

report to City Council

When I accepted the position as Commissioner of Public Works under Mayor Linck, who was elected as I understand to give the wells a fair show. That I have endeavored to carry out everything as promised to the best of my ability, and have worked ^{almost} night and day ~~and~~ to accomplish ~~the~~ the work undertaken. A man taking the position of Commissioner of Public Works, for a city as large as Tacoma, and being made responsible for all departments, ~~cannot~~ cannot be expected to grasp the situation without some time to study, especially as each department is a different line of business.

In May 1908, and prior to that time the City had storage capacity for less than one million gallons of water to protect the lower part of the City and the manufacturing districts, and business houses, and on the middle service the City had one small reservoir capable of holding 4,500,000 gallons of water. On the high service there was a stand pipe which would hold two hundred and fifty ^{thousand} gallons. Now, this was all the storage the City had at that time, excepting the water in the dams in the gulches, which was very much contaminated during the wet weather and was not fit for use, but still the City had to use it or go without.

After taking office, I advised that we should have more storage capacity and sent the following letter to the City Council on October 7th 1908, which is self-explanatory;

"TO THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF TACOMA.

Gentlemen;

"I wish to call your attention to some things which in my estimation should be attended to promptly.

"First, the question of necessary power for Pumping at Station "C".

On December 31st, our contract with the Tacoma Railway & Power Co. expires, and unless some provision is made for additional power, we will be in bad shape.

I also recommend that two compressors, capable of handling 15 million gallons of water, be purchased and installed at Station "C".

My reason for this is as follows:

Station "C" with its present equipment is capable of handling about 10 million gallons of water. In order to more than double the capacity of this plant, it will be necessary to install additional machinery before sufficient water can be pumped to supply the City, provided we discontinue the use of Station "A" in pumping Gulch water, which I am very desirous of doing.

In the event of power being delivered at Station "C", I would further recommend that the new centrifugal pump at Station "A" be transferred to Station "C" and a larger reservoir placed there,

capable of holding at least one million gallons of water.

I would further recommend that an 18" or 20" pipe line be run from Station "C" along Junett Street to South 19th Street, along South 19th Street to Union Avenue, along Union Avenue to South 12th, along South 12th to Mason Avenue and along Mason Avenue to Fletcher Heights to connect with a standpipe of 500,000 gallons capacity.

My idea in running a pipe line from that point to the standpipe is as follows; We are now running water by gravity from Station "C" to reservoir at Station "B". By placing the centrifugal pump at Station "C" and pumping directly to the High Service, Station "B" will be relieved of all the additional amount of pumping capacity we would necessarily have to install there.

Station "B" is now pumping to her limit. In 1907, according to the reports of the engineer at Station "B", the highest pumping record for one day was 5,750,000 gallons. In 1908 the amount of water pumped at Station "B" has been almost double that of 1907. If the City grows and consumes water with the increased demand in the next year that it has in the past, it behooves the City Council to take some action in this matter in order that we may have an adequate supply for the coming year.

I will also call your attention to the fact that by discontinuing the use of the Gulch water at Station "A", we will cut out a supply of from 4 to 5 million gallons during the summer months. Even with the nearly doubled capacity of Pump Station "B", we were short of water on the following days this year; on the 8th, 9th and 10th of June, and from the 6th to the 31st of July; also from the 8th to the 14th of August, and for sprinkling purposes we were short during all the sprinkling season of last year.

Now with these facts staring us in the face and while time is flying, in order to have these improvements made in the pumping capacity of the pumping stations of this City before the dry season of next year, it will be necessary for us to prepare the necessary plans and specifications, estimates etc to provide a system.

Leaving these matters in your hands for proper adjustment, I remain,

Yours very respectfully,

H. J. McGregor, Com'r of Public Works."

In the seventeen months which have elapsed since my letter to the Council recommending what should be done, there has been constructed a storage reservoir on the Low Service to protect the business and manufacturing district, capable of holding 13,500,000 gallons; also a reservoir on the Middle Service capable of holding 7,000,000 gallons; also a reservoir at South Tacoma capable of holding 500,000 gallons; also a standpipe on the high service capable of holding 500,000. also a new fire proof pumping station in South Tacoma, installed new machinery and put in new pipe lines to the wells, cutting out the old box that had partly rotted away and was very unsanitary. We have also run a new 22 inch pipe line from Station "C" to the High Service standpipe, which should have been built years ago. We found the wells producing about 3,000,000 gallons on an average. We deepened the old wells and repaired them as best we could and we are now getting pure water from them from a lower

level and a daily capacity of 12,700,000 gallons, after peffecting the wells as far as the former Council ordered, and also succeeded in producing sufficient water to justify us in cutting out the use of the contaminated Gulch water and the saving of about \$24,000.00 per year to the City, in fuel and labor at that place. *abro*