MUCH NATURAL GAS IN RIVER VALLEY

Includes Five Well Defined Producing Areas, Says State Geologist.

Gazette 3-6-27

A natural gas supply sufficient to keep the wheels of industry turning for many years to come is stored in Nature's tanks beneath the surface of the Arkansas river valley between Little Rock and Fort Smith, awaiting the onward march of industry that shall demand its use, according to State Geologist George C. Branner.

Information for this article was furnished by Geologist Branner, along with the accompanying map showing the rock folds that indicate the possibilities of gas in the area under consideration.

This area lies between the Ozark plateau region of northern Arkansas and the Ouachita mountain system of west-central Arkansas. The central portion of the Arkansas river valley of Arkansas and Oklahoma extends from near Searcy, White county, to near Lehigh, Okla., a distance of approximately 230 miles. The width of the valley proper is from 40 to 50 miles, while the width of the gas producing rocks which lie in this valley is about 70 miles. Between Newport, Jackson county, and Little Rock, the Arkansas valley beds pass beneath the coastal plain of eastern Arkansas, and it is probable that they extend still farther to the southeast beneath the coastal plain series and reappear in northern Alabama, since surface rocks found there have a direct relation, geologically speaking, to those of the Arkansas river valley of Arkansas.

Base Level Plain.

The region under discussion consists of a base level plain which carries the Arkansas river valley drainage system to the east and southeast. The extreme northern portion of the valley includes the Boston mountain system which constitutes the water shed between the White river and the Arkansas river drainage system of north Arkansas.

Surrounding the valley are numerous ridges which usually have an east-west trend, and rise from 50 to 100 feet above the valley plain. These ridges are related closely to the geology of the area and their continuity and character are determined largely by the inclination and hardness of the surface beds.

Geologically, the Arkansas river valley consists of a regional syncline, or trough lying between the Ozarks and the Ouachita range. At the western end of the valley the surface formations consist of productive coal measure beds of the Pennsylvania age. The productive coal measure beds extend eastward into Arkansas from Oklahoma approximately 85 miles.

Lateral Forces Created.

Structural conditions of the rocks in the Arkansas river valley have been radically influenced by the Ouachita uplift lying to the south. This uplift, occurring at least partly through the Pennsylvanian times, created lateral forces which folded the rocks of the southern portion of the Arkansas river valley. These folds are, as a rule, approximately parallel to the trend of the Ouachita uplift. Some of these folds are intense and in some cases have inclinations of from 60 to 70 degrees. In some instances they have been overturned, while still other folds are inclined to the horizontal at angles as low as two and three degrees. The extreme northern portion of the Arkansas river valley is comparatively little folded, the rocks having a gentle regional dip to the south and southeast.

Five Producing Areas.

There are five well defined producing areas in the Arkansas river valley. These lie in Sebastian and Crawford counties. Another area near Clarksville has been proved, but is not yet connected to mains. These areas all produce gas from the same formation—the Atoka—and the gas in the Crawford-Sebastian county areas is derived from closely related horizons. The amount of the gas used in these fields, of course, varies from time to time. The consumption at the present is about 17,300,000 cubic feet a day, distributed as follows: Alma, 2,900,000 cubic feet; Kibler, 4,000,000; Williams, 8,000,000; Mazzard-Prairie, 2,000,000; and Mansfield, 400,000.

Gas production which is available from the Kibler and Williams fields has been estimated from past records at approximately 5,500,000 cubic feet an acre, and the life of the five fields has been estimated to be between 13 and 40 years, depending upon the amount of gas taken from them.

C. D. Smith has estimated that the surface of the ground, in other words, where the drilling is begun in the Mansfield Field, is 3,000 feet below the top of the Atoka formation, and since the deepest production in the Mansfield vicinity is obtained from 2,148 feet, the Atoka formation in this area is productive to 5,148 feet below the top of the formation. The Atoka formation probably is producing gas from closely related horizons in the Alma, Kibler, Williams and Mazzard-Prairie fields, according to Severy, who estimates that the Atoka ness of about 5,000 feet and thickens as one passes from the Crawford county fields southward.

