

# CARLSON REVIEWS RECORD OF FORTY YEARS IN OFFICE

## Retiring Mayor, at Roberts Inauguration, Discusses His Long Career in Public Office.

### WISHES WELL TO LATEST REGIME

#### Congratulates Roberts and Expresses Hope His Administration May Be of Benefit to All People of City.

The farewell message of Samuel A. Carlson as mayor, read to the City Council yesterday morning, follows:

"In these closing moments of my long career it is proper and fitting that I give a brief account of my stewardship as a public official.

"During the period of my connection with the city government I have witnessed many acts and events that have transpired upon the stage of our municipal drama. I have seen city councils come and go. I have been a participant in many controversies touching every phase of public concern and my official acts have been the subject of both praise and criticism.

#### Then and Now.

"When, as a mere youth, I was elected a member of the City Council forty years ago there was not a single foot of pavement, not a single foot of sewers, no public utilities and not even a City Hall, or any other public building of this character in the city. The Council Chamber was then in the Prendergast Block, corner of Main and Third Streets.

"The official record tells the story of the various steps this city has taken in the pathway of progress since that time.

#### Municipal Projects.

"On January 19, 1894, a resolution was adopted legalizing the bonds for extension of the lighting plant so that sale of electricity could be made to the people. And on August 20, 1894, a resolution was adopted authorizing the equipment of the plant for this purpose. On November 5, 1894, a resolution was introduced providing for the preliminary steps in the movement which, after a long period of controversy and delay, resulted in the final municipalization of the water supply for this city, and the extensive development of the system later by the Board of Utilities under the chairmanship of Frank O. Anderson.

"The late M. G. Martyn advocated municipal ownership through his paper, 'the Ail.' I advocated these measures in the Council Chamber and presented the water and light resolutions to which I have referred. We were both called dangerous radicals because of our advanced views on these questions.

At that time many taxpayers

## New President



**HARRY LINDHOLM.**  
Elected president of new City Council yesterday.

at \$750,000, without a single dollar's tax upon anyone. By this purchase the city not only secured complete control of the light and power business in this city, but it acquired more than \$400,000 additional annual revenue which formerly went into the pockets of an outside syndicate. Karl Peterson, as chairman, and J. Russell Rogerson as attorney, conducted the negotiations in behalf of the board that produced these splendid results. Recently the board advanced to the city treasury \$397,000 for emergency purposes.

"The board has planned as its next important step in the interest of our citizens a further rate reduction which would make possible successful municipal competition with gas or any other heating process. Applying working capital for this purpose is, in the opinion of the board, a matter of far more importance to our citizens than any temporary tax reduction expedient.

#### New Charter.

"In 1923 we secured the adoption of a new charter which abolished many useless and expensive departments, and provided for non-partisan elections. These elections, however, could be made more expressive of public sentiment, as I have previously pointed out, if local party groups were eliminated on the ballot, just as national party designations have been eliminated. This would permit each candidate to stand independently on his own merits.

#### Third Street Bridge.

"In 1926 the fifty-year agitation for a Third Street Bridge came to a successful culmination of this important project as the result of a civic campaign waged under the leadership of Ernest Cawcroft.

#### Municipal Hospital.

"The municipal hospital has rendered service since 1911 to 45,258 persons. It has cost the taxpayers this year \$40,000 to maintain this life saving station. But that is only about half what it cost to guard the city against crime, and it is only half the amount paid in

fession and possessed fine cultural attainments.

"The task of drafting our boys for the battle fields of Europe was anything but pleasant. I trust that none of my successors will ever be compelled to repeat that ordeal.

"When the propaganda urging our entrance into the conflict began, I contended that regardless of slogans, it was financial investments more than any other interest that intrigued us into the European turmoil, and I took the position that not a single American boy should be drafted for war until every American dollar had first been drafted. However, after the declaration of war was finally made by Congress, I gave my support to the government, and when the war ended every member of the local Draft Board received the thanks of the president and the governor for loyal and patriotic service.

#### No Taint of Corruption in Long Administration.

"And now as I lay aside the mantle of office and become a private citizen, let me say that I do so in a spirit of good sportsmanship. No one will find me conspiring to undermine or embarrass the new administration. On the contrary, I shall be glad to cooperate in anything that will serve the public good. Whatever I shall say or do will be in the open and in a spirit of frankness. As I look back upon my record there is one significant thing to which I can always point with pride and that is the fact that during this long time no taint of corruption has ever been attached to any branch of my administration.

"To the citizens who have honored me 24 years with the highest office within their gift, I feel a debt of undying gratitude. Jamestown is the city of my birth; I have spent my entire life here. While my aggregate income as a public official has not permitted me to accumulate a fortune for my declining years, yet in an unofficial capacity, and regardless of any remunerative consideration, I intend to continue to serve with speech and pen the civic interests of this community.

"To my successor, Mayor Leon F. Roberts, I extend congratulations and felicitations, and my sincere wish is that his administration will be one of success and benefit to all the people of this city.

"Respectfully submitted,  
"SAMUEL A. CARLSON."