schools, said no work could be started until the board meets and calls a special election to vote on the proposed \$55,000 bond issue. Thirty days notice must be given of the election. If the bond issue is approved the district will receive a grant of \$45,000.

NOTICE

(Signed) R. E. OVERMAN, Mayor.
ORDINANCE No. 5273

An Ordinance Providing for the Construction and Operation of a Reservoir, Dam and Pipe Line to Furnish a New Source of Supply for Water for Little Rock, Arkansas; Providing for the Issuance of Waterworks Revenue Bonds for Said Project; Fixing the Compensation to be Paid by the Arkansas Water Company for Said Water; Fixing the Details in Respect to Said Bonds and Providing for the Method of Payment Thereof and Declaring an Emergency.

Whereas, the City Council has obtained and caused to be made by duly qualified engineers surveys of the possible source of supply for suitable water available to the City of Little Rock, and have determined that Alum Fork, in Saline County, approximately thirty-seven (37) miles west of the City is a suitable and available location to construct a dam and reservoir to impound a new source of supply of suitable water, and of a pipe line to be constructed from said location to the City of Little Rock to make said water available for said city.

Whereas, the Arkansas Water Company, a solvent corporation owning the distributing system in said City of Little Rock, has agreed to purchase from the City of Little Rock water delivered from said source of supply and to pay for said water so received an amount sufficient to repay to the Public Works Administration all sums necessary to retire a loan, both principal and interest, sufficient to pay the cost of said project and also to operate and maintain

3.

The Company shall be entitled to receive and the City shall deliver to the Company, at its settling basins as aforesaid, all water needed by the Company for its own use and to supply all consumers in the Cities of Little Rock, North Little Rock, and vicinities; that supplied to all consumers to be treated and filtered, except that distributed before it reaches the Company's settling basins as provided in paragraph 3 hereof.

4.
The Company shall pay to the City annually for a period not to exceed thirty-eight (38) years, beginning when said dam, reservoir and pipeline are completed and sufficient supplies of water are available for delivery to the Company's irrigation basins as hereinbefore described, to supply all of its consumers, the sum of One Hundred Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$105,000) per annum, amounts to be paid in equal quarterly installments in advance, and being predicated upon the City obtaining both the grant and the loan herein described from the United States Government through the Public Works Administration. If the amount of the loan to the City is less than One Million Nine Hundred and Twenty-five Thousand Dol-

Immediately after completion of the dam reservoir and pipe line and delivery of the water by the City to the Company Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000); and at the beginning of each year up to and including seventeen (17) years thereafter Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000).

Such deposit of bonds to be made with an appropriate instrument of pledge, executed by the Company, providing that in the event of Company default in any such payment due to the Government, a sufficient number of said bonds to make good such default shall be sold by the bank in which deposited, at public sale after five days public notice. The interest on said bonds so deposited and the Company under pledge accepted and paid on such deposit by the Company shall belong to the Government, over to the Company by such bank when collected. If any such deposited bond matures and is paid while in the deposit aforesaid, on substituting other Government bonds of equal value, the principal of which is guaranteed by the United States Government, of par value equal to the amount of cash received by the depository, such cash shall be paid to the Company. Any such bonds that may be in said deposit at termination of this contract shall be returned to the Government.

As the annual payments by the Company to the City herein provided for to meet the maturities of principal and interest on the revenue bonds to be issued by the City will sometimes be insufficient to be necessary to pay such maturities in all or nearly all the years, each One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) accumulated by the City from the excess payments, after payment of all legitimate claims incidental to the payment of said revenue bonds, shall be deposited by it with the said bank, and thereupon bonds in that amount at par shall be released from the deposit and pledge, and the same shall be available likewise, any sums that may be owing by the Company to the City for excess water taken by the Company from the City, as described in paragraph hereof, after all other claims of the Company shall be paid against such excess water charge, shall be deposited by the Company with the depository of such Government Bonds, and thereupon bonds of the par value equal to the cash or credit so deposited shall be released from said deposit and pledge and returned to the Company. Cash so deposited in lieu of bonds, as provided for in this paragraph, shall be under and subject to the order of the City, and to the same extent as the bonds so deposited, released by such cash deposited.

15.
This contract is for the period of thirty-eight (38) years from the date the first quarterly payment for water is due from the Company to the City, as provided in paragraph 4 hereof and until said loan is paid; but shall terminate if before the ex-

Sec. 7. That the project shall be hereafter operated upon a fiscal year basis. The first fiscal year shall commence on the completion of the project and delivery of water to the Arkansas Water Company and shall be

Sec. 8. That the revenue bonds of the City hereinafter called "Bonds" be issued in the following amounts, to-wit: One Hundred and Twenty-five Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$1,925,000), which amount, together with the funds to be furnished by the United States of America, is necessary to provide sufficient funds to pay all costs of the herein contemplated construction and the purchase price of the real property, including engineering, legal and other necessary expenses, together with interest to a date six months subsequent to the estimated date of completion of the project, and the principal of such Bonds shall be paid from the proceeds designated "Waterworks Revenue Bonds" to be dated on the date fixed by the Mayor or to be in the denomination of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000 each, to be numbered from one (1) to nineteen hundred and twenty-five (1,925).

Years.	Amounts.	Years.	Amounts.
1939	\$23,000	1958	\$48,000
1939	24,000	1959	52,000
1941	26,000	1960	54,000
1942	27,000	1961	56,000
1943	28,000	1962	58,000
1944	29,000	1963	60,000
1945	30,000	1964	63,000
1946	31,000	1965	66,000
1947	33,000	1966	68,000
1948	35,000	1967	71,000
1949	36,000	1968	74,000
1950	37,000	1969	77,000
1951	38,000	1970	80,000
1952	40,000	1971	81,000
1953	41,000	1972	81,000
1954	42,000	1973	83,000
1955	43,000	1974	85,000
1956	46,000	1975	85,000

Sec. 12. The City will maintain or cause to be maintained the project in good condition and operate or cause same to be operated in an efficient manner and at reasonable cost.

Sec. 13. Any holder or holders of twenty-five per centum (25%) in aggregate principal amount of the bonds at the time then outstanding shall have the right at all reasonable times to inspect the records

Sec. 14. So long as any of the bonds are outstanding the City will not mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the project or any part thereof or any revenues therefrom, except as herein provided, and will not sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of any substantial portion of the project.

Sec. 15. The City will keep proper books of records and accounts (separate from all other records and accounts) in which will be entered and kept in full and complete detail all transactions relating to the project. The City shall furnish to any holder or purchaser of any of the bonds at the time of issue, and to any holder or purchaser of such bonds at any time thereafter, not more than thirty days after the close of each six month's fiscal period, complete operating and income statements of the project in reasonable detail covering such fiscal year's period, and, not more than sixty days after the close of each fiscal year, complete financial statements of the project in reasonable detail covering such fiscal year, certified by the City Auditors.

Sec. 16. The City further covenants and agrees that if default is made in the payment of any bond or coupon or if the City fails to meet any sinking fund requirement the holders of such bond may declare the bond immediately due and payable and such bonds shall thereupon be immediately due and payable and in default.

See, 161. The right is reserved in the City to call any or all outstanding bonds for payment in the reverse order of their maturities at par on any interest payment date in advance to the date of payment; and provided that in case any such bonds are so called notice will be given of the number of each bond so called by publication in a newspaper printed in the City of Little Rock for a period of general circulation of not more than sixty days, nor less than thirty days, prior to such interest payment date and interest on any such bonds so called shall be discontinued upon such interest payment date. The City reserves the right to determine whether the bond and accompanying coupons are surrendered or not.

Sec. 17. There shall be a statutory mortgage lien upon the project, as provided in said Act 131, as amended, which shall exist in favor of the holder of the bonds and each of them and to and in favor of the holder of the coupons attached to the bond, and the project shall remain subject to

statutory mortgage lien until payment in full of the interest and principal on the bond. If there be any default in the payment of the interest on or principal of any of the bonds, the holders of any of the bonds may enforce the statutory mortgage lien upon the project in accordance with the provisions of Section 7, of said Act 131, and may by reason of the non-performance of the obligations of the official bonds of the authority on said Act. If there be default in the payment of the principal of or interest in the bonds any court having jurisdiction in any proper action may appoint a receiver to administer the project on behalf of the City with power to the receiver to collect sufficient charges and rates to provide for the payment of the bonds and interest thereon and for the payment of the operating expenses and to apply the income and revenues in conformity with said Act, and to take any action providing for the issuance of such bonds.

Sec. 18. To the end that a record of the pledge of the revenues and agreement not to mortgage the property to be constructed in this project may be preserved the Mayor be and he is hereby authorized to file with the recorders of Pulaski and Saline Counties, Arkansas, a certified copy of this ordinance acknowledged in the form required for deeds and mortgages with the direction that the same be recorded in the office of the County Recorder as in the case of deeds and mortgages.

Sec. 19. The Mayor is hereby directed to publish for one insertion in the Arkansas Gazette or Arkansas Democrat, each of which is hereby found and declared to be a newspaper published and in general circulation in the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, this ordinance to which is attached a notice signed by him, in substantially the following form:

NOTICE

"Notice is hereby given that the City of Little Rock has adopted the ordinance hereinafter set out; that the said City contemplates the issuance of the bonds described in said ordinance and that any person interested may appear before the said Council upon the 23rd day of September, 1935, at eight o'clock p. m., at its regular place of meeting at the City Hall, Little Rock, Arkansas, and present protests. At such time all objections and suggestions will be heard and said Council will take such action as it shall deem proper in the premises.

(Signed) R. E. OVERMAN,
"Mayor, Little Rock, Arkansas."
Sec. 20. All ordinances or parts of ordi-
nances in conflict herewith are hereby re-
pealed.

Sec. 21. It is found that the Arkansas River, as the present source of supply of water for the City and its inhabitants, is uncertain in its flow, that it often carries a large salt content, and that the available sources of water from wells to dilute it are hard, making it necessary, when it can be afforded, that water for the City and its inhabitants be obtained from a new source; and it is further found that in pursuance to Acts of the Congress of the United States, the Public Works Administration has appropriated a total of forty-five (45) per cent of the cost of public works, and a loan on liberal terms of fifty-five (55) per cent of the cost thereof, that the water that can be obtained from an impending reservoir on Alum Fork of Saline River is soft and in all respects exceedingly good for supplying the City and its inhabitants; and that application for the same to the Public Works Administration for works of that nature must be filed immediately, and it is further found that without the immediate action of the City Council it would be impracticable to secure water from said new source; and the immediate operation of this Ordinance being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, in emergency is declared and this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

[illegible]

Little Rock's New Three Million Dollar Water Supply Will Be Owned Outright by the City

Oct. 14, 1935
Democrat

The acquisition of this property constitutes the greatest single achievement in the history of the City, enabling the City to acquire within a short period of time a three million dollar property which is equivalent to the total value of all the property owned by the City, which it has accumulated in 100 years of its lifetime.

The question of securing for Little Rock a new source of water supply constituted the major issue in the primary election in October, 1934, and on this question our citizens overwhelmingly nominated a Mayor.

On April 9th, when I was inducted into office, I made the following statement:

"It is quite significant that in response to the mass demand of our citizens and all organized civic bodies who have to do with the problems of our social and industrial life, were as a unit in listing the WATER SUPPLY as project No. 1 and were in accord that it should have priority over all others in our request of the Federal Government for funds with which to carry to a successful accomplishment this important matter."

