

The Mayor's Departments

CIVIL SERVICE

I am very happy to report that the Civil Service Department of the city government has again become a fully co-operative unit of the administration. For some years past this department has been under severe criticism on the part of citizens and city employees. A new spirit, however, has been brought about through change in personnel.

Colonel Chas. I. Anderson (now Commissioner of Streets), who for some years had been a member of the Park Board, and Mr. James C. Walsh, prominent Oakland attorney, were the new members I appointed during the past year. As there are but three members on the Civil Service Board these appointments return my administration a majority favoring my policies. This new majority appointed as Chief Examiner and Executive Secretary Colonel Custer P. Mader, well known Oakland businessman and prominent in veteran circles. A full investigation and examination of the civil service situation up to the time the administration regained control, has been made by Colonel Mader and his staff. This effort developed that many eligible lists had lapsed, and work was at once started to bring matters up to date. Colonel Mader already has given some seventy examinations covering the situation, and with more in the near future it is expected that by July 1st of 1930 all of the employees of the city will be on a permanent status.

To aid the Civil Service Board in developing its new program in alignment with administrative policies I have had Haskins & Sells, certified public accountants regularly employed to audit the city's books, make a special investigation of the pay scale of all civil service employees. This report is now in the hands of the board. Using it and the material developed through its own investigation, the Civil Service Department expects shortly to re-align and simplify all classifications of city employment. This also will add to the efficiency of the department and of our entire administrative employment situation.

I wish also to commend the Civil Service Board majority and Colonel Mader upon the practical character of the questions propounded in examinations. Common sense principles are now applied, with the result that those examined feel that the new board is operating with complete justice to all. This is particularly felt by the Police and Fire Departments whose confidence in civil service has been largely re-established through changes made. When Colonel Anderson became City Commissioner, I transferred John P. Irish from the Library Board to fill the unexpired term.

PARK DEPARTMENT

During the past year the Park Department, under leadership of the Park Board and Lee S. Kerfoot, superintendent of parks, has continued to render the highest of service to the people. Vital, though not necessarily extensive, improvements have been made in the zoo, and in the fire control system of Sequoia Park in the hills. In addition to this the Park Department has now completed all payments on lands bought during the past four or five years on the "purchase-option" plan.

Expansion Vital to Growing City

Several smaller tracts of land contiguous or adjacent to Sequoia Park are now in process of condemnation by the city. Acquisition of these few acres will smooth out the Sequoia Park boundaries and make more manifest the park limits. I favor the continued expansion of our park system.

At the present time that portion of Sequoia Park in the rear of the Joaquin Miller estate is bounded on the north by Palo Seco Creek. The boundary runs along the bottom of this creek for nearly a mile. Thus, this long, narrow strip includes only