

apparent, while there is a greater yield of bye-products. The cheaper output has had its repercussions in the form of increased profit and reduced prices.

The maximum price of gas was in 1922, when it was 5/7 nett. To-day the price is approximately 3/6 per 1000 cubic feet. During the period 1892—1916, £295,913 was contributed in relief of rates.

The first big development during the period under review was in 1924, when the second vertical retort installation was made, bringing the number of vertical retorts to 48, and raising the capacity of the works for coal gas to four million, five hundred thousand cubic feet. The whole installation cost £156,000.

New washing plant was installed in 1928, and new purification plant in the following year.

On January 1, 1930, an important change was made in the method of charging, the therm principle being adopted instead of the method of charging per thousand cubic feet.

In the same year a new chemical laboratory was built.

The latest extensions and improvements were inaugurated on December 8, 1931, and these include the provision of a new gas showroom at St. Petersgate, made necessary by the increasing demand for gas appliances; the new waterless type gasholder with a capacity of three million cubic feet; a new Dri-gas plant, which deals with five million cubic feet per day; and improvements at the Marsland Street depot.

The new gasholder is the most up-to-date of its kind in the country, and was built at a cost of £44,000. The holder has 22 sides, and a diameter of 136 feet, while the overall height is 255 feet.

The Dri-gas plant is designed to prevent the formation of water in the pipes, resulting in better service to consumers, and lower maintenance costs.

The new showrooms were designed by Messrs. Halliday and Agate, and were built at a cost of £14,000.

Further developments are being carried out. A new gasholder to hold two million cubic feet is in course of erection, and an industrial laboratory to provide for the needs of industrial consumers has been opened.

Mr. S. Meunier, who had been Gas Engineer for 37 years, died on October 6, 1928, and was succeeded by Mr. Walter Stanley Sowerbutts, who died on January 1, 1930. The present Engineer, Mr. Thomas Reynolds, was appointed on June 4, 1930.

Alderman Sir Thomas Rowbotham, J.P., has been Chairman of the Gas Committee during the period of reconstruction.

So great has been the development of the Stockport Corporation Electricity undertaking in the past ten years that the Millgate works has been almost entirely remodelled and rebuilt, and to-day it is one of the most up-to-date generating stations in the country.

Not only is the town well furnished with high and low pressure mains, but the area of supply is now one of approximately 130 square miles, and the number of consumers has been nearly quadrupled in the past ten years.