I further stated that the civic bodies to which I refer are the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, the Engineers' Club, the City Planning Commission, which includes personal representatives of our two daily newspapers.

In addition to these organizations, we have had the unqualified endorsement of the State Board of Health, the State Geological Department, the State Department of Public Utilities, Rotary Club, Civitan Club, Kiwanis Club, Young Business Men's Association, Women's Democratic Club, Little Rock Real Estate Board and, in fact, every organized civic body.

Thus it is to be seen that the demand for a new source of pure water is unanimous.

THE NEW CONTRACT PROVIDES:

1. A Federal grant or gift of \$1,386,000.00 by the P. W. A.
2. A loan of \$1,694,000 from the Federal Government to be repaid \$100,000 per year, including interest.
3. This loan to be repaid by the City of Little Rock from the proceeds of a contract with the Arkansaw Water Company, who will pay to the City over the next 38 years a total of \$3,755,760 for a water supply of 2½ billion gallons annually. According to the engineer's chart showing population increase, it appears that during the last years of this contract the City will be consuming 6½ billion gallons annually. Assuming this estimate to be reasonably correct, the Water Company will pay to the City \$2,800,000.00 during the life of the contract for excess water at 3½¢ per 1,000 gallons.
4. THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK WILL OWN ALL OF THE WATER SUPPLY OUTRIGHT BEGINNING AT THE PROPERTY LINE OF THE ARKANSAW WATER COMPANY AND EXTENDING FORTY MILES WEST TO ALUM FORK ON SALINE RIVER. The 40-mile pipe line will be laid under the ground for protection. The dam and reservoir on Alum Fork will be the property of the City and subject to control by the City. The reservoir will contain approximately 15 billion gallons, which is six times our present annual consumption. The water in Alum Fork is better described by Dr. Geo. C. Branner, State Geologist, and in his report to the City on August 7, 1934, he made the following statements:

- (a). The supply would be permanent and adequate to meet any emergency.
 - (b). There would be no expense of softening, the water would be very soft, possibly as low as 30 p. p. m.
 - (c). The flow to Little Rock would be by gravity.
 - (d). A permanent adequate supply of water, very low in chlorides and especially soft would obviously constitute a valuable asset to the City of Little Rock not only as a means of industrial economy, but as an added convenience to those who live here and an added attraction to prospective residents.
5. The City reserves the right to purchase the distribution system of the Arkansaw Water Company at any time during the life of the contract or thereafter.

CONSUMERS' RATES WILL NOT BE INCREASED

6. The contract does not permit the Water Company to raise its rates to the consumers, nor does the City agree to waive demand that rates shall be reduced in the future.
7. Bonds for the loan will be purchased by the U. S. Government and do not pledge the faith and credit of the City nor do they become a tax upon the real property of the citizens, because the bonds are revenue bonds to be retired from the revenues of the water contract.

CONSTRUCTION TO START IMMEDIATELY

Overman Goes To Capital on Water Project

Council Overrides Single Protest Against New Supply Plan.

The city council last night overrode a single protest against the plan for acquiring a \$3,080,000 water supply and authorized Mayor R. E. Overman to go to Washington in an effort to secure an advance of \$73,000 for the project which has been approved by PWA authorities.

Mayor Overman was en route to Washington today and Alderman George Muswick of the Third ward was acting mayor by election of his fellow aldermen to serve during the mayor's absence.

The hearing of protests against the water proposal, which was required by Act 131 of the 1935 legislature to be held by the council, was prefaced by a remark from Alderman Floyd Terral, acting chairman of the council for the hearing, that he could not understand how any person could object to the water plan advanced by the mayor and approved by the city council.

Mayor Overman had relinquished the chair to take the floor to present a review of the negotiations on the water supply which have resulted in an agreement with the Arkansaw Water Company to distribute water from the new source, which will be owned by the city, from the Alum Fork of the Saline river, 40 miles west of Little Rock. The water company will pay a rental to the city which will enable the city to retire the PWA loan in 38 years without increasing the burden of local citizens as taxpayers.

After Mayor Overman's presentation of the water plan, Mr. Terral opened the meeting to any who might desire to enter a protest. W. C. Mullins, a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, indicated that he would like to hear some of the provisions of the agreement explained and added that A. L. Rotenberry, attorney, had been designated as spokesman for him and others.

Protest Talk Limited.

The council limited Mr. Rotenberry's remarks to 10 minutes (some wanted to make it two minutes), then allowed him to talk longer, but interrupted him before he had finished his presentation of what he termed objectionable features of the water deal.

Discussion of the contract disclosed that the Arkansaw Water Company is not prevented from seeking an increase in water rates to be collected from its consumers during the life of the contract, which is 38 years, with the city. Neither is the city prevented from seeking a reduction in rates. Either the city or the water company may apply for rate changes through the established rate making bodies, and appeal from there into federal courts where it has been held that a utility is entitled to a rate which will permit it to make a reasonable return on its investment.

Mr. Rotenberry protested that the contract should require the water company to continue use of the water from the city-owned supply after the PWA loan shall have been retired. He asserted the city might become owner of a \$3,080,000 supply 40 miles from the city and have no system to distribute the water.

Mayor Overman previously had explained that the city has not relinquished its right to negotiate for the purchase of the water plant from the Arkansaw Water Company, and that in the event of a refusal to sell at a reasonable price the city still could condemn the property and purchase at a price to be determined in court.

When Mayor Overman took office he launched a move to purchase the water plant for operation as a municipal utility and secured from the water company owners an offer to sell for \$5,000,000. This figure was termed too high and a short time later the contract for the utility

to distribute a water supply was agreed upon.

After Mr. Rotenberry's presentation of his protest had been terminated, Alderman Terral asked if others desired to be heard and none responded.

Ex-Governor Is Heard.

The courtesy of the floor then was extended to George W. Donaghey, former governor, who said it was his second appearance before the council in 26 years in Little Rock. "We want some good water and now is the time to get it," he said, adding: "I don't think there is anything wrong with the contract which has been entered into between the city and the water company." He recalled how city after city along the Arkansas river have abandoned the river as a source for a satisfactory water supply.

H. H. Tucker, president of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, told of the extensive survey made last year at the request of the organization in an effort to find a new supply and termed the plan to get water from the Alum fork of the Saline river the best available.

W. Terry Feild, secretary of the Little Rock Engineers Club, said the new supply was given approval by the club and similar expressions have been made by other civic and professional organizations in the city.

At the conclusion of last night's hearing, Mr. Rotenberry said he plans to file within a few days a petition for a referendum on the water contract in order that it may be passed upon by the voters of the city.

The resolution adopted by the council overruling the protest was designed to forestall interference with the water contract which might delay the project or cause it to lose the federal funds which have been promised by the PWA.

PWA Requests More Water Project Data

Oct. 18, 1935

Washington, Oct. 17 (P).—The Public Works Administration called for additional information tonight before determining whether to approve the application of Little Rock, Ark., for \$3,080,000 to provide a new water supply.

Mayor R. E. Overman of Little Rock said, after a conference with PWA officials, that additional data needed would be furnished immediately. He said he would return Monday to Washington, when he expected the final answer from PWA.

Mr. Overman said the information requested was purely technical, but would not require much time to assemble. He planned to return to Little Rock tonight.

Mayor Overman conferred yesterday by telephone with Chester A. Smith, engineer for Burns & McDonnell, regarding additional technical information required by the PWA. Assembling of the information will begin immediately following the mayor's return tomorrow morning, M. L. Crist, assistant engineer in charge of the project, said last night.

HITCH DEVELOPS IN CITY'S WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Oct. 19, 1935

PWA Insists on Municipal Operation.

Washington, Oct. 18 (P).—The Public Works Administration said tonight Col. Horatio B. Hackett, assistant PWA administrator, told Mayor Overman of Little Rock, Ark., it would be necessary for Little Rock's proposed water supply project to be "truly municipal" to get a PWA loan and grant.

"Colonel Hackett told the mayor we couldn't make a loan and grant to a private corporation, because it is against the law," a PWA spokesman said. He said a private company was involved in the Little Rock situation.

"Colonel Hackett told the mayor we would be glad to go ahead with it if it could be made a truly municipal project," the spokesman said, "and the mayor said he hoped that it could."

Mayor Overman will return from Washington today with definite word of what the PWA requires of Little Rock. He left for Washington immediately following the City Council meeting last Monday night when the aldermen formally ratified the contract between the city and the Arkansaw Water Company.

Supposition last night was that the PWA would insist upon Little Rock owning and operating the waterworks, in which event it would be necessary for the city to acquire the water company's properties.

Purchase of the distributing system by the city was discussed early last summer, but the negotiations terminated with the city officials agreeing to finance construction of the reservoir on Alum Fork of the Saline river and extension of a pipeline about 35 miles from there to Little Rock through a PWA loan, to be repaid with funds which the water company would pay to the city for water from the new source.

Head of Association
Monticello Dentist
Pine Bluff—At a meeting here
day of the Dental Association
of Northeast Arkansas, Dr. S. H. Les
Dr. James L. Weatherall of Star C
was elected vice-president and I
A. C. Braswell of Dermott, secreta
About 30 dentists attended

Robinson shook in their boots at the
mill it. Senators Pat Harrison and Joe
the Salvo for September 22 for Vera
the police affirm the 13 left here aboard
The newspaper says the secret
ace to his political detractors in the
he was alive, he was a constant men
the late Sen. Huey P. Long. While
Louisiana delta since the death of
That cry has been raised in the
auxiliary schooner Salvatore was
their way after their three-masted
from Vera Cruz, where they made
These arrested arrived Saturday
send an armed expedition to Cuba.
Peace.
may stay out of war. Betting is even.

The Kingfish is dead! Long live
his enemies!
Louisiana delta since the death of
That cry has been raised in the
auxiliary schooner Salvatore was
their way after their three-masted
from Vera Cruz, where they made
These arrested arrived Saturday
send an armed expedition to Cuba.
Peace.
may stay out of war. Betting is even.

ENGINEERS PROCEEDING WITH WORK AT SOURCE OF NEW WATER SUPPLY

By JOHN J. WARD.

Today the valley of the Saline river's Alum Fork in Saline county is a wilderness but engineers are establishing the veins of Twentieth century civilization, cutting narrow trails through the brush and driving stakes inscribed with strange numbers.

Within a few weeks or months, if Little Rock is successful in negotiations with the PWA, hundreds of men will be at work clearing the wooded area of the little valley and throwing up a huge dirt wall between two hills at its lower end to create a vast lake.

The huge task when completed will be Little Rock's \$3,080,000 water supply project.

The river that winds its way down the floor of the valley is little more than a creek, when viewed from the heights of Wildcat bluff, about two miles above the dam site. During the summer months it is a gurgling stream, moving over and around huge gray rocks with musical swiftness, with here and there a quiet pool where the water rests on its way to Saline river.

Advantage to Be Taken Of Spring Rises.

At three places at least the stream can be crossed on stones without danger of wetting the adventurer's feet. It looks so tiny in the valley wilderness that the uninitiated cannot refrain from an expression of astonishment that it is expected to supply all the water needs of Greater Little Rock.

The secret is that the river, which behaves like an old woman in the summer and winter, becomes a whirling, raging giant each spring as the rainy season gives it a violent and short-lived youth.

