

Brooklyn Union Newspaper Articles

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TO ABANDON FOUR GAS PLANTS.

The Trust Will Supply Brooklyn
From Only Four Works.

ONE WILL MAKE FUEL GAS.

Important Projects Now Being Considered by the Board of Engineers. The Organization of the Brooklyn Union Gas Company Will Not Be Perfected Until the Legislature Adjourns.

The Brooklyn Union Gas company, or the gas trust, as it is better known, is contemplating a radical re-arrangement of its entire system of supplying Brooklyn with gas. The plan now being discussed includes the wiping out of three or four of the present gas works and the use of the three or four remaining for supplying the entire city. It also includes the abandonment of duplicate sets of mains in streets where such exist and, possibly, the use of the abandoned set for supplying Brooklyn with fuel gas.

The Brooklyn Union company at present operates eight works. These are the Brooklyn works situated on the water front near the navy yard, the Citizens in South Brooklyn, the old plant of the Union company of East New York; the Williamsburgh company, in the eastern district; the Fulton Municipal company, in South Brooklyn; the Nassau company works at the head of Wallabout creek, the Metropolitan company at Gowanus and the People's company works which have been in disuse for several years.

The whole matter is now before the board of engineers consisting of the engineers in charge of the various works, who have been formed into this board for purposes of consultation and furnishing the company with expert opinions upon all these mechanical projects. The board of engineers has as yet

been unable to give any decision and it is probable that no report will be made within the next month or two.

It is pretty well understood, however, that the following works will be retained and used to supply the entire city with gas: The former plant of the Fulton Municipal company, which will supply South Brooklyn and a large part of the Western district; the Williamsburgh works, which will supply the entire eastern district, and the Nassau works which will furnish gas to the upper section of the city.

The other works, with one exception, will be abandoned, their plants disposed of for old junk, while the real estate will be placed in the market. The exception mentioned will probably be the plant of the former Metropolitan company, which will be retained for the purpose of manufacturing a low priced fuel gas. This can be served all over the city at a very slight expense as the gas war which waged two years caused all the companies to so extend their mains that now one hundred miles of pipe would complete a duplicate system through the entire city. These would be utilized in sending out the fuel gas and it would probably be possible to supply it to householders at 50 or 60 cents per 1,000 cubic feet. At this price, it is claimed, the fuel gas would be much cheaper to burn than coal and would be a source of considerable revenue to the company. The fuel gas plan has not yet gone before the board of engineers, but from the inception of the consolidation project it has been one of the objects aimed at by the men who control the Brooklyn Union Gas company.

It is certain that the organization of the company will not be perfected until after the legislature adjourns. At present the old companies are called branches of the main company. The former secretaries of the old companies are termed branch managers and the former engineers are called branch superintendents. This organization is very imperfect and has caused not inconsiderable friction. As soon as the legislature adjourns the organization will be perfected.

There is no reason to doubt that General James Jourdan, president of the Fulton Municipal company, will be president, and it is said that Major Walter K. Rossiter will be secretary. E. W. Chapman, the present treasurer, will remain in office. It is as yet unknown who will be general manager or who will hold subordinate positions.

The Brooklyn Union Gas company, will in a short time, supply the Flatbush company with its gas and the latter will cease to manufacture for itself. Within the past month or two it has been bought out by men interested in the Brooklyn Union Gas company.

The Kings County Illuminating company, which supplies the vacant lots and potatoes of the former town of New Utrecht with brilliant illumination to the extent of about three thousand five hundred lamps, or nearly a

quarter of all the gas lamps that there are in the City of Brooklyn, has recently made a contract with the Brooklyn Gas company by which it will also be supplied with gas.

This company has no works and heretofore has obtained its illuminating product from the Citizens' company. It has recently acquired a very valuable plot of ground on the water front, where, if necessary, works can be erected.

Assistant Treasurer Charles H. Stoddard of the Brooklyn Union Gas company was seen this afternoon by an Eagle reporter about the project. To all inquiries he replied: "I have nothing whatever to say about the business of this company."