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Municipality May Secure Dollar Gas

***Arrangement Between City Officials and Mr. Dickey
Seems to Tend to This Much Desired End-Reduction in Cost Expected Soon***

Dollar gas will be a reality in Baltimore before another year has passed.

This, in effect, is the latest proclamation of Mr. Charles H. Dickey, vice-president of the Consolidated Gas Company, president of its executive committee and presiding genius over its affairs.

Yesterday morning, in company with Superintendent of Lamps and Lighting McCuen, Mr. Dickey conferred with Mayor Hayes regarding the city's relations with the gas company. As a result of the conference the city will save between \$10,000 and \$15,000 a year.

At present an average street lamp burns annually about 8,100 feet of gas. This at \$1,000 feet, costs \$8.10. Mr. McCuen for a long while has endeavored to induce the gas company to fix a rate per lamp per year instead of the present rate per 1,000 feet of gas consumed. This Mr. Dickey yesterday agreed to do, and the price fixed by him, it is said, was about \$7.50 per lamp. Mr. McCuen will demand a further reduction in a few days and a mutually satisfactory rate will be agreed upon.

The gas company will be given a contract for one year or more, with a proviso that if it reduces the present price to the general consumer the city will be given the benefit of a proportionate reduction. That the price to the consumer will be reduced before long Mr. Dickey is confident.

Today he will leave for Massachusetts to inspect a gas-making method there in operation. Upon the plan of this it is proposed, to utilize the coke furnaces to be erected by the Maryland Steel Company at Sparrows Point as a source of gas supply. The waste gas produced in the manufactures of the coke will be piped to Baltimore and sold for heating purpose. Reduction in the cost of production will decrease the cost of illuminating gas, and in this way the \$1 rate—or even a lower one—will be feasible.

In response to a suggestion by Mr. McCuen the gas company will soon begin the work of extending its mains to all parts of the annex. Street gas lamps will be erected in the place of the present oil lamps as soon as such extension is completed.

Mr. McCuen has in contemplation a plan for greatly improving the appearance of the city's street lamps. Along St. Paul, Calvert, Charles and Cathedral streets and Mount Royal Avenue he will shortly replace the present plain posts with others of more artistic design. The lights upon the North Baltimore bridges and about the municipal building will be beautified also. As soon as the United Electric Company's wires are underground the gas lamps about the City Hall will be converted into electric lamps. An effort will be made too, to improve the arc lights

now in use by the substitution of lamps which will not throw shadows upon the street beside the pole. All of the old plain lampposts will be used in the suburban extensions.