When a towering wall of earth is thrown across the end of the valley, between the tip of Houdy mountain and an unnamed bluff on the west, the wild escapades of the river will result in a huge lake. Connected with Little Rock through a 39-inch pipe line 35 1-2 miles long, it will be sufficient to supply the city's water needs for 75 years to come.

Seven engineering crews are waging a battle against time to complete specifications in advance of the November 7 deadline set by the Public Works Administration.

Important Changes In Preliminary Plans.

Already several important discoveries have been made necessitating changes in preliminary plans.

Instead of 95 feet, the dam will rise 110 feet above the bed of the river. The extra height will nearly double the storage capacity of the valley reservoir but what is even more important it will make possible a more direct route for the pipe line and facilitate construction of a 300-foot spillway on the Houdy mountain side of the dam.

To add to the height of the dam will cost an additional \$42,000, but it will make possible a \$45,000 saving in cost of the spillway, which must be cut through a rock formation.

The higher dam will increase the fall between the reservoir and the settling basins of the Arkansas Water Company in Pulaski Heights and will create a greater "head," or pressure, under which water will flow through the pipeline.

The increased pressure will make it possible to route the pipeline more directly, so that instead of the nearly 39 miles called for in early estimates, the engineers believe the line will be 35 1-2 miles in length. Generally it will follow contours of the ground but along sides of several hills a kind of shelf will be dug and the pipe left exposed.

Leaving the city it will be laid along Q street and the West Twelfth Street pike.

The higher dam will cut nearly in half the length of tunnels required for the pipeline, permitting a saving of \$39,000 on that item alone. Cost of cutting the tunnels, some of them through rock, is estimated at \$30 per foot.

But also the higher dam, because it increases the capacity of the reservoir will make necessary the clearing of an additional 460 acres, giving it an area of 1,380 acres. The added cost will be \$27,600 but it will be more than offset in the saving on tunnels.

Figures the Layman Can Appreciate.

To give Gazette readers some idea as to the magnitude of the proposed dam, Marion L. Crist, assistant engineer in charge of the project for Burns & McDonnell, engineering firm of Kansas City, Mo., estimated that it would be necessary to excavate 100 acres to a depth of 10 feet to supply dirt for the structure.

It will be 2,600 feet, about a half mile, long and 600 feet, about two city blocks, wide at the base. It will be 20 feet wide at the top but no roadway is planned there because the cost of bridging the 300-foot spillway would be prohibitive.

The reservoir behind the dam will be four miles long and about three-quarters of a mile wide. The estimated maximum capacity, if you are interested in figures, is 15,225,000,000 gallons, a huge total when it is considered that Little Rock's present annual water consumption is 2,500,000,000 gallons or about one-sixth of that amount.

The dam is located in the southeastern part of the valley, which contains the entire watershed for the river. The valley itself is a syncline, according to a report of Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist. The central portion is made up of the Atoka formation of Pennsylvanian age and is part of what is known as the Perry syncline.

The north and south sandstone ridges which mark the limits of the valley are Jackford sandstone of Mississippian age. Dr. Branner said he believed the formations to be sufficiently sound structurally to provide an adequate foundation for a dam, so far as strength is concerned. He said it was unlikely that excessive leakage will develop in the event that foundations are carried to bed rock.

Removal of Subsoil A Major Undertaking.

Removal of several feet of subsoil which covers the rock formations at the dam site constitutes one of the major engineering problems. The river has cut a channel to the bedrock and the soil on either side is not believed to be sufficiently strong to support the dam.

Plans call for a dam which will have greater structural strength than the neighboring hills. They have a strength of about 100 pounds to the cubic foot while the dam can claim 110 to 120 pounds. It will be built of thin layers of carefully selected earth. Each layer will be connected firmly with preceding layers with "sheep's claw" rollers, which make use of protruding arms to pack the soil.

The reservoir and dam will be located about a mile northwest of Reform in Saline county, which boasts a combination postoffice and general store and little more. An all-weather mountain road, maintained by the Reform CCC camp, two miles above, connects the postoffice with State Highway 9.

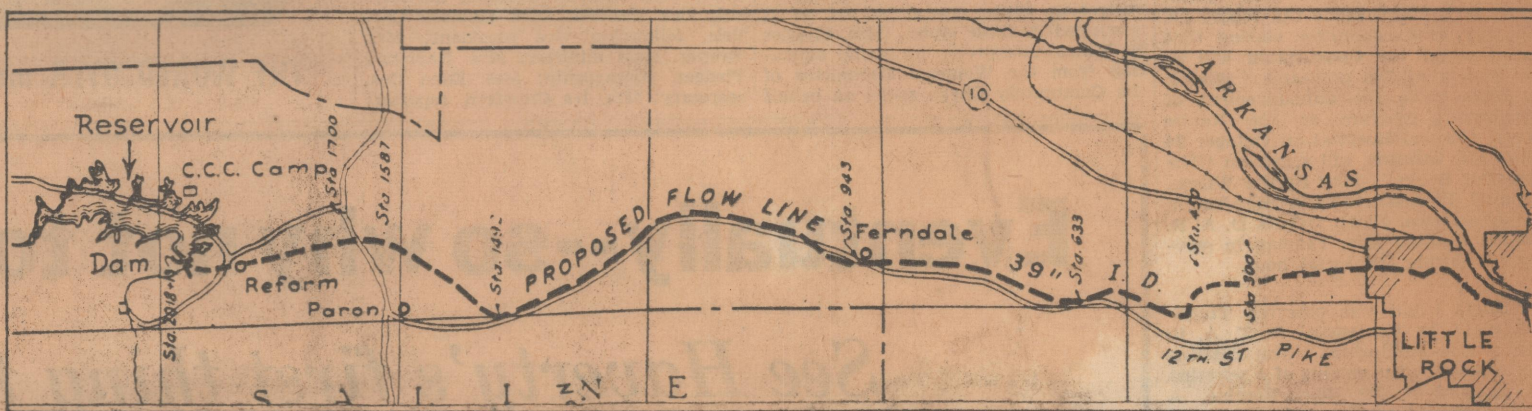
The site is about 40 miles from Little Rock via Highways 10 and 9 and a few miles shorter but bumpier over Highway 9 and the West Twelfth Street pike.

Construction activities will not reach a peak until next year, after the con-

WHERE LITTLE ROCK WILL OBTAIN WATER WITH PWA AID



—Gazette Staff Photos.



The "ole baptizing pool" (top) is one of the beauty spots on the Alum Fork of Saline river, where a huge reservoir will be created to supply Greater Little Rock with water, when a dam and pipe line are constructed under the proposed PWA program. Families in the Walnut Bottoms community bordering the Reform road are planning to "move up the valley" when the lake is created, taking with them their rustic church (left). Mrs. Mary M. Crabtree (right), one of the oldest settlers in the bottoms, is among those preparing to move her home. The map shows the route of the proposed reservoir and pipeline, following closely the West Twelfth Street pike.

tract is awarded. Present work is being carried on by engineers aided by a few Saline county farmers.

Residents Watching With Mixed Feelings.

The farmers are watching development of the project with mixed feelings. Much of the reservoir site lies in the Ouachita National Forest and land has been donated by the government. However, additional acreage was needed and the city was forced to buy from farmers.

So, for a dozen or so families in the little settlement of Walnut Bottoms, above the dam site, completion of the project will mean "moving day."

The simple, weather-beaten home of Mrs. Mary M. ("Aunt Mary") Crabtree is typical of the farm homes in the little settlement. The white-haired matron, active despite her years, has made her home there for more than 40 years, and like many others is planning to "move up the valley."

Flooding the valley will wipe out the entire settlement, necessitating the removal of its church and cemetery as well as its homes. The church formerly served as a school but with the advent of better roads, children were transported by bus to a consolidated school.

It still serves as a meeting place for the community and the cemetery still is the burying ground for its dead, who will be moved carefully to whatever location is selected for a new church. The church is non-denominational.

Folks in the Bottoms township say Houdy mountain on the east side of the dam got its name from the first church built when the settlement was young.

A visitor rounding a turn in the steep mountain road came on the church unexpectedly, exclaiming "Who'da thought there was a church here?"

Thereafter the church was called "Who'da Thought It Church" and the mountain was given the same name.

Eventually the church was moved from the mountain, but the mountain retained the name. However folks in the settlement found it too long and shortened it to "Houdy mountain," the name it retains today.

A clear, wide pool in the mountain river just above the dam site is "the ole baptizing pool."

PLANS FOR CITY DISTRIBUTION OF WATER OFFERED

Oct. 20, 1935
Council Will Act To-
morrow.
Gazette

Construction of a municipally-owned water supply and distributing system at an estimated cost of \$6,850,000 was approved yesterday by the City Council Utilities Committee, which recommended that the council authorize Mayor Overman to apply for and execute a contract for a PWA loan and grant.

There was no opposition to the proposal, which would:

1. Give the city its own water reservoir, pipeline, treatment plant and distributing system at a cost to it of \$3,767,500 (to which would be added an outright grant of \$3,082,500) about \$500,000 less than the price at which the Arkansas Water Company offered its properties to the city in June.

2. Make it possible for the city to retire the cost of the joint projects at a rate of a little more than \$200,000 annually.

Based on the present \$600,000 annual gross income of the Arkansas Water Company, it would be possible to grant a reduction in rates that would save approximately \$100,000 annually, and, in addition, \$30,000 annually paid for water service to public buildings and fire hydrants would be saved, officials said.

The council tomorrow night will take formal action on a proposed ordinance delegating authority to the mayor to proceed with negotiations with the PWA.

Mayor Submits Proposal to Committee.

The proposal was presented to the Utilities Committee following the return of Mayor Overman and John A. Sherrill, attorney, from Washington, where they sought immediate release of a \$73,000 allotment from the city's approved \$3,080,000 loan and grant for construction of a water reservoir and pipeline.

Mayor Overman said PWA officials showed little disposition to release any part of the loan and grant unless the city undertook to operate a distributing system in connection with the proposed new source of supply on Alum Fork of Saline river.

The \$3,080,000 loan and grant application was filed under an agreement with the water company, whereby the company agreed to retire the \$1,694,000 loan at the rate of not more than \$100,000 annually over a 30-year period, at the end of which time the reservoir and pipeline would become the city's property. Under the agreement, the company would receive a maximum of about 2,900,000,000 gallons of water annually and would maintain the property.

Contract Signed After Extended Negotiations.

The original contract was signed by attorneys for the city and the water company July 31, after negotiations for purchase of the company's properties by the city reached an impasse. The company offered to sell its Little Rock and North Little Rock properties at an appraised value of \$5,001,704, of which the Little Rock properties accounted for \$4,367,079.

Preliminary figures submitted yesterday by Burns & McDonnell, engineers for the reservoir and pipeline project, caused Mayor Overman to estimate the cost of constructing an entirely new distributing system at slightly more than \$3,000,000, of which 45 per cent would be a grant to the city.

Engineers worked until late last night to finish temporary plans for the proposed distributing system. They are scheduled to be completed late today and will be air-mailed immediately to Washington, for presentation tomorrow to Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, PWA administrator.

Under the plan approved yesterday by the Utilities Committee the city will file an amendment to its approved water supply improvement application, asking sufficient additional funds to construct the distributing system.

Mayor Overman said last night: "We do not believe that this amendment to the application will in any manner slow up the work on our pres-

ent new water supply. We should get early approval for the entire loan."

Attorney Points Out Company Lacks Franchise.

