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SAMUEL A. CARLSON
as Councilman
1893

The Story of the Movement that Gave the People of Jamestown an Outstanding Public Utility System and a \$25,000,000 Community Gain. And the Unique Role Played by Samuel A. Carlson in His Fifty Years of Public Service.

May 2, 1948 Marks the 55th Anniversary of Samuel A. Carlson's First Election as Councilman, May 2, 1893.

The Monitor deems it appropriate to present some of The Highlights in Mr. Carlson's Career, and the plant that made Jamestown Famous.

We also publish photos of three periods of Mayor Carlson's career: He has been a student, Manufacturer, Publisher and Municipal Administrator.



SAMUEL A. CARLSON
Retiring from Mayoralty
1938

Samuel A. Carlson served his native city 26 years as Mayor and 24 years in other capacities such as Councilman, Member of the former Board of Public Works and Member of the Present Board of Public Utilities. He also served two terms as President of The New York State Conference of Mayors. In 1936 he was chosen Chairman of a 17-Member Commission of Municipal Experts, Engineers and Civic Leaders selected by the Carl Schurz Foundation to investigate City Government in Europe. On January 1, 1938 the City Council conferred upon Mr. Carlson the Title of "Mayor Emeritus."

Youth Reformer

In his early youth Mr. Carlson began the advocacy of Civic Reforms and made the first proposal at a public Meeting that a Municipal Utility System be installed.

In 1893 Mr. Carlson was elected as an independent Lincoln Republican Councilman. He immediately began introducing resolutions to sell \$32,000 of bonds to provide the initial equipment for generating current and selling it at reduced rates to the people, as voted by the taxpayers. This aroused the private Company and the conservative element who had hoped that this "radical Municipal scheme of Carlson's" would be shelved indefinitely. Councilman Carlson was denounced as a radical and a dreamer for proposing an innovation that had never before been tried out in any city in this country.

Carlson Wins Electric Battle

After many heated arguments pro and con during several months the opposition among other tactics raised the question as to the legality of the bond issue because of certain technical flaws in the old charter. In order to overcome these objections Mr. Carlson proceeded to quietly maneuver a speedy passage of a bill through the Legislature at Albany legalizing all proceedings relative to the bond issue before any injunction action could be consummated by those who were conspiring to block the proposed project. And after Carlson, having aroused public sentiment, he was finally victorious in getting his resolution adopted May 26 and July 30, 1894.

The Morning News of April 16, 1895 said "The people will remember that it was through the efforts of Samuel A. Carlson that the work of extending the Lighting Plant for commercial purposes was brought about after a delay of nearly two years, caused by obstructions which were placed in the way by representatives of the private corporation."

Carlson's Water Plant Resolution

Councilman Carlson then took up the water question but his resolution to build a new Water Plant was defeated by a tie vote Nov. 5, 1894, and the proposition remained deadlocked for a long period of time, much to the satisfaction of the Pittsburgh Water Co. which owned the local plant.