The Smelter Field is a recent extension of the Alma Field, and its extent and subsurface conditions are not yet worked out. There also is a recent west extension of the Williams Fields, which will add to the gas reserve.

First Clarksville Well.

The first Clarksville well was completed in March, 1926, to a depth of 2,892 feet in the Atoka shale, three feet of the producing sand having been penetrated. The well is located in section 14-10-24, on a small anticline. The rock pressure on the well, as reported to the state Department of Conservation, is 1,000 pounds per square inch. This extends the commercial gas area about 35 miles east of the Kibler Field. Another well is reported to have been completed in January in section 14-10-24, to a depth of 2,991 feet. Production of this well is estimated at between 3,000,000 and 5,000,000 cubic feet a day. According to newspaper reports, plans are being made to pipe the gas from these two wells to Clarksville, Russellville, Morrilton and Conway.

A well was drilled near Plumerville, in Conway county, in 1905, and the gas was used to light the streets of Plumerville for about a year. A well was drilled at Scotland, Van Buren county, and gas was encountered at approximately 1,625 feet. The well was drilled on what is known as the Little Red river monocline, and attempts to deepen the well resulted in loss of tools and the location was abandoned.

Gas possibilities of the western portion of the Arkansas river valley have been demonstrated by the development of six commercial areas. It seems possible that conditions favorable for commercial gas production may be found to the eastward and also at points probably fairly well distributed through the river valley in Arkansas.

The Atoka Formation.

The Atoka formation, which produces all of the gas in western Arkansas, underlies the entire valley. As in the eastern portion of the valley, the Atoka formation in the central and western portions consists of carbonaceous shales, with some sandstones distributed through them which are variable in texture, thickness and lateral extent. The shales predominate by a large margin. There are numerous folds in these beds which are favorable for the accumulation of natural gas.

Although it seems a fairly obvious conclusion that there are distinct gas possibilities in the central and eastern portions of the Arkansas river valley, it is equally obvious that a considerable amount of detailed field work should be done to work out the surface geology of this area and make detailed maps of such structures as seem favorable for natural gas accumulation. There is very little detailed geology of this section available at present.

It is believed that such a survey should include portions of Pulaski, Faulkner, Perry, Conway, White, Cleburne, Van Buren, Pope, Johnson, Franklin, Logan, Yell and probably sections of Sebastian and Crawford counties. It is realized that this is a very considerable area covering approximately 7,000 square miles. It is quite possible, however, that a large portion of this area could be systematically disregarded after a preliminary examination.

Three field geologists could carry the work forward as slowly or as rapidly as the situation demanded, the total expense being estimated at about $6,900. Such a survey normally would result in the detailed mapping of such structures as were considered favorable for gas accumulations. Following this the mineral rights on such structures could be purchased or leased as the occasion required. The area covered by such buying or leasing naturally would cover a comparatively small area, probably a few thousand acres on each structure recommended. The rights could then be held for an indefinite period while test wells were being drilled.

ST. LOUIS TO USE GAS FROM MONROE

Gazette 11-16-27

Work on Pipe Line Through Arkansas to Start Soon.

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 15.—(AP)—Natural gas from the Monroe, La., gas fields will be available to many Arkansas towns and St. Louis through a pipe line to be constructed from Monroe to St. Louis by the Moody Seagraves Corporation of Houston, Tex. A survey for the line is nearly completed and work is to be started as soon as the 24-inch pipe to be used is ready, officials of the company said.

The cost was roughly estimated at $20,000,000 in the announcement. Work on the line is expected to start within 60 days and will be completed before spring. When finished it will handle 150,000,000 cubic feet of gas a day, it was estimated.

The gas will be sold here to local utility companies.

Map of Prominent Rock Folds in Arkansas River Valley Favorable for Natural Gas Accumulation

Gazette 3-6-27

—Drawing by Miss Pearle Lowe.