Mr. Sherrill, attorney for the city on the project, said the city would proceed toward obtaining a PWA loan and grant for the joint projects under the same statutes that guided procedure in the previous application.

He expressed doubt that either the federal or state courts could be petitioned successfully to restrain construction of the distributing system because nonexistence of an exclusive franchise would permit the city to construct a competing system as an unemployment relief measure.

S. R. Brough, water company superintendent, was reported to be out of the city over the week-end. J. F. Loughborough, attorney for the company, said he was not in position to define the attitude of the American Waterworks and Electric Company, parent company, toward the proposed municipal development.

It was understood from other sources that the company was prepared to wage battle in the federal court in an effort to protect its Little Rock properties. Developments are expected following formal action of the council tomorrow night.

The municipal ownership program would not preclude purchase of the company's property by the city, for it is understood that the PWA has offered to make available the purchase price should the company decide to sell at a figure the PWA would consider "just and reasonable."

Money advanced to purchase the present plant and distributing system would be a direct loan at a low interest rate, probably four per cent, but would not include a 45 per cent grant since the plan would entail no new construction providing unemployment relief.

Mayor's Summary Of the Situation.

A statement yesterday by Mayor Overman follows:

"On my trip to Washington it developed in conference with the PWA that they would view with more favor an application for a water distributing system for the city in conjunction with the application for a new source of supply. At the meeting of the Utilities Committee of the City Council this afternoon it was decided that the city should file an amendment to its application asking for additional funds sufficient to construct a distributing system in the city of Little Rock. This system will be entirely new and we are advised can be constructed at a cost of approximately \$3,000,000.

"The city's engineers are now at work on this application checking the costs of a new system and we expect to have the application with these figures filed with the PWA in Washington not later than Monday morning, October 21. It will be presented immediately to Secretary Ickes, Public Works administrator, upon his return to his office on October 22. We should get an early approval of the entire loan covering both the new water supply and new distributing system. We do not believe that this amendment to the application will in any manner slow up the work on our present new water supply.

"Failure to get together with the water company on a fair price for the property leaves the city with no alternative except to construct and install a completely new distribution system.

"With reference to the matter of the purchase of the properties of the Arkansas Water Company, the officials of the company came to Little Rock during the month of June and submitted an inventory and statement of price of their properties showing a valuation of \$5,000,000, which I consider excessive based on estimated reproduction cost. At the time of this interview I was fully determined to prosecute my intention to purchase the distribution system of the Arkansas Water Company in accordance with Act 324 of the Department of Public Utilities, and had made financial arrangements for private capital, at low interest rate, for the purchase of the property.

"Four months have elapsed now and that phase of the water question has been held in abeyance pending our development of plans and specifications, application for sufficient money to build or construct a dam, a reservoir, pipeline and furnishing a new source of supply.

"I have maintained from the beginning that Little Rock should own their distribution system. Of 52 major cities of the United States, with population above 150,000, there are only three of these cities who do not own their own waterworks.

"The Arkansas Water Company does not have a franchise, but operates under an indeterminate permit issued by the Corporation Commission of the state. In the acceptance of this permit the utility agrees to the future purchase of their properties by the city at a proper and fair price based on engineers' appraisals."

WATER COMPANY TO MAKE FIGHT AGAINST OUSTER

Protest to Council Probable.

Oct. 21, 1935

Officials of the Arkansas Water Company don't approve the proposal that the city of Little Rock, with PWA assistance, build a distribution system to serve consumers of water from the proposed new source of supply in Saline county.

S. R. Brough, superintendent of the water company, made it clear last night that not only does the company disapprove the idea but it also intends to do a few things about—or against—it. He didn't say specifically what steps would be taken but he said that executives of the American Waterworks and Electric Company in New York, of which the water company is a subsidiary, had been advised of developments and were preparing to act.

While Mr. Brough said his campaign plans were still tentative, it is probable that he and J. F. Loughborough, attorney for the water company, will be on hand when the City Council meets tonight to vote Mayor Overman power to negotiate with the PWA for a loan and grant with which to build a distribution system.

Superintendent Says Company 'Amazed.'

Here's what Mr. Brough wrote for publication regarding the situation:

"We are greatly amazed at the turn of affairs in connection with the development of the proposed new water supply project and cannot appreciate the position the PWA officials at Washington have taken.

"Before our contract was made with the city, the plan was submitted to the PWA officials, at Washington and they, at that time, heartily approved it. It seems that some of them now advise city officials they will not approve the plan, but suggest that the city construct a duplicate plant, reservoir and distribution system.

"The city, of course, has the right to purchase our property at any time. It sees fit, but the plan to duplicate our property will be protested and all necessary steps taken to protect our legal rights.

"We feel confident that the citizenship of Little Rock will not approve any such attempt to destroy our investment here."

City Had Proposed To Sell Water to Company.

If the council disregards the water company protest, it seems likely that the fight will be taken before PWA authorities in Washington and also into federal courts.

Under the contract to which Mr. Brough referred, the city would have sold to the water company the supply from the proposed reservoir on Alum Fork of Saline river. To build this reservoir and a pipeline into Little Rock, an allotment of \$3,080,000, loan and grant, was approved by President Roosevelt several weeks ago, and the city intended to retire its indebtedness to the PWA with the money collected from the company for the water.

But when the mayor went to Washington last week he learned that PWA officials want the city to market its own water if a new source is made available. Mayor Overman returned to Little Rock Saturday and immediately called the Council Utilities Committee together to consider what to do. It recommended unanimously that the city go into the water business if it took that to get the PWA money. The entire council will have a chance to act on this recommendation tonight.

It was estimated that \$6,850,000 would be needed to build the reservoir, pipeline and distributing system. If this sum is provided by the PWA, 45 per cent will be an outright gift to the city.

COUNCIL FAVORS MEETING PWA'S REQUIREMENTS

C. of C. for First Water Project Plan.

Oct. 20, 1935

Three major developments yesterday marked Little Rock's efforts to secure an improved water supply through a PWA loan and grant.

1. The City Council by a vote of 17 to 1 last night, adopted a resolution approving an amendment to the city's original PWA application, so that \$3,500,000 for construction of a distributing system will be requested in addition to the \$3,080,000 tentatively approved.

2. The Board of Governors of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce endorsed the city's contract with the Arkansas Water Company, under which the original PWA application was filed, and requested PWA Administrator Ickes to approve the application without the amendment.

3. J. F. Loughborough, attorney for the Arkansas Water Company, appeared before the council to serve notice that the company will oppose approval of the amended application by every fair legal means. He declared the amendment "unfair" and declared the company would prefer to stand by the original plan.

Mayor Reports On Trip to Washington.

Mayor Overman told the council that when he and Attorney John A. Sherrill went to Washington last week, they discovered that actual allotment of funds under the \$3,080,000 loan and grant approved by President Roosevelt "was snaggled on more than one desk." He said they were told by PWA officials "in no uncertain words" that the only hope of saving the original application was to present an amendment asking additional funds to construct a distributing system and make the project entirely municipal.

Preliminary plans for a new distributing system were taken to Washington by Marion L. Crist, engineer of the Burns & McDonnell firm, who arrived there yesterday. His firm has the engineering contract for the proposed water reservoir and pipeline.

Presenting a resolution for vote of the council, the mayor said it authorized filing the amendment and directed the mayor to furnish such additional information as the PWA might require. Alderman Duttlinger cast the lone vote against the resolution.

Any other opposition was threshed out at an executive session of the council, meeting as a Committee of the Whole in advance of the regular session. The resolution was seconded by Alderman Muswick, chairman of the Utilities Committee, which approved it Saturday, and was voted on without discussion.

Company's Lawyer 'Shocked' by Proposal.

Mr. Loughborough voiced the only objections. He said he had no information except that obtained through the newspapers but "to say that I was shocked when I heard of the proposal was expressing it mildly." The company since June has attempted to co-operate with the city in its efforts to improve the water supply, he said, and has acted with the utmost candor.

Before entering into a contract with the city he said the company took the precaution to communicate with PWA officials and received assurance that the project would be approved without difficulty.

"If the PWA is going to turn down the application, I don't see why they do not do it without further delay instead of using a pretext like this," he said referring to the demand that the city build a distributing system.

"The company will protest any such move. The amendment is not predicated on a sound basis and I do not believe it will go through. The city is trying to destroy the company's investment here. I believe the best thing to do is to single shot on the original plan for construction of a reservoir and pipeline."

S. R. Brough, superintendent for the company, was present at the council session. Following the meeting he said the company would protest to the PWA, whenever a hearing is held on the amended application. In the event it is approved, he said the company would resort to the courts.

H. H. Tucker, president of the Chamber of Commerce, took the floor at the invitation of Mayor Overman and read a telegram to PWA Administrator Harold L. Ickes urging approval for the original loan and grant application.

He said he believed construction of a distributing system would destroy the value of the company's property and force the company to take legal steps that would prevent accomplishment of the program for a better water supply.

Aldermen Dukes, Garrison and Bahil of North Little Rock attended the Little Rock Council meeting last night. They made short talks expressing interests in Little Rock's efforts to improve its water supply with PWA funds.

Radiogram Sent To Senator Robinson.

Following the meeting of the Board of Governors, Mr. Tucker sent the telegram to Mr. Ickes, asking that the city's original application for a loan and grant to construct a reservoir and pipeline be approved. A radiogram was sent to Senator Joe T. Robinson aboard the liner President Grant somewhere in the Pacific ocean en route to the Philippines, asking that he seek immediate approval of the original application.

The Chamber of Commerce appeal to Secretary Ickes declared that approval was "highly desirable." The original application was filed under contract

Amendment To Application Reaches PWA

Oct. 23, 1935

An amendment to the city's original application for a PWA loan and grant to construct a water reservoir and pipeline was filed yesterday with the PWA in Washington by Marion L. Crist, engineer representing the city, asking \$3,990,000 additional for construction of a distributing system.

The city's original application for \$3,500,000 was approved tentatively by the president in the amount of \$3,080,000 but the initial allotment was held up on the ground that the Arkansas Water Company would benefit from the loan and grant through its contract with the city, Mayor Overman said, following his return from Washington.

A resolution authorizing the amendment, which was adopted Monday night by the City Council, was forwarded to the PWA last night. The council disregarded a warning from the water company that it would resort to legal procedure to block construction of a duplicate distributing system.

Mayor Overman said the PWA had refused to make an allotment for the reservoir and pipeline unless the project were entirely a municipal venture. He said the amendment offered the only hope of saving the original application, since the city had failed to reach an agreement for purchase of the company's plant here.

S. R. Brough, superintendent for the company, said the American Waterworks and Electric Company, parent concern of the utility here, had been assured by PWA officials that it would have opportunity to protest the amendment before any action is taken.

Mr. Ickes Back Today.
Congressman D. D. Terry telephoned PWA officials at Washington yesterday, and was informed that Secretary Harold L. Ickes, PWA administrator, would not return to Washington until today. Mr. Terry is seconding efforts of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, which telegraphed Mr. Ickes Monday, asking the original application be approved without regard to the amendment.

Under the original application the company would pay not more than \$100,000 annually for 30 years to retire PWA bonds floated to pay the cost of the reservoir and pipeline.

The fact that the amendment was filed as a separate section of the city's application gave rise to the belief in some quarters that if the joint projects were approved the city might be restrained from constructing the distributing system but could proceed with the reservoir and pipeline under its contract with the water company.

