

manufacturing plants and of residences for additional distribution mains. There as been no addition made to the area of the city since January, 1926, and because of this the number of petitions received for water pipe extension has been very small in the last few months. As the work of laying smaller pipes decreases in amount, the construction of pipe in the larger sizes has been accelerated. The ordinance now in force which governs the laying of water pipe for distribution purposes provides that the abutting property shall pay 75 cents per foot of frontage, and while the income from this assessment is much less than the cost of the pipe lines that are constructed, the amount received through the operation of this ordinance has been of great assistance to this Board in financing the cost of this part of the development of the water system.

The receipts of the department from the sale of water for the past fiscal year has been \$5,418,862.46, and \$685,621.32 has been collected from water pipe assessment.

The construction of the new office building by this Board at No. 735 Randolph Street is progressing rapidly. The key for the wrecking of the old Police Station was turned over to the contractor for the foundation for the new building on February 9th, and on February 21st the actual work of excavation was begun. Other trades interested in the construction work of this building began their operations just as soon as it was possible for them to enter the premises, and at the rate the work is progressing the building will be ready for occupancy this autumn.

This Board expresses its full appreciation for the co-operation it has received from His Honor, the Mayor, the Common Council and other city officials.

Your attention is respectfully called to detailed reports of work performed during the year which are attached and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK P. BOOK, President
WILLIAM T. SKRZYCKI, Vice-Pres.
LAWRENCE P. FISHER
ALEX DOW

For report, see file of Council proceedings of this date.

Accepted and placed on file.

From the Board of Water
Commissioners

January 23, 1929.

To the Honorable, the Common
Council:

Gentlemen—We herewith transmit to your honorable body, the following resolutions for water pipe extensions as adopted January 23, 1929.

Roll No. 4555—Berkshire between Somerset and McKinney, 600 feet of 8-inch pipe.

Your honorable body is respectfully requested to declare that a necessity exists for said water pipe extensions and to direct that a ratable assessment for the cost of the work be levied as provided by ordinance.

Respectfully yours,

FRANK P. BOOK,
President.
D. C. GROBBEL,
Acting Secretary.

By Councilman Dingeman:

Resolved, That it be and is hereby declared by Common Council of the City of Detroit, necessary to lay and install in said City, the following described water mains, and that a ratable assessment for the cost of such improvement be levied upon all lots or real estate, fronting upon said improvement at the rate of seventy-five (75c) cents for each lineal foot and further that the cost of this improvement shall be charged against the Water Fund of the City of Detroit.

Roll No. 4555—Berkshire between Somerset and McKinney, 600 feet of 8-inch pipe.

Adopted as follows:

Yeas—Councilmen Callahan, Castator, Dingeman, Ewald, Kronk, Littlefield, Walters and the President Pro Tem—8.

Nays—None.

From the City Plan Commission

January 11, 1929.

To the Honorable, the Common
Council:

Gentlemen — We are returning, herewith, the petition of Dickout & Haley (1770), referred to us by your Honorable Body, offering to deed to the City Lot 18 of Serp's Redford Subdivision, which property is to be used in the opening and extension of Bennett Avenue.

A similar petition was presented sometime ago and was denied by your Honorable Body on the recommendation of this Commission. On a number of occasions subdividers have sold property to innocent purchasers on dead-end streets, advising at the same time that they were to pay for the opening of said street. At a later date such streets have been opened, and the cost of the improvement has been assessed against the lot purchasers. We did not wish to permit such on condition and advised petitioners that we would recommend the acceptance of their deed only upon condition that all of the property on the street were aware of the fact that they live on a dead-end street and were satisfied with that condition.

A petition has been presented by Louis Witherby et al (6555) which

bears the signatures of the residents on Bennett Avenue, advising that they are aware of the fact that their property is situated on a dead-end street and are fully satisfied with said street as it is at the present time.

In view of the fact the residents on Bennett Avenue, as proposed, realize that they are on a dead-end street, and as the conditions set forth in our communication to Dickout & Haley have been met, the City Plan Commission recommends that the deed, as presented by them, be accepted.

Respectfully submitted,
WALTER H. BLUCHER,
Secretary.

By Councilman Castator:

Resolved, That the warranty deed of Joseph and Jennie I. Serp to the City of Detroit covering property dedicated for street purposes described as "Lot 18 of Serp's Redford Subdivision of part of the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 10, T. 1 S., R. 10 E., Wayne County, Michigan,"

Also, warranty deed of Joseph and Jennie I. Serp to the City of Detroit covering property dedicated for street purposes, described as "the southerly 10 feet of the westerly 135 feet of lot 17 and the northerly 10 feet of the westerly 135 feet of lot 19 of Serp's Redford Subdivision of part of the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 10, T. 1 S., R. 10 E., as recorded in Liber 40, page 73 of Plats of Wayne County Records," be and the same are hereby accepted, and the City Controller be and he is hereby directed to record said deeds in the office of the Register of Deeds for Wayne County.

Adopted as follows:

Yeas—Councilmen Callahan, Castator, Dingeman, Ewald, Kronk, Littlefield, Walters and the President Pro Tem—8.

Nays—None.

From the Civil Service Commission

January 22, 1929.

To the Honorable, the Common Council:

Gentlemen—The Civil Service Commission has the honor to hand you herewith the Annual Report of its activities for the Calendar Year 1928.

A summary of the activities of the department, as set up in tabular form, is intended to give your Honorable Body a brief, and concise view of the character and volume of personnel service rendered by this department in connection with those departments with whom this Commission is concerned, under the Charter, and a comparative statement set out in percentages of the expansion or contraction, as the case may be, of the different phases of this service.

The table of examinations contained in this report will give you an idea of the wide variety of subjects covered by the examinations which are given by this Commission. You will note that there were 128 competitive examinations given during the year. This is a decrease from the number of examinations given the preceding year, yet, the wide variety of subjects still exists, necessitating the assistance of specialists in the case of professional and technical subjects. This Commission has continued its policy of inviting heads of departments to be present at the oral interviews, which are made a part of the examination, and every succeeding year gives further evidence that the reasons for the invitations so extended were well founded, and thus, in fact, promote the spirit of co-operation with the several departments and dispels the idea that there is any mystery or unexplained method employed in the examination process. The table showing the list of Special Examiners will more clearly illustrate this practice.

In the matter of discharges, you will find a reduction in the number of discharges received, 141 for 1928 against 252 for 1927; and likewise, the number of discharges protested is decreased, as well as the number of protests sustained. More departmental transfers were effected during this year than last, which seems to indicate the effort on the parts of heads of departments to find the proper niche or line of work for each employee, to the end that more and better work may be had, and greater interest and enthusiasm exhibited on the part of employees.

In general, there has been no startling change in the policy of this Commission during the last calendar year. It has, as in the past, undertaken to carry out and administer intelligently and conscientiously the provisions of the Charter relative to Civil Service, and we cannot do better than to refer to the Commission's statement of its conception of its duties and responsibilities, as contained in the report for 1927.

We take pride in reporting to your Honorable Body that the standard of requirements for entrance into the personnel service of the City are gradually being increased, and that there has been a constant effort to discriminate between the standards for those positions requiring professional and technical ability, and those positions requiring artisan ability and thoroughness of routine work. We have discovered in several instances that in order to maintain the standards necessary for the best interest of the service, it has, on occasions, been necessary to waive the residence rule to allow applicants to compete who reside outside of the