The above map, prepared by Miss Pearl Lowe of the state geologist's office, shows the more prominent rock folds in the Arkansas river valley favorable for the accumulation of natural gas. Geologist George C. Branner plans a survey of practically the entire area.

DAILY OKLAHOMAN - Sunday - 7-31-27

Dynamite Is Used to Locate Oil In South Texas Salt Dome Field

Method Not Practical In Oklahoma Because Of Limestone Strata.

Geologists are given a smack in the eye by the use of dynamite and the seismograph in certain areas of south and central Texas. However, the geologists are not tramping over the hot sands to leave those districts, and they are watching the experiments with as much interest as some of the operators who have thousands of dollars tied up in equipment.

Dynamite is exploded on the surface, and the force of the explosion is reflected down in the earth to the nearest hard formation, and reflected back, the seismograph recording the throw-back. Naturally, it takes longer for the back throw to record itself where the formations are lower, or farther away from the instrument, than where the formations are high, and the high spot of the structure is thus determined.

Where the underground formations bulge up and form "domes" and structures" are the most likely places to find oil, as oil lies on the high points of the earth's interior and water on the low spots, oil being lighter than water.

Hence, the chances of loss in drilling are less when high spots are drilled instead of the low, and oil fields are more easily found.

Not Generally Practical

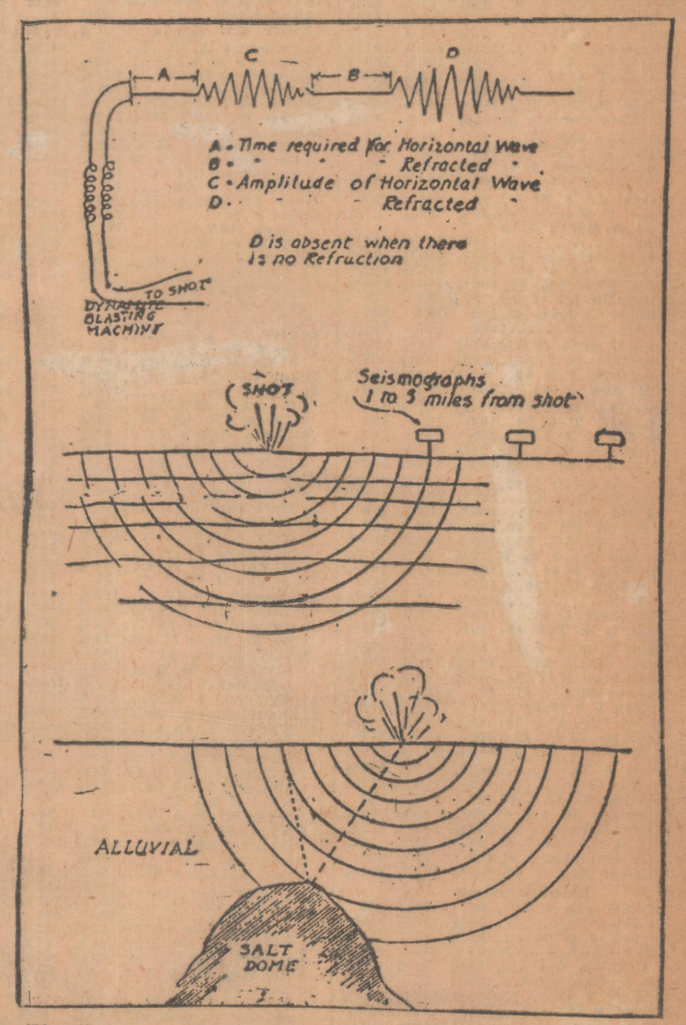
The seismograph and dynamite is not practical, results so far obtained have indicated, except in exploring for salt domes in Texas and Louisiana. There are no hard limestone beds in the gulf coastal area between the surface and the salt domes themselves, so that a true reading of the underground salt dome is obtained without interference from an upper formation that might be erratic. In Oklahoma and Kansas, seismograph readings are of no account because upper limestone formations reflect erratic conditions that do not exist below where the oil is located.