Considers Good Water to Be Little Rock's Greatest Need.

Oct. 23, 1935

To the Editor of the Gazette:

It has been my pleasure to be a citizen of the city of Little Rock since January, 1934. Prior to coming here I lived in Charlotte, N. C., where I moved from my home town, Salisbury, N. C. My water bills here have been from two to three times larger than what they were in either of those cities. I was astonished by the high cost and deplored the bad quality of the Little Rock city water soon after I came here to live. This situation bears very heavily on the people of modest means.

I am not an advocate of the government going into private business. But I do believe that such activities as sanitation, health, police control, fire protection, education are best carried on publicly. Water should be a public enterprise. It should be good and cheap and plentiful. It is my opinion that a municipally-owned water distributing sys-

tem such as Mayor Overman is gloriously striving for, is the very best asset that the city of Little Rock can obtain. I can think of nothing that is so badly needed by our city. The truth of this seems to be generally realized by the people. The Salisbury and Charlotte (N. C.) water systems have always earned money for those municipalities and furnished good, cheap water, thereby lowering the tax burdens and improving the public health. I understand such is generally the case where water systems are publicly owned and operated.

I do not favor confiscating or destroying the value of the property of the Arkansas Water Company. I feel that it should receive full value for that part of its system that may be used in a modern plant. I am sure that the city government will select competent and fair minded appraisers to meet with the Arkansas Water Company's representatives and that they will arrive at an adequate and equitable value of the present distribution system.

Sir, please enlist me as one who favors a project whereby our city and people will be provided an abundant and much cheaper water supply and good quality water.

Hope For City's Water Project Seen

Oct. 24, 1935

Ultimate release of a PWA loan and grant for financing construction of the city's proposed water reservoir and pipeline, with or without realization of the supplemental project for constructing a distributing system was forecast last night, following return from Washington of Marion L. Crist, Burns & McDonnell engineer.

Mr. Crist returned by plane and was met by Chester A. Smith, senior engineer in charge of the Little Rock project. After a brief conference, Mr. Smith said his firm was hopeful that one or both projects would be given final approval by the PWA. Meanwhile engineering work will be continued in preparation of final specifications for the reservoir and pipeline.

It was believed that the PWA might compensate for delay in making available the original \$73,000 grant for engineering by adjusting the November 7 date that had been set by the state office for submitting final plans. Regulations call for award of contract before December 15.

City's Application Filed.

Mr. Crist filed the city's application for a \$3,990,000 loan and grant to construct a distributing system as a supplement to the original application. This left the way clear for the PWA to approve one or both applications. He left Washington yesterday afternoon after having been assured that the supplemental application embodied information sufficient to meet all preliminary requirements.

Contacting the heads of three of the five PWA divisions, Mr. Crist was assured that the Little Rock application would be brought to the attention of Secretary Harold L. Ickes immediately following his return to Washington. Mr. Ickes was expected back in his office today.

Senator Robinson in Appeal.

Mayor Overman and Chamber of Commerce officials were notified that Senator Joe T. Robinson had addressed a personal plea to President Roosevelt by radiogram asking that funds be released for the city's original project as approved tentatively by the president, allocating \$3,080,000 for the reservoir and pipeline. Senator Robinson is aboard the steamship President Grant en route to the Philippines.

His message to the president was in response to a radiogram sent him Monday by President H. H. Tucker of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce asking that he seek approval for the city's original application. The supplemental application was authorized by the City Council Monday night, following the return of Mayor Overman and Attorney John A. Sherrill from Washington. Mayor Overman said the PWA had demanded that the water project be made an entirely municipal undertaking and that the amendment seeking funds for a distributing system offered the only hope of saving the original application.

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Says That Little Rock Should Demand Better Water.

To the Editor of the Gazette:
To my knowledge the water question has been of paramount importance to our people for the last quarter century, and still it has not been settled to the satisfaction of the consuming public.

It is a well known fact that the water at times is unpalatable. Rates are excessive. In dry seasons only the well-to-do can afford to supply vegetation with artificial methods of moisture, a moisture that is only partially efficient; the water killing much of the vegetation. Abundant, pure, wholesome water at reasonable cost is essential to the health of the community.

Throughout all these years the water company has maintained that the only available source of supply is the Arkansas river. It has fought every effort to improve the situation. Only when the present mayor presented unanswerable proof that another supply was available, and a government financing was available, would it acknowledge that something could be done to relieve the situation.

When the matter was before the courts as to the revenue the company was entitled to, it with its finances and organization and able counsel, was in position to present figures of values, etc., that a city without finances for the purpose, was unable to refute. I am quite sure that a proper appraisal of the properties would not have shown any such values. The court, of course, had to make its decision on the facts and figures as presented to it. Again this same company is represented by counsel second to none in ability, and prepared to fight the case in the courts to the bitter end, hoping no doubt that legal delays will deprive the city of the opportunity of this government finance.

If the water company is sincere in its statement that it is willing to sell its holdings at a fair price, there should be little difficulty in getting together and a deal being consummated. There are engineer appraisers, nationally known, competent and honorable that could be jointly employed by the company and the city and a value fixed.

It is high time for our people to rise up as one man and offer the mayor whole-hearted support, and let the water company know once for all that while it may accomplish its desires in this one instance, through legal delays, the city will own and operate its own plant sooner or later, financed through the sale of bonds. In that instance there would be no desire to compromise with it, but buy at the lowest price possible.

PWA Official Here on Water Supply Plans

A. T. Ricketts Making Personal Inquiry About Applications.

A. T. Ricketts, special investigator for the Washington office of the PWA, arrived in Little Rock yesterday and is conducting a personal investigation in connection with the city's application for a \$3,080,000 municipal water supply and also the application for an additional loan and grant of \$3,990,000 for the construction of a municipal distribution system to compete with the Arkansas Water Company.

While in Little Rock Mr. Ricketts will contact as many citizens as possible in an effort to learn the general attitude with reference to the proposal to secure a new water supply from the Alum fork of the Saline river 40 miles west of Little Rock. He also will seek information relative to the proposal to acquire the municipal distribution plant.

The city's second water project was launched last week after Mayor R. E. Overman and John A. Sherrill, attorney for the city in connection with the water supply project, were advised by PWA officials in Washington that the city must acquire a distribution system if it is to secure the release of funds for the new supply, which previously had been approved by the PWA and President Roosevelt.

The second application was presented direct to the Washington office of the PWA by M. L. Crist, one of the Burns & McDonnell engineers from Kansas City, and is due to receive consideration this week by Harold L. Ickes, PWA administrator.

City officials are marking time pending some announcement from Washington relative to the fate of the water supply program. The Arkansas Water Company, owner and operator of the water distribution system here, is opposing the plan to secure PWA money for the construction of a competing system, and has filed protests with the Washington officials. The nature of the protest has not been made public.

Engineering crews by Burns & McDonnell to make surveys on the reservoir site and the 40-mile pipe line right-of-way still are working in an effort to have specifications for the project in shape to award bids on the water supply project by December 15 as required by the PWA. Their work is being carried on in anticipation that the \$3,080,000 loan and grant for the supply project eventually may be released to the city.

Mayor Overman last night said he was hopeful that one or both of the projects may secure early approval, in order that construction can be started with the least possible delay. He called attention to the importance of the water program to the city in that it would provide employment for a large number of persons and benefit business generally, since a major portion of the money would go for pay rolls and soon find its way into business channels.

He stressed the necessity for securing a new water supply and pointed to the fact that nearly all cities on the Arkansas river have abandoned the river as a source of supply for their water systems.

Commenting on the two water proposals, Mayor Overman said that his original plan called for the use of private capital to purchase the distribution system of the Arkansas Water Company and an application for PWA money to provide the new water supply.

Merits Considered.
When an agreement was reached with the Arkansas Water Company to permit it to continue operation of the distribution system by using water from the proposed new municipally-owned supply, the PWA gave its approval to the plan and the application was prepared on that basis.

It is believed that Mr. Ricketts, special investigator for the PWA, was sent here from Washington to consider the merits of the two water proposals. Reports available last night indicate that he has been informed by several persons that the city is not in full accord with the plan for constructing a second water distribution system in Little Rock, but there is a widespread desire on the part of Little Rock citizens to acquire a new water supply.

Under the agreement between the city and the water company, the water company would pay the city about \$100,000 a year for the right to distribute water from the new supply, the payment to be sufficient to permit the city to retire its loan from federal authorities. Under the contract the city reserves the right to take steps to acquire the water distribution system at any time.

Examiner For PWA Talks To Geologist

A description of the geological structure at the site of the proposed dam on Alum Fork of Saline river, where the city proposes to construct a reservoir, was described as "satisfactory" yesterday by A. T. Ricketts, engineering examiner for the PWA, following a conference with Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist.

Mr. Ricketts said that he would inspect the pumping station, treatment plant and other properties of the Arkansas Water Company today. He also will confer with H. H. Tucker, president of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, before returning to Washington tonight or tomorrow.

So far his findings in the investigation of the city's proposal to construct a water reservoir and pipeline with a \$3,080,000 PWA loan and grant have been entirely favorable. His visit to Little Rock followed a demand from the PWA that the water improvement project be made an entirely municipal venture, which caused the city to file a supplemental application for a \$3,990,000 loan and grant to construct a distributing system in competition with the Arkansas Water Company.

Mr. Ricketts' investigations so far are believed to have disclosed a general approval of the original application, under which the company agreed to retire the cost of the project over a 30-year period and allow the city to retain title to the supply system.

More Time On Water Supply Data Asked

Mayor Overman said yesterday a request had been forwarded to the PWA asking that the city be given an extension of time beyond the December 15 deadline for award of contract in the event the tentatively approved PWA loan and grant of \$3,080,000 for construction of a water reservoir and pipeline is made available.

Engineers will be able to submit final specifications for the 37-mile pipeline in advance of November 15, to permit award of that contract by December 15, but Mayor Overman said it would be impossible to prepare specifications for the dam and reservoir by that date, because an initial allotment of \$73,000 for engineering work has been withheld.

Early decision on the project is expected following the return to Washington today of A. T. Ricketts, who was sent here by the PWA to conduct an investigation as to the feasibility of the project.

Chester A. Smith, senior engineer for Burns & McDonnell, in charge of the project, returned yesterday from Kansas City, Mo., and Denver, Col. At the latter city he visited the engineering office of the Reclamation Service of the Department of the Interior and inspected plans for earth dam construction, similar to the dam proposed on the Alum Fork of Saline river. Mr. Smith said data he gathered would prove valuable in designing the Alum Fork dam.

CITY WILL MAKE NEW OFFER FOR WATER SYSTEM

Developments Prove Encouraging.

The city of Little Rock will submit a formal offer of \$3,000,000 to the Arkansas Water Company for its plant and distribution system here immediately after the return of Mayor Overman and J. F. Loughborough, company attorney, from Washington, John A. Sherrill, attorney for the city, announced yesterday.

Announcement that the city would resume negotiations for purchase of the property was made following announcements from Washington yesterday that the PWA:

1—Had rejected the city's original application for a \$3,080,000 loan and grant for a water reservoir and pipeline, because the city proposed to lease it to a private company.

2—Had agreed to consider the city's amended application for a loan and grant of \$3,990,000 to construct a municipally-owned distributing system in conjunction with the reservoir and pipeline making the total cost \$7,070,000.

