

Improvements Benefit City

(Continued from page 1)

supply. Today, under the active charge of Councilman I. B. Sweigart, chairman of the Water Committee, Ventnor has a new \$200,000 reservoir in process of completion, new artesian wells and a pumping plant which together give the resort one of the finest water supply systems for its size in the United States.

The important matter of Boardwalk improvement has been carried to an almost entire completion. At cost of \$40,000 the 'walk has been redecked from Cambridge Avenue to the new upper Boardwalk, and by the New Year contractors will have placed new railing now being specially galvanized that it may give proper service. Nine cross streets are in process of paving at cost of \$95,000, raised by bond issue and the proper civic beautification of Ventnor as a home city has been given a big boost through action of City Council in carrying out an organized program for clearing lots of rubbish and weeds.

The single development of the plan for enlargement of the Troy Avenue school now being carried out is a fine tribute to the progressive work of the officials of Ventnor during

the term of Mayor Brehman. Other improvements both in the buildings and the organization of the public schools are included in work accomplished.

Mayor Brehman in his first message advocated the proper compilation of ordinances of the city. This has been done and any citizen now can secure a copy of the resort statutes by application to City Hall. The firemen and policemen, first given a bonus, have been placed on an increased pay system which recognizes merit and loyalty to public service by graduated increases in salaries. While this was being done more and better fire apparatus has been secured.

One of the forward steps taken during the Brehman administration has been establishment of the mercantile tax system under which more than \$4,000 has been collected. Fifty thousand dollars has been awarded to Ventnor war heroes on land and sea for their Memorial Building. As a tribute to real progress \$97,000 has been set aside for bulkheading and building of jetties to improve the entire beachfront from Richards to Fredericksburg Avenues. The sum of \$10,000 has been spent on improvement of

the sewer system.

Mayor Brehman was extremely modest when asked to comment on these improvements every one of which was recommended by him when he took office and had made a personal survey of the actual needs of Ventnor.

"To my mind it is all a matter of important business for Ventnor, carried out by the city officials in a business way," he declared in an exclusive interview given a representative of the *Ventnor News*. "As I have stated in my formal messages and in personal conversation, I believe that a city, like a business, must go forward or it will go back."

"Here in Ventnor our people have a resort business in leasing of cottages and apartments which affects fully 60 per cent of our population. If Ventnor should lose its high reputation as a fine and clean and progressive family resort this business would feel the effect immediately. If Ventnor is not kept up to the top notch of improvement the people will not come from outside to rent our cottages and it has always appeared to me that the officials of the city must follow a progressive policy which will assure continued prosperity for Ventnor

people.

"I am happy to state my full belief that Mr. Marston will be a force for just such progressive advance in Ventnor as will raise it to even higher plane as a resort. But the property owners who pay taxes must not expect Mayor Marston to carry out these improvements unaided or without money."

"We of the official city family are proud of the advancement which we have been able to make, but it has cost a lot of money. Taking the expenditures from our budget and from bonds Ventnor actually has spent \$1,101,000 on an assessed valuation of \$10,789,024, or practically one-tenth of its total assessed wealth, for improvements."

"But we have tried to keep the expenditure of every dollar on a business basis. During the past year, for instance, with a budget of \$476,000 we have come out with a surplus of \$2,000. To any business man this would prove that not only have we kept within our resources but also that our budget was so carefully calculated that it met the real needs of our city within an infinitesimal percentage."

"And a partial recapitulation of expenditure for public purposes gives some idea of cost. From bonds we have been compelled to raise \$21,000 for fire protection; \$40,000 for Boardwalk; \$200,000 for water system improvement; \$10,000 for sewers; \$95,000 for streets; \$85,000 for schools; \$50,000 for the Memorial Building; \$97,000 for beachfront improvement; \$6,000 for inland waterway park tracts at Oakland Avenue and a similar sum at Austin and Little Rock Avenues, and \$15,000 for opening of street ends in other sections. Add to these sums the tax budget expenditures of \$476,000 for other purposes of city government and improvement and we have a total which shows the cost of real civic improvement progress."

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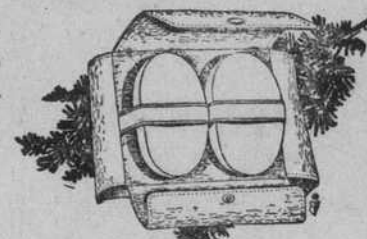
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