In east Texas, in Cherokee county, where the Hubble Oil and Refining company has discovered the first productive "interior" salt dome, seismograph readings are being relied upon, and seven or eight salt domes in addition to the one found at Carey lake by the Humble caused high prices to be paid for acreage. The full benefit of seismograph readings there, however, remains to be proved. In the meantime, however, large amounts of money are being spent to find more domes and dynamite by the ton is going off.

According to the Hercules Mixer, a magazine devoted to developments in the field of explosives, the new method does away with the old costly hit-and-miss drilling, and also eliminates the ancient divining-rod man.

By the new method which is scientific and accurate, the prospector takes dynamite and detonates it on the surface of the ground. The earth-shock created is registered on seismographs placed certain distances away. The new method is an outgrowth of the experience gained during the war, when the seismograph was used to locate the enemy's hidden or camouflaged heavy artillery. The process, however, is sometimes changed; for in locating the domes where they expect to find oil, the source of the shock produced by dynamite explosions is known.

There are different seismographs in use at this work. Some companies use one kind and some another. Their several advantages are being guarded carefully as company secrets. But broadly speaking,



The diagram at the top shows how the seismograph is used to tell whether or not the shock of an explosion of dynamite has been refracted by striking one of the solid salt dome structures near which oil is likely to be found. Below gives an idea of the relation between the dynamite shock, the seismographs and the salt dome which is being sought.

they all work on the same theory and they are all dependent on the detonation of dynamite on the surface for their information as to what lies beneath. The dynamite is set off by use of the electric blasting caps.

In some fields the machines are used with radio and broadcasting outfits. Three of them, each loaded on a truck, are set up in triangular form within three to five miles of the shot which is in the center of the triangle, each machine registering the wave length and making a picture of the result of the shooting. The man who sets off the blast, after making all the necessary preparations, posts the operators as to thetime of shooting, and after getting all watches absolutely together by means of a radio clock, the blast is pulled off to the fraction of a second.

In preparing for these shots, holes from ten to fifteen feet deep, made with a seven-inch hole digger, are dug at the selected location. Then the hole is sprung, using from two to three cartridges. It is then loaded with dynamite and tamped with a wooden tamping stick. These shots make a hole approximately thirty feet wide and eight feet deep, wokring out on a cone shape. It is afterward filled by hand.

It is perhaps impossible to estimate even roughly the millions of dollars that have been sunk in oil shafts that never reached oil. But the discovery that dynamite and a seismograph can be used with scientific precision in the work of locating domes where oil is found is of the utmost importance to the oil industry, and if it is found capable of a wider development, may have a substantial effect on the future of the crude oil supply, and its effects be translated to the door of every motor car owner in the country.

U. S. Crude Oil Production for Week Is 2,469,500 Barrels.

Gazette 11-16-27

New York, Nov. 15.—(AP)—The daily average gross crude oil production in the United States increased 16,050 barrels for the week ended November 12, totaling 2,469,500 barrels, says the weekly summary of the American Petroleum Institute today.

The daily average production east of California was 1,849,000 barrels, an increase of 18,650 barrels.

Following is the daily average production in barrels and the difference in barrels by states:

Oklahoma 768,950, increase 17,600; Kansas 107,800, increase 650; Panhandle Texas 84,550, decrease 2,200; north Texas 78,300, increase 200; west central Texas 58,800, decrease 100; west Texas 219,250, increase 850; east central Texas 28,650, decrease 550; southwest Texas 26,050, increase 150; north Louisiana 50,050, increase 100; Arkansas 99,150, increase 50; coastal Texas 123,150, increase 550; coastal Louisiana 16,050, increase 950; eastern 115,000; Wyoming 50,950, decrease 450; Montana 13,700; Colorado 6,450, increase 200; New Mexico 2,150, increase 450; California 620,500, decrease 2,600; total 2,469,500, increase 16,050.