It was reported the company had declined to consider a tentative offer of \$3,000,000 several weeks ago but Mr. Sherrill expressed the hope that future negotiations might be more successful because of failure of the PWA to approve the proposed water supply improvement.

Two Units Approve Plan.

Mayor Overman advised Mr. Sherrill in a telegram from Washington late yesterday that the joint \$7,070,000 project had been approved by the Legal and Engineering Divisions of the PWA. Action of the Finance Division, whose approval also is needed, is awaiting a report from the state PWA office, his telegram said. Mayor Overman said he would remain in Washington until tomorrow to confer with Secretary Ickes.

Mr. Sherrill pointed out that if the joint application is approved the city could build a new distributing system cheaper than the existing system might be purchased, because a grant of \$1,795,500 would reduce the actual cost to \$2,194,500. However, he said the city probably would prefer to purchase the company's holdings if "a fair price" can be argued upon.

First Offer Rejected.

Several months ago the water company submitted an offer to sell its Little Rock holdings for \$4,367,079 plus \$634,625 for its North Little Rock properties. The price was termed excessive by Mayor Overman and purchase negotiations were dropped in favor of an agreement intended to secure an improved water supply. Under the terms of a contract signed by representatives of the city and the company, the latter agreed to pay not more than \$100,000 annually to retire the cost of the proposed \$3,080,000 reservoir and pipeline, over a period of 30 years.

The company was to receive 2,900,000 gallons of water annually during the contract period but title to the project was to remain in the city, which also retained its right to purchase the company's properties at any time.

Proposal Rejected.

The PWA rejected the proposal yesterday, ruling that PWA rules forbid allocation of funds to a municipality which proposes to build an improvement and then lease it to a private company.

At a hearing before Col. H. B. Hackett, assistant PWA administrator, Mayor Overman and representatives of the water company were told the city's amended application—to include both the distributing system and the reservoir—would be given consideration.

The company's attorneys filed formal protest Friday to the city's amended application for funds to construct a competing distributing system, but Mayor Overman advised officials yesterday that "the water company's protest to our supplemental application was received unfavorably by PWA officials."

Believes Loan Possible.

Mr. Sherrill expressed the belief yesterday that if a purchase price can be agreed on by the city and water company, the necessary money can be borrowed by the city from the PWA at four per cent interest.

Purchase of the properties by the city also would clear the way for PWA approval of the \$3,080,000 loan and grant for the reservoir and pipeline.

The total indebtedness incurred could be retired and a surplus accumulated on the basis of present water rates, he said.

Emphasizing that proposed improvement of the city's water supply was not doomed by action of the PWA, Mr. Sherrill said the city would go ahead with plans for acquiring or building a distributing system to meet PWA requirements.

Chester A. Smith and Marion L. Crist, of Burns and McDonnell, engineers in charge of the water projects, announced after a conference with Mr. Sherrill, that they would file final specifications for the 36-mile pipeline with the state PWA office tomorrow.

Tomorrow is the last day for filing specifications for "a substantial part of the project" under a recent extension of time granted by Colonel Hackett. However, Mayor Overman advised Mr. Sherrill that additional time to complete engineering work on the project was assured.

Mr. Smith expressed gratification over the prompt approval of the joint \$7,070,000 project by the Engineering Division of the PWA. He said all requests of the PWA for engineering information had been met promptly and Mr. Crist on a recent visit to Washington was assured by engineering officials that the co-operation had facilitated handling the application by that division.

Mayor Overman is expected to return here Wednesday while Mr. Loughborough, who represented the water company in Washington, is scheduled to return today.

City Water Project Not Turned, PWA Officials Say.

Washington, Nov. 22 (AP).—Public Works Administration officials said today Little Rock (Ark.) city officials had not been advised its application for a water reservoir and distribution system had been turned down or frowned upon.

Col. H. B. Hackett, assistant PWA administrator, said he had told Mayor Overman of Little Rock the PWA would continue the reservoir distribution system application but that it was not known whether it would be finally approved. He said the mayor asked him, "how about our auditorium and sewer projects?"

Colonel Hackett said he told him they would be considered on their merits and he added he had no further word from Mayor Overman since that conversation.

MAYOR OVERMAN IN CRITICISM OF PWA'S ATTITUDE

Nov 25, 1935

Calls Conference for Tuesday.

Declaring "it would seem that the city is being penalized for its loyalty to the Democratic party," Mayor Overman yesterday called a meeting for 3 p. m. Tuesday to discuss the status of the city's efforts to secure a new water supply.

Members of the City Planning Commission, the Water Committee of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, the Utilities Committee of the City Council and the Civic Projects Authority will be invited to attend the meeting, which will be held in the mayor's office.

The meeting will be asked to address resolutions and telegrams to President Roosevelt, Senator Robinson and Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, PWA administrator, protesting against "imaginary technicalities" which threaten defeat for the city's proposal to improve its water supply. Because of the little time remaining in which the city can comply with PWA requirements, Mayor Overman said the meeting would consider other steps to guard the city against losing the \$3,080,000 allotment already approved by President Roosevelt.

He said he would talk with E. H. Foley, chief of the PWA Finance Division at Washington, to determine finally the outlook for the city's amended application for \$3,080,000 to obtain a new water supply and \$3,990,000 for constructing a competing distributing system, a total of \$7,070,000. The amended application already has the approval of the Legal and Engineering Divisions and is awaiting action by the PWA finance office.

A proposed conference with officials of the Arkansas Water Company at which the city was to offer \$3,000,000 for the company's properties here was postponed indefinitely pending Tuesday's conference.

Engineers of Burns & McDonnell this week will complete technical work on the proposed \$1,750,000 pipeline to connect the city with the reservoir proposed on Alum Fork of Saline river and Mayor Overman pointed out the city will be prepared to go ahead with the project with either PWA or private funds. Further engineering work will necessitate expensive borings at the proposed dam site and is expected to await development of a definite program.

Mayor's Review Of Negotiations With PWA.

Reviewing the city's efforts to improve the water supply, Mayor Overman said yesterday:

"It was in February of this year that the federal government called for an inventory of worthwhile projects by cities and states over the entire nation as contemplated under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of \$4,800,000,000.

"In response to this call for an inventory of worthwhile projects the city of Little Rock compiled a list of projects aggregating approximately \$10,000,000 and filed them with the agency. Making up this list of projects included first, the new water supply for the city of Little Rock at a cost of \$3,500,000; second, a complete intercepting sewer system at a cost of \$1,500,000 and 14 other meritorious projects.

"The public is thoroughly familiar with the unsatisfactory water conditions of the city, both as to quality of water and as to the rate paid. They are also familiar with the campaign which was carried on with a view to work out a satisfactory adjustment of our water problem with the water company, which has been unsuccessful up to this time.

"We had every reason to expect and pledge our faith upon the federal government's indicated desire to assist us in the matter of working out our water problem.

"In strict compliance with the federal regulations there was filed in the local PWA office our application for loan and grant \$3,500,000 with which to acquire land and right-of-way and to construct dam, reservoir and 40 miles of pipeline bringing to the city water from a clear, sparkling mountain stream which would be distributed to our people at no increase in rates, the distribution system being owned by private utility.

Contract With Company Deemed Expedient.

"It seemed expedient, because of the time element, that the city make a contract with the water company whereby the city would make application for loan and grant to complete the necessary new source of supply, the city wholesaling the water to the water company at an annual rate which would be sufficient to pay our interest and principal charges on the project, with certain other concessions favorable to the city, especially the payment to the city of 3 1-2 cents per thousand gallons for all water delivered in excess of 2,500,000,000 gallons.

"Those of us that were fully informed as to the context of the agreement considered it a good contract for the city of Little Rock and, at least, was the best we could get within the limited time which we had to work. I felt, however, that the contract was merely a temporary workout to tide us over until the construction could be completed and the water started flowing in the new line, when we should take up the matter of the purchase of the distribution system as provided under Act 324 of the Acts of 1935.

"In further compliance with federal regulations, at much expense for engineering, legal and financial data we filed with the PWA our application for loan and grant for the estimated sum of 3 1-2 million dollars to construct and furnish the city with a new source of supply, as described above and it is to be noted that we filed with this application a copy of the contract drawn up between the city and the water company together with copies of the several ordinances and resolutions, authorizing the request for loan and grant as prescribed by federal regulations. In order to get under the wire, or the zero hour for filing, this work had to be done not only days and nights, but included Sundays and holidays and official filing was made September 6.

Approved by Staff In Washington.

"After sufficient time was required by the local PWA office these documents were forwarded to Washington and I learned while in Washington that this project was approved by the staff of the local PWA organization as regards finance, engineering and legal requirements.

"During the interim between the filing of this application and the notice of approval, in our anxiety, we solicited and received the fullest support and assistance of all local organized civic bodies, more particularly the Chamber of Commerce, also the personal assistance and solicitation of Senator Joseph T. Robinson, who wired Secretary Ickes and also President Roosevelt. On September 30 we were notified by the Public Works Administration that our application for loan and grant to construct a new source of supply, having been given the title Docket Arkansas 1106, had been approved for \$3,080,000. Senator Robinson was notified by the president of this approval. This approval was later confirmed by the local PWA office. It appeared at this time that one of our dreams for better water had been made possible.

"On the strength of the notification, both to the city and to the engineers, work was commenced on the survey of pipe line and the location of the dam and it was necessary to work day and night making the survey in the day time and the drawings at night as we were working against a fixed maturity date of November 7 for completion of the plans and specifications and December 15 for the award of the contracts.

"Owing to the limited time allowed the city it was necessary to put a large crew of engineers in the field. Some 40 men were employed. They have completed the survey on the pipe line and filed the plans and specifications and are in position to award the contracts on the date set by the president. It is to be regretted that the engineers were put to extraordinary expense to comply with the time requirements of the PWA.

Learns of Objections While in Washington.

"On October 16 I was in Washington with Mr. John Sherrill, attorney, and we were notified, by the assistant administrator and his examining board, that they would recommend the rescission of the original approval of the loan and grant on the ground that the contract as drawn between the city and the water company had the effect of inuring to the benefit of a private

utility and we were further told that the only way we could keep our application under consideration would be to file a supplemental application asking for loan and grant sufficient to construct a complete new distribution system for the city of Little Rock and this was done.

"I'm advised that our supplemental application has met with the complete approval of the Legal and Engineering Divisions in Washington and that we will be advised during the coming week of the decision of the financial department, and I have every reason to believe that the financial department will approve the application because of its very attractive financial set-up.

Employment For Many at Stake.

"It grieves me exceedingly when I realize winter is coming on and we have so many unemployed able bodied men in the city of Little Rock, Pulaski, Saline and Perry counties, that would be affected by the construction of this new source, reservoir, dam and pipeline and at a wage scale set out in our application as prevailing wage. In cases of machine operators and skilled mechanics then the wage would be the union wage scale for semi-skilled labor would be 55 cents to 75 cents per hour and for common labor 30 cents to 45 cents per hour.

"This, in effect, would aid greatly to our local prosperity which would mean much for our merchants and our professional men. Furthermore I had in mind that of the total amount applied for by the city of Little Rock approximating \$7,000,000 from PWA, that there would be enough of this allotted directly to our city to enable us to carry on certain permanent construction work at prevailing wages to assure us of better times here for the next year.

