PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS OF

FIRST-CLASS VILLAGES OF

NEW YORK STATE

Reports made by officials at conference of Villages of the First-Class Held in Albany, November 14, 1924, under the auspices of the New York State Conference of Mayors and Other City Officials
The Department maintains the Fire Alarm system for the entire Village of Endicott. There have been 11 additional boxes installed this year making a total of 59 boxes in operation at the present time. Each box has a red globe marked "Fire Annun" over it which is lighted at night with a 40 candle power series lamp. This work is also charged on a cost basis.

FREDONIA

PRESIDENT WILLIAM L. HART: Our village is confronted with the problem of very serious water shortage. Last fall at the special election a $2000 bond issue was authorized for additional water supply and additional water mains.

A number of our streets have been under construction this summer. Application is on file now for some paving for next spring.

One of our problems to be solved is to get water meters. The question whether to pay for the meters out of the village fund or to charge the consumers must be determined. Another problem is sewage disposal. As I looked over the reports on exhibition I am satisfied that there is valuable information and much data there of great help in solving this problem. I am very glad to attend this meeting and hope they will be frequent.

FREEPORT

PRESIDENT J. MILLER: I am glad to report today that Freeport thought so well of the Conference that it is 100 per cent represented, that is by the President and its four trustees.

The year 1924 might well be called the "year of dedications" for the Village of Freeport.

On Memorial Day our new Memorial Library, built with funds raised by public subscription and by bond issue by the Village, was dedicated with very impressive services.

On Labor Day the cornerstone was laid for our new fire headquarters building, and on October 27 the Board of Education dedicated our New High School, costing about $700,000, the building being of the most modern construction.

Freeport has its own electric light and water plants and in June we finished the installation of the third Diesel Engine, it being of 750 horsepower. We have found this type of power far more economical than are the steam engines and boilers that we still have in use.

Our water supply is taken from eleven wells driven to a depth of about 45 feet, which wells depend to a large extent on water received from rain. During the long drought the past summer our supply became very low and the water pressure likewise. In order
not to have a repetition of this, the Village Board at the
present time is boring a well probably to the depth of one
thousand feet with the expectation of getting an inexhaustable
supply. If this proves successful, we undoubtedly will bore
additional deep wells.

Freeport has many miles of Peekskill gravel roads, but
no so-called permanent roads, except those built by the state,
county or town.

During the present administration, we put down our first
permanent road, it being of Warrenite construction. The road
not being very long, we are paying for it out of our annual
road fund and without the issuance of bonds.

We are also installing new street signs, being re-inforced cement posts with the names of the streets
painted thereon.

We have passed a new zoning ordinance and appointed a
Board of Appeals consisting of five members. We also have our
building code whipped into shape ready to pass at any time.

The Village has just received by will a deed for a lot
of land of about six acres to be fully enclosed by an ornamental
iron fence, said land to be used as a public park and athletic
field.

Our problems are so numerous, I am going to seek advice on
one only. Freeport is very badly in need of sewers, and the
proposition has been voted on several times, but has never car­
rried. While the property owners will not vote for sewers, they
seem ready and willing to vote favorably on permanent roads.

Our water mains are placed on the north and west sides of
our streets and the gas mains on the south and east sides, neces­
sitating the placing of sewer pipes in the center of the roads,
which undoubtedly is the proper place for them. I would like to
ascertain at this conference the experience any member has had in
leaving a strip in the center of the roads for the installation
of sewer pipes at a later date. Our streets for the most part
are only fifty feet in width including the sidewalks.

It is the unanimous opinion of our Village Board that an
organization of the first-class villages is one of the best
movements possible. Already the few reports I have received
are of immense interest and value. We assure you that there
will be considerable correspondence between our Village and the
secretary of the organization.

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

PRESIDENT T. F. REYNOLDS; Our problems are about the same as
in other villages. The following statement will tell you
something about our Village:

Streets: 25 miles of streets of which 2 1/4 miles are asphalt
block pavement from curb to curb; 2 3/4 miles asphalt
block pavement for a width of 20 ft.; 15 are
macadam pavement and the balance dirt streets.