Daily average imports of petroleum at principal ports for the week ended November 12 totaled 214,714 barrels, compared with 207,714 barrels for the previous week and 206,357 for the four weeks ended November 12. Daily average receipts of California oil at Atlantic and gulf coast ports for the week ended November 12 totaled 95,714 barrels, compared with 90,571 barrels for the previous week, and 99,357 barrels for the four weeks ended November 12.

SLIGHT DECLINE IN PRODUCTION OF OIL

Federal Report Shows 102,100 Barrels for Arkansas During October.

12-2-27

(From the Gazette's Correspondent.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 1.—During October, Arkansas produced 3,165,000 barrels of petroleum, a daily average of 102,100 barrels, as compared with 3,111,000 barrels in September, a daily average of 103,700, according to statistics made public today by the Bureau of Mines, Department of Commerce.

Despite the increase in monthly production, the figures, as indicated by the daily average, show another decline, the disparity being accounted for by the extra day in October. Figures for the 10 months of this year show a production of 34,449,000 barrels, as compared with 50,005,000 barrels for the same 10 months of last year, a production decrease in excess of 30 per cent, or almost one-third.

Notice of the merger of the Arkansas Natural Gas Company, the Natural Gas and Fuel Corporation and the Industrial Gas Company into the Arkansas Natural Gas Company, a New York corporation, was filed. 6-2-28

RIVAL COMPANIES SEEK FRANCHISES

Gazette 11-16-27

Two Natural Gas Concerns Are Active in Arkansas and Missouri.

Special to the Gazette.

Poplar Bluff, Mo., Nov. 15.—A fight is being waged between two large natural gas companies for franchise rights in southeast Missouri and northeast Arkansas.

The Missouri Natural Gas Company, subsidiary of the Laclede Gas Company of St. Louis, a new concern recently organized, has a corps of men throughout the district asking city councils in the various towns to call special elections to grant franchises to that company. Immediately after representatives of that concern begin work, agents for the Moody & Seagraves Corporation of Houston, Tex., announced that they were seeking franchises, and that their concern planned similar developments.

Each concern has announced through its agents that a pipe line will be constructed from Monroe, La., to St. Louis. Both lines, according to plans, will extend through or near Poplar Bluff, and work on one line will begin within six months, the promoters say.

Several special elections have been called by various towns in southern Missouri on the proposition made by C. J. Garmen and other agents for the Missouri Natural Gas Company. A proposition is now before the City Council of Poplar Bluff, with the possibility that an election will be called within the next 30 days.

Natural Gas Offered Memphis Under Two Plans.

Gazette 1-19-28

Memphis, Jan. 18.—(AP)—Two plans whereby natural gas would be brought to Memphis within a short time were outlined today at a meeting of the City Commission.

A party of Memphis business men asked a franchise to distribute gas, with the promise that construction of a pipe line would be started within 30 days after acceptance of the franchise.

T. H. Tutweiler, president of the Memphis Power and Light Company, promised that should the proposed Louisiana-St. Louis pipe line be constructed, his company would distribute natural gas here. Surveys are being made for the line, which would pass within 50 miles of Memphis, he said, and if the line is constructed a branch will be extended to this city. Because of negotiations in St. Louis, he will be unable to make a definite counter-proposal to the commission, he said, but promised that should the line be built, Memphis would benefit.

TO PIPE NATURAL GAS TO ST. LOUIS

Gazette 2-17-28

Moody & Seagraves Will Start Construction Work in April.

Special to the Gazette.

Shreveport, La., Feb. 16.—Work on a $20,000,000 gas line from the Richland parish, La., field to St. Louis, Mo., to be built by Moody & Seagraves, with other companies co-operating, will begin in April or as soon thereafter as weather conditions are favorable, it was said today by local officials of the Moody & Seagraves interests.

Plans are under way to allow Memphis to tap in on the line. The line will be a 16-inch.