"It is to be remembered that of the first Public Works program of \$3,003,000,000 that there has been no allotment made directly to the city of Little Rock from the first program and up to this time we have no direct allotment to the city in the second program.

"Thus it would seem that the city of Little Rock is penalized for its loyalty to the Democratic party.

"It is to be hoped that the PWA authorities in Washington realize that our applications have been thoroughly studied by an impartial board as well as all civic organizations and that we are united in our demand for assistance in this, our most meritorious project."

PROMISES STEPS FOR BUYING OUT WATER COMPANY

Nov 27, 1935

Mayor Urged to Proceed.

Following a meeting of representatives of civic agencies yesterday, at which he was urged to continue efforts to obtain a new water supply for the city, Mayor Overman announced that legal steps would be taken today that should assure the PWA of the city's determination to purchase the distributing system of the Arkansas Water Company.

Three courses appeared to be available through which the city might proceed. They are:

Agreement between the city and the company for immediate purchase of the latter's property.

An appeal to the state Department of Public Utilities to fix "a fair value" for the property.

A special election to authorize condemnation proceedings in the courts.

To Make Decision Today.

Mayor Overman and John Sherrill, attorney for the city on the project, are known to favor condemnation proceedings, but the mayor declined to say what action was planned today. He said he planned to confer today with Mr. Sherrill to determine the city's course.

When the city has committed itself to purchase the property, he said he would ask the PWA to outline any other requirements that must be met to obtain the \$3,080,000 allotment approved by President Roosevelt for construction of a water reservoir and pipeline.

Acquisition of the distributing system would remove a major objection of the PWA, which has taken the position that the company, if permitted to distribute water from the new source of supply, would receive the chief benefit from the loan and grant.

Offers Resolution.

C. L. Thompson, chairman of the Water Supply Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, offered a resolution affirming support of the mayor's program, which was seconded by Alderman George Muswick, chairman of the City Council Utilities Committee, and adopted without opposition.

The resolution said: "Whereas, we as representatives of civic organizations, are steadfast in the determination that the city of Little Rock should have a new water supply, we ask that you continue efforts toward that end, taking whatever steps that may be necessary, including legal action to acquire the distributing system of the Arkansas Water Company, if such course is recommended as a means of obtaining a federal loan and grant for constructing a new water supply system."

Present at Conference.

Attending the meeting were: Chairman Thompson, M. Z. Bair, Dr. George C. Branner and Thomas S. Buzbee, of the Water Supply Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

J. N. Heiskell, chairman; S. V. Bracy, Dr. W. A. Lamb, Mrs. J. F. Loughborough and Louis Tarlowski of the City Planning Commission.

Aldermen Muswick, chairman; George Wherry and C. B. Erwin of the City Council Utilities Committee.

C. A. Franke and A. B. Pickett of the Civic Projects Authority.

D. Hodson Lewis, manager of the Chamber of Commerce.

W. M. Mitchell, W. T. Sitlington, Carl Jagers, assistant city attorney, and Marion L. Crist, engineer for Burns & McDonnell, in charge of the water supply project.

Mayor Overman said he had called the meeting to report on progress made toward providing a new water supply. He described PWA objections to releasing the \$3,080,000 water supply allotment as "silly," and expressed belief that the money might yet be obtained if sufficient political pressure could be brought to bear.

Mr. Buzbee pointed out that the money for the PWA program is being spent according to regulations rather than actual laws, and suggested that a direct appeal to President Roosevelt might be effective since he would be in position to waive conflicting regulations if the Little Rock situation justified such action.

Engineer's 'Farewell' Talk.

Mr. Crist in a "farewell speech" said the Alum Fork water supply project was adequate for the city's needs.

Final specifications for the pipeline have been filed with the PWA office here and the field survey for the proposed dam has been completed in such shape that engineering work can be resumed on short notice, Mr. Crist said. A contract could be awarded within three weeks and 1,000 men employed, he said.

Following the meeting Mr. Crist left for Kansas City. Other members of his engineering party which at one time numbered nearly 40 left Monday. They will not resume work on the project until money is forthcoming from the PWA or other sources.

Mayor Overman warned that options on property at the reservoir site will expire in January and February. He indicated money from private sources could be secured at four per cent interest if the PWA program should fail.

"OUT ON THE LINE" OF OUR WATER-SUPPLY PROJECT.

Challenging some of his critics to "come out on the battle line of human necessity," President Roosevelt told in his Atlanta speech of the work relief provided for the unemployed and of public projects that have been constructed. Among the projects specifically mentioned were "sewers and sewage disposal plants and water-works."

We wish Mr. Roosevelt could be taken "out on the line" of Little Rock's water supply project. He could be shown so easily why the people desire a new supply to replace the present one from the Arkansas river. He could be shown that Little Rock has found a reservoir site which lies waiting to be made the source of all the good water Little Rock could need, and waiting also to furnish, along with the pipe line, thousands of man-hours on construction work, if only the city can get the necessary PWA funds.

WITH MAYOR ON TRIP, PWA KILLS WATER PROJECT

Nov 2, 1935

Council Will Meet Today.

With Mayor Overman absent from the city for a week word came from Washington last night that Col. H. B. Hackett, assistant PWA administrator, had revoked Little Rock's \$3,080,000 water allotment and rejected the supplementary application for \$6,000,000.

However, hope for the project remained alive. John A. Sherrill, attorney for the city, said he believes Senator Joe T. Robinson can obtain re-approval of a project. The senator is expected home from his Oriental tour in two or three weeks.

Mayor Overman left early yesterday by air for Los Angeles to visit his son, Richard E. Overman Jr. No acting mayor has been designated. Alderman Henry G. Leiser, senior member of the City Council, said last night that he would confer individually with the other members with a view toward arranging a special meeting today to elect an acting mayor. He said Mayor Overman had asked him to do this.

Puzzled by Action.

Mr. Sherrill said he could not understand what prompted the PWA action. The matter supposedly was in abeyance, pending a conference of city officials and Arkansas Water Company representatives on a proposal to purchase the company's local system. The conference, originally scheduled for today, has been postponed until Saturday.

Mr. Sherrill said PWA officials had assured the city the allotment would be available if negotiations for purchase of the distributing system were completed before December 15.

According to the Washington report, the money rescinded will be re-allotted to the sewer projects in Little Rock and North Little Rock, which were approved tentatively several days ago. Bids for sections of both projects will be opened December 12.

The first Little Rock bids will be for a section to cost about \$6,500, although the allotment for the entire project will be \$1,654,000. The North Little Rock allotment will be \$300,000 and the section on which bids have been asked will cost about \$25,000.

Definite Rejection of Water Application Announced.

Washington, Dec. 1 (AP).—Col. Horatio B. Hackett, assistant PWA administrator, said tonight a \$3,080,000 allotment to Little Rock, Ark., for a new water supply project had been revoked and the money would be re-allotted to other Arkansas projects.

At the same time, he disclosed rejection of a second Little Rock application—for \$6,000,000—which would have included the \$3,080,000 water supply project and also construction of a distribution system or purchase of the Arkansas Water Company's.

The money rescinded, he said, would be re-allotted to sewer projects in Little Rock and North Little Rock.

Colonel Hackett said PWA's decision to rescind the initial allotment and reject the later application, was due to the length of time needed for Little Rock to acquire the distribution system.

He said the city water company could not agree on a price and that condemnation seemed necessary. It was obvious, he said, that court proceedings could not be concluded in time for contracts to be awarded by December 15, the contract deadline for PWA projects.

PWA Again Considering Water Project

Dec 18 1935

Washington, Dec. 17 (P).—Public Works Administration officials said today an application by the city of Little Rock, Ark., for a loan and grant of \$7,000,000 to construct a water supply system had been taken under consideration again, after having been once rejected.

They declined to explain.

The PWA said Mayor Overman of Little Rock had been told by Col. H. B. Hackett, assistant administrator, that consideration would be given the project to build a reservoir and a distribution system. They promised "definite word" as to the project within a few days.

Little Rock applied for a loan of \$3,000,000 to construct the reservoir, but amended the application to include the distribution system. Since the city is served by the Arkansaw Water Company, officials representing this concern protested.

Sewer Project in No Danger.

Hackett was quoted later as saying another Little Rock PWA allotment, for a sewer project would be rescinded unless some action was taken, but a PWA spokesman, when informed a contract was awarded last week for the first section of the sewer project, said "in that case it won't be cancelled."

"We are pushing all projects and trying to get them under way," he said, "but if a contract has been let on the Little Rock sewer project, it's certain it won't be rescinded. Colonel Hackett probably had not heard the contract had been let."

En route to the Policeman's Ball last night, Mayor Overman stopped long enough to attribute reinstatement of the Little Rock water project to Senator Joe T. Robinson.

"I believe reinstatement of the project was due to Senator Robinson's influence and I want to express to him the appreciation of the city and its citizens," the mayor said.

He revealed that the senator probably will be asked to attend a luncheon with business men to discuss the possibility of PWA approval for the water supply project.

The Special Sewer Committee will meet at 10 a. m. tomorrow to ratify the PWA's bond purchase agreement for the approved \$1,654,000 sewer improvement project, and a special session of the City Council will be held at 3 p. m. for final action on the proposal.

Water Project At Standstill

Dec 26 - 1935

Will Postpone Action Pending Return of Sen. Robinson.

Developments in connection with the city's water program are not expected until United States Senator Joe T. Robinson returns to Little Rock, it was indicated yesterday.

Mayor R. E. Overman said the matter was being held in abeyance until a conference can be had with Senator Robinson. He will be asked to recommend to Washington authorities that the PWA reinstate Little Rock's application for a \$3,080,000 loan and grant for a new water supply on the condition the city will take steps to acquire a distribution system.

The city's water supply project was rejected after the PWA reversed its position on the application. The original application contained a contract between the city and the Arkansaw Water Company under which the water company would purchase water from the new supply and repay the PWA loan to the city to provide the municipal supply. The contract, PWA officials said, keeps the city's project from being a "truly municipal one" and the application was rejected.

City Attorney Has Water Supply Plan

Dec. 22, 1935

While a committee representing civic and business leaders was pledging continued support to Mayor Overman yesterday, City Attorney Ed I. McKinley Jr., in a letter made public by the mayor, outlined a program whereby the city might proceed immediately to purchase the distributing system of the Arkansaw Water Company and utilize a new water source.

Mr. McKinley referring to a decision rendered December 2 by the Arkansas Supreme Court, upholding the right of Paragould to construct a municipal power plant, suggested that Little Rock use a latent credit of 8 5-6 mills (approximately \$353,000 annually) to guarantee a bond issue to provide funds: (1) To acquire the properties of the Arkansaw Water Company through condemnation proceedings or to build a new distribution system, and (2) to construct a reservoir and pipeline, preferably the Alum Fork project which engineering surveys have found feasible and economically sound.

10 Mills Authorized.

Mr. McKinley pointed out that under Amendment 13 the city may levy as high as 10 mills for construction, purchase and extension of waterworks and light plants. At present the city is levying 1 1-6 mills.

Revenue from operation of the water system probably would make collection of the tax unnecessary, Mr. McKinley said, but the tax guarantee would cause the bonds to find a ready market at low interest rates.

If steps to acquire the distributing system and a new supply are taken immediately, the city attorney said, there is hope that a 45 per cent grant for the project might be obtained from the PWA. The Washington office of the PWA recently rescinded an allotment of \$3,080,000 for a loan and grant to Little Rock for construction of facilities for a new water supply, the cost of which was to be retired by sale of water to the Arkansaw Water Company. A supplemental application asking for \$3,990,000 to construct a competing distributing system also was denied.

Interprets Court Ruling.

Reviewing the Supreme Court decision in the Paragould case, Mr. McKinley said:

"Our court has held that the constitution reserves to the people of a municipality control over the utilities. This control may be exercised effectively in any city of the first or second class by the express desire of the people to build, purchase and operate a utility system. This may even be done where other utilities are in the field.

"I am calling this to your attention at this time as it appears that the interests who have opposed you in securing for Little Rock a better water supply have gained a victory. It occurs to me that this need only be a temporary victory if you lay your plans for a fight to the finish with those who stand in the way of securing for Little Rock a better water supply by now taking advantage of the only course which is left open to you.

"I am informed by the city clerk that the city is levying only 1 1-6 mills of the allowed tax rate under the so-called Amendment 13. For the purpose of construction, purchase or extension of waterworks and light plants the city may levy as high as 10 mills.

Estimates Encouraging.

"I would suggest, therefore, that you consult our accountants, Chase & Gaunt, and have them check the revenue that might be derived therefrom. Rough calculations indicated that it would be more than sufficient to construct the dam and reservoir as originally planned by you and in addition build a new system or purchase the existing one at a fair price, which would be arrived at by condemnation proceedings.

"The decision in the Paragould case removes all obstacles and it is no longer necessary for the city to attempt to deal in a compromising manner with the water company if they do not desire to meet the proper and equitable demands of the city.

"The people of Little Rock are depending on this administration to give actual relief on the water question and it appears to me that this decision of the Supreme Court paves the way for you to bring this objective which means so much to the health of the people of Little Rock, and for which you have fought so hard, to a successful conclusion notwithstanding the efforts of those who have selfish interests to serve."

Awaiting Senator's Return.

Mayor Overman said the city attorney's proposal would receive careful consideration. He told the special committee which called on him yesterday, that no developments of the water supply program are expected before the return of Senator Joe T. Robinson next week.

The committee was composed of former Gov. George W. Donaghey, C. E. Faulhaber and Dr. Robert Caldwell. It was selected at a meeting of business and civic leaders at Mr. Donaghey's office Wednesday night. Its members delivered a resolution adopted at the meeting pledging continued support and confidence in the mayor's program.

Mayor Overman has said that if Senator Robinson is unable to secure reinstatement of the city's PWA application, the city and water company will try to work out a plan for obtaining a new water supply with private financing.

City Renews Move to Buy Out Company

Dec 23 1935

Following return of Mayor Overman and John A. Sherrill, project attorney, from Washington yesterday, negotiations were reopened with the Arkansaw Water Company for purchase of its properties by the city with a part of the \$7,074,500 loan and grant approved Saturday by the PWA for a new water supply and distributing system.

J. F. Loughborough, attorney for the company, said George W. Biggs, chief engineer, and Lorenzo Semple, assistant to the vice president of the American Waterworks and Electric Company, parent concern, will arrive here Thursday to discuss proposed sale of the Arkansaw Water Company's properties.

Under the city's agreement with the PWA, a part of the loan and grant made from the revolving fund set up under Title 2 of the National Recovery Act, can be used by the city for purchase of the company's properties or for constructing a competing system, estimated to cost \$3,990,000.

Mayor Overman said last night that no action will be taken toward realization of a municipally-owned distributing system or construction of a new water supply pending outcome of Thursday's conference. The water project agreement must be ratified by the City Council in much the same manner as was the PWA bond purchase agreement for the \$1,640,000 sewer project.

Mayor Overman said he was assured by the PWA that approval of the water program will not interfere with the sewer project.

"Wonderful Opportunity."

"A wonderful opportunity for the city to own a complete water system including the distribution property and a new source of supply is made possible by the federal government's offer of a loan and grant of \$7,074,500 from the revolving fund set up under Title 2 of the National Recovery Act," Mayor Overman said.

"This provides for a loan and grant on the 30-70 plan, the grant amounting to \$1,939,500, the sum applicable for labor and materials required in the construction of the entire project.

"The PWA has allotted us \$7,074,000 for the acquisition of a distribution system and a new source of supply. If we can acquire the distribution system from the water company and construct a new source of supply within that figure, that will be done.

"Our engineers advise us that we can construct a new distribution system and a new source of supply within that figure and, if necessary, that will be done.

"I want our citizens to know that we were most graciously received by Colonel Hackett [assistant PWA administrator] and his advisory board, Messrs. Foley, Kades, Thoron and Bulger. These gentlemen, representing the legal, financial and engineering divisions, evidenced a very keen interest in the Little Rock situation and gave us every assurance that the PWA was behind us in our effort to acquire a new source of supply, including a complete distribution system for the city of Little Rock.

Grateful to Senator.

"So fortunate for Little Rock that Senator Robinson arrived home at a time when local interest in the water project was at 'fever heat' and his timely efforts in our behalf have resulted in the present work-out with the officials of PWA in Washington.

"Alexander Allaire, state PWA engineer, and his staff are due much credit for exhaustive research and careful presentation of the project, which was an important factor influencing favorable action by the national office.

"The city administration is keenly appreciative of the approval and wholehearted support given us in our attempt to secure for our citizenship a new source of water supply.

"It is urgently requested that we continue to have the full support of our citizens and that we continue to have their confidence in this most meritorious project since it will require time to work out the details, but we assure you that we will work rapidly so that final completion may be expedited all possible."

NOTHING COULD MEAN MORE FOR LITTLE ROCK.

The approval of Little Rock's water supply application by the Public Works Administration means not only that \$7,074,000 will be made available to build the Alum Fork reservoir and connecting pipe line and acquire a distributing system, but that 30 per cent of the labor and material bill for construction will be an outright grant from the government. The public certainly has reason to congratulate itself as well as Mayor Overman on the outcome of his untiring efforts to put this undertaking through.

The new water supply project has had the approval and support of the whole community. The people were so determined to have satisfactory water that if they could not get this government assistance they were prepared to see what could be done by private financing.

It may fairly be said of this project that it fulfills the demands of the government's program. The construction will provide work for a large number of unemployed men over a long period. And there could be no public improvement more vitally needed and of more enduring benefit.

PWA AGREES TO PROVIDE WATER PROJECT MONEY

\$7,074,500 in Loan and Grant.

Dec 26, 1935

A Christmas gift to Little Rock in the form of PWA approval for a loan and grant of \$7,074,500 to enable the city to construct a new water supply and acquire a distributing system was announced yesterday by Senator Joe T. Robinson after he was notified of this action by Col. Horatio B. Hackett, assistant PWA administrator, who telephoned the senator from Washington.

An Associated Press dispatch from Washington, later, quoted a PWA official as saying a part of the allotment can be used to purchase the properties of the Arkansaw Water Company or for building a new distributing system. It was made on the basis of a 30 per cent grant of the cost of labor and materials.

Mayor Overman and John A. Sherrill, attorney for the project, left Washington before approval of the project was announced by the PWA and were en route home last night.

Senator Robinson received a telegram from Mayor Overman expressing appreciation of his efforts in securing reinstatement and approval for the project and announcing a contract had been signed with the PWA.

Alexander Allaire, state PWA engineer, was absent from the city yesterday, and the state office said no action could be taken until a copy of the PWA agreement with the city is received, probably tomorrow or Tuesday.

Complete plans and specifications for a 36-mile pipeline from the proposed Alum Fork reservoir to Little Rock are on file with the state PWA office. Bids for construction of the pipeline, estimated to cost \$1,500,000, can be awarded within a short time after technical requirements are met.

Marion L. Crist and Chester A. Smith engineers of the Burns & McDonnell firm of Kansas City, Mo., are expected to return here immediately, prepared to resume engineering work at the site of the proposed dam and reservoir as soon as the initial grant allotment for the project is forthcoming from the PWA.

Head of Water Company Threatens Fight to a Finish.

The Arkansaw Water Company will oppose any effort of the city to construct a competing distributing system "in every legal way," S. R. Brough, superintendent, said last night.

"The news from Washington that the PWA had approved a loan and grant to the city for a reservoir, pipeline and duplicating distributing system is most surprising to me," he said.

"The idea of building a new distributing system in Little Rock when we have one here is impractical from every standpoint. Tearing up the streets for the mains and connections to each house and building and patching pavements afterwards, and then have two competing water systems, just does not make sense.

"Of course we would protest and contest that in every legal way we could and I can't believe the people of Little Rock would stand for it."

Others Express Gratification Over the News.

George W. Donaghey, former governor, and leader of a business men's group which recently pledged support to Mayor Overman, characterized the proposed program as "one of the greatest moves the city ever made."

Henry H. Tucker, retiring president of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, said the PWA action was "gratifying."

C. L. Thompson, chairman of the Special Water Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, which made the first report on plans for an improved water supply, said: "The city is to be congratulated and those who have had the opportunity to help have done a great service."

Brief History Of The Negotiations.

Approval of the project yesterday, marked the climax of several months' negotiations.

On August 1, the city signed an agreement with the Arkansaw Water Company, whereby the city agreed to fill a PWA application for a loan and grant to construct a new water supply. The company agreed to purchase water at a rate which would make it possible for the city to retire its loan and retain title to the completed project.

September 6, the city filed application for a \$3,500,000 loan and grant with which to build a reservoir on Alum Fork of Saline river and a connecting pipeline.

September 30, the city was notified by PWA that an allotment of \$3,080,000 had been approved by President Roosevelt.

October 16, due to nonarrival of a necessary bond purchase agreement for the project, Mayor Overman and Mr. Sherrill went to Washington for a conference with PWA officials. Opposition to the project had developed because water from the reservoir, made possible by a loan and grant, would be distributed at a profit by a private utility.

October 23, to meet the objections a supplementary application asking a loan or grant of \$3,990,000 to construct a municipally-owned distributing system was drafted hurriedly, and rushed to Washington by airplane in custody of Engineer Crist.

October 26, A. T. Rickett, PWA engineering examiner, arrived to conduct a survey of the project.

When It Seemed Hope Was Gone.

November 16, the PWA announced that the city's original application for \$3,080,000 to construct a reservoir and pipeline had been rejected because it involved a private utility, but the announcement said an amended application for a total of \$7,070,000 for a water supply and new distributing system would be considered.

November 18, final plans were filed for the 36-mile pipeline.

November 23, the city opened negotiations for a conference with water company officials in an effort to reach an amicable agreement as to "fair price" and thus acquire the distributing system in advance of the PWA deadline of December 15.

December 1, Colonel Hackett announced that the original allotment of \$3,080,000 had been rescinded and that the amended application had been rejected.

December 7, city and water company officials agreed to continue efforts toward securing a new supply, but said that the only hope for PWA loan and grant rested with Senator Robinson,

who was en route home from a trip to the Orient.

December 15, Senator Robinson landed in Seattle, Wash.

December 16, Mayor Overman received a letter from Colonel Hackett conveying the unexpected information that the project again was under consideration.

December 18, Mayor Overman was invited to Washington for a conference.

December 19, Senator Robinson returned to Little Rock and renewed efforts to secure approval of project. Mayor Overman conferred with the senator before leaving for Washington.

December 20, Mayor Overman and Attorney Sherrill held conference with PWA officials in Washington.

December 21, approval of the \$7,074,500 loan and grant were announced by the PWA.