It is reported that the Palmer Corporation, which has large holdings in the Richland field, will be one of the co-operating companies. Palmer Corporations Robertson No. 1, in section 26-23-12, Bossier parish, Cartersville, was slopping oil over the top of the casing today, and estimated to be making at the rate of 300 barrels of fluid, 25 per cent salt water. The well was completed at a depth of 3,065.

Although the flames in Natural Gas and Fuel Corporation's Thompson A-1 in section 21-16-6E, Richland parish, were extinguished several days ago, the well still is running wild as a gasser.

Two relief wells about 400 feet from the wild well are being rushed to completion and surface casing has been set. Ruston Drilling Company has added a big gusher in Richland parish, its Sartor No. 1, in section 17-16-6E, coming in at around 2,450 feet, making 50,000,000 cubic feet of gas, according to advices received here.

NEW NATURAL GAS FRANCHISE SOUGHT

W. I. Shuman of Miami, Fla., Plans New System Here.

Gazette 2-21-28

OVER-STREET SIGNS STAY

Alderman Duttlinger, Skeptical, Asks That One-Year Agreement Be Preserved.

W. I. Shuman of Miami, Fla., capitalist and former assistant treasurer of the United States, asked the City Council last night to grant him a franchise to build and maintain a distributing system for the sale of natural gas. He said he plans to build a new pipe line from gas fields in Louisiana and the building of a complete new distributing system in the city.

The matter was referred to the council in the form of an ordinance, after Mr. Shuman had conferred with Mayor Moyer and other city officials. The ordinance provides for granting a 30-year franchise to Mr. Schuman, his heirs or assigns, providing that construction of the new system shall begin within six months following passage of the ordinance.

The ordinance provides that the system and mains shall be built so that extensions may be made for taking care of future demands.

Proposed Rates.

Rates provided in the ordinance are: For the first 50,000 cubic feet, 50 cents per 1,000 cubic feet; for the second 50,000 cubic feet, 45 cents per 1,000 cubic feet; for the third 50,000 cubic feet, 40 cents per 1,000 cubic feet; for the fourth 50,000 cubic feet, 35 cents per 1,000 cubic feet; for all over 200,000 cubic feet and not exceeding 16,000,000 cubic feet, 20 cents per 1,000 cubic feet; for all over 16,000,000 cubic feet and less than 26,000,000 cubic feet, 18 cents per 1,000 cubic feet; for all over 26,000,000 cubic feet, 16 cents per 1,000 cubic feet. The minimum monthly charge under the schedule of rates in the ordinance would be $1. A discount of five per cent would be allowed for prompt payment of bills.

The matter was referred to the council as a committee of the whole and will be considered at a meeting at the city hall at 2 p. m. tomorrow.

Natural gas is now being supplied to consumers here by the Little Rock Gas and Fuel Company at a rate of 55 cents per 1,000 cubic feet for the first 200,000 cubic feet, and 25 cents per 1,000 cubic feet for quantities in excess of 200,000 cubic feet. In addition, a ready-to-serve charge is paid by each consumer monthly. This company has a complete distributing system in the city, with a total of 199 1-2 miles of gas mains. The company is operating at present under a permit, its franchise having been surrendered several years ago.

May End Service Charge.

An ordinance had been prepared by the city attorney and was scheduled for introduction last night to amend the present ordinance fixing the rates charged by the Little Rock Gas and Fuel Company and eliminate the ready-to-serve charge of 50 cents now paid by each consumer, but the ordinance was not introduced. Mayor Moyer, in a statement to the Gazette several weeks ago, said that he favored elimination of this service charge and would support such an ordinance.

Over-Street Signs to Remain.

The report of the Street Committee of the council, recommending that a one-year extension be given owners of signs extending entirely across streets of the city for removal of the signs, was adopted by the council upon motion of Alderman Charles N. Boone. The vote was by acclamation, and no roll call was taken, but Alderman E. G. Shoffner asked that he be recorded as voting against adoption of the report. Alderman C. H. Duttlinger also asked to be recorded as opposing the measure, and asked that the petition of the sign owners, saying that at the end of the one-year extension they would have the signs removed and ask no further extension, be preserved.

FORT SMITH GAS SYSTEM IS SOLD

Gazette 3/30/28

United Public Service Company Takes Over Byllesby Interests Holdings.

Special to the Gazette.

Fort Smith, March 29.—T. J. Lucas, vice president of the United Public Service Company of Chicago today announced that his company had entered into a preliminary agreement to purchase the gas distribution system of the Fort Smith Light and Traction Company.

The United Public Service Company is the investment company which now controls the Twin City Pipe Line Company and the Industrial Oil and Gas Company here and has been supplying gas to the light and traction company.

The change will not affect rates, Lucas said. The agreement calls for transfer on or before June 15.

The United Public Service Company controls 43,000 acres near Fort Smith. Properties to be taken over include the gas distribution system, including Massard Prairie gas field. The gas distribution system now serves approximately 11,000 consumers in Fort Smith and Van Buren and distributes between 5,400,000,000 and 6,000,000,000 feet of gas a year.

The sale marks the passing of the Byllesby Engineering and Management Corporation. The Byllesby corporation, which is interested primarily in electrical production, has sold all its gas properties in the Southwest and has only one left in the United States. Distribution systems in Oklahoma towns, formerly operated by the Byllesby interests, recently were sold to the Oklahoma Gas Company.

UTILITIES IN GREAT SOUTHERN MERGER

Gazette 4/1/28

Shreveport Consolidation Affects Cities in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas.

Special to the Gazette.

Shreveport, La., March 31.—Shreveport was chosen today for the headquarters of the Southern Cities Distributing Company, a subsidiary of the Cities Service Company, newly organized gas distributing company formed when gas properties of the Southwestern Gas & Electric Company were merged today with the holdings of the Arkansas Natural Gas Company.

Officers probably will be elected by the directors next week.

More than 74,000 customers are served by the merged properties, which operate more than 1,000 miles of pipe lines.

D. W. Harris, a representative of the new company, announced that stockholders of the two merged companies involved had ratified the purchase agreement.

Properties acquired by the Cities Service Company covers an area from Shreveport, on the south, to Little Rock, Ark., on the north, with branches extending to Pine Bluff, Hot Springs and Texarkana, Ark. Communities served include: Shreveport, Texarkana, Pine Bluff, Hot Springs, Hope, Arkadelphia, Atlanta, Little Rock, Longview, Magnolia, Malvern and a number of other cities and towns in Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas.

The property includes distributing pipe lines, six gas compressor stations of 16,000 horsepower and three gasoline extraction plants with a yearly capacity in excess of 5,000,000 gallons. Gas sales last year amounted to 23,000,000,000 cubic feet. The purchase includes substantial oil producing properties in Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas, and a large amount of undrilled oil and gas acreage.

Cities Service is consolidating these new acquirements with other properties operating in this territory, including the Natural Gas and Fuel Corporation of El Dorado, Ark. The main gas distributing headquarters will be located in Shreveport, with district offices in all important cities served.

Southwestern Gas Properties Formally Transferred.

Gazette 4/5/28

Shreveport, La., April 4.—(AP)—Formal transfer of all the gas properties of the Southwestern Gas and Electric Company to the Southern Cities Distributing Company has been made here with recording a deed of sale which shows a consideration of $25,000 and other considerations.

The property includes all of the Southwestern's gas properties in Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas with franchises, contracts, pipe lines, pumping stations and other properties. The deed must be filed in at least four states—Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas and Illinois.

While only $25,000 in cash was recorded it is believed the deal involves millions of dollars and more than 30,000 acres of land and leases held by the Southwestern.

Henry L. Doherty Named Head of Arkansas Natural Gas Firm.

Gazette 4/12/28

Special to the Gazette.

Shreveport, La., April 11.—Henry L. Doherty was elected president of the Arkansas Natural Gas Company, which owns 60 per cent of the common stock of the Southern Cities Distributing Company, the new firm organized here recently with the amalgamation of the gas properties of the Southwestern Gas and Electric Company, the Natural Gas and Fuel Corporation, the Arkansas Natural and other companies, it was announced here today.

Other officers elected by the Arkansas Natural are: C. D. W. Harris, Shreveport, vice president and general manager; J. R. Munce, vice president; Col. T. H. Barton, El Dorado, Ark., vice president; F. R. Coates, New York, vice president; W. A. Jones, New York, vice president; J. Zeppa, Shreveport, secretary; E. H. Johnston, New York, treasurer; E. N. Watkins, Shreveport, assistant treasurer, and J. C. Hamilton, Shreveport, assistant secretary.

The Arkansas Natural is controlled by the Cities Service, Inc., which is one of Mr. Doherty's companies. It in turn controls the newly-formed Southern Cities Distributing Company. So far only temporary officers of the distributing company have been named, Mr. Harris said.

COUCH TO BUY GAS HOLDINGS, RUMOR

Gazette 4/8/28

Little Rock Company Reported in Proposed $20,000,000 Deal.

OFFICIALS DENY SALE

Visit of Pine Bluff Capitalist to Shreveport Directs Interest Toward Distributing System.

Special to the Gazette.

Shreveport, La., April 7.—Harvey C. Couch, president of the Arkansas Power & Light Company, is either now interested or plans to buy the newly formed Southern Cities Distributing Company, a subsidiary of the Cities Service, Inc., it is reported here.

D. W. Harris, an official of the company and the Arkansas Natural Gas Company, denied the report and referred the Gazette's correspondent to F. R. Coates of the Cities Service Company of New York City for confirmation or denial.

The report of the negotiations started soon after Mr. Couch's visit in Shreveport this week, but no definite information could be obtained.

If Mr. Couch acquires controlling interest in the newly formed company as rumored, he would control more than 50,000 acres of valuable mineral rights in East Texas, North Louisiana and South Arkansas as well as pipe lines serving Shreveport, La., Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Hot Springs, Hope, Arkadelphia, Magnolia, Malvern, Ark., Longview and Marshall, Tex., and intermediate points.

This company took over all the holdings of the Arkansas Natural Gas Company, the Natural Gas & Fuel Company and the gas holdings of the Southwestern Gas & Electric Company, valued at more than $20,000,000.

About 74,000 customers are served by the properties, which also have more than 1,000 miles of transporting and distributing pipe lines, six gas compressor stations of 16,000 horsepower, and three gasoline extraction plants with a yearly capacity in excess of 5,000,000 gallons. Gas sales last year amounted to 23,000,000 cubic feet.

In addition the reported deal includes substantial oil producing properties in Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas and a large amount of oil and gas acreage.

A. P. & L. SECURES NEWPORT FRANCHISE

Gazette 4/11/28

Gas Line Proposed by Couch Interests Between Bastrop and St. Louis.

Special to the Gazette.

Newport, April 10.—Preliminary steps toward the proposed construction of a gas line between Bastrop, La., and St. Louis by way of Pine Bluff and Memphis were announced here today after a conditional franchise for the distribution of natural gas in this section was granted by the City Council to C. D. Metcalf of Batesville, representing the Arkansas Power and Light Company.

The proposed line would extend from Brinkley to Newport and franchises will be sought in all the towns east of Newport to Memphis, including Forrest City.

Preliminary surveys are being made, officials of the Arkansas Power and Light Company said, but announcements of the probable location or cost of the project could not be made until after the preliminary work has been completed. The line would cost several million dollars if the project is as extensive as proposed.

Officials said that plans of the company were not definite and although it was planned to develop holdings in the Louisiana gas fields, no announcement could be made at this time.

The ordinance becomes void if agreement as to rates between the city and the grantee cannot be reached within the next six months or if construction is not started in another six months.