

# OIL HEATING GAINS IN POPULARITY HERE

**Disgust Over Coal Situation  
Impels Many Owners to  
Change Equipment.**

**NOTABLY IN BIG BUILDINGS**

**One Company Reports 500 Per Cent.  
Increase in Sale of  
Appliances.**

Dissatisfaction with the coal situation was declared yesterday to be the prime factor in the development of fuel oil burning for heating large office buildings, hotels, apartment houses and smaller residences in this city. While specific figures on the number of buildings that have substituted fuel oil for coal are not available, a manufacturer of oil-burning equipment said the increase in sales in New York City during the last year was at least 500 per cent. over the preceding year.

Due to strict regulations of the Board of Standards and Appeals of the city, concerning the storage of oil, owners of smaller houses have not found it as profitable to install oil burners, as have the proprietors of buildings using 300 or more tons of coal a month, manufacturers agreed. Because of what he termed "unreasonable" regulations, William C. Brown, General Manager of the Cornell Utilities Company, said that the initial cost for equipping a small house with oil-burning appliances is about double what it should be. Mr. Brown said this year's installations were five times those of last year.

J. A. Langraff, Special Agent of the Standard Oil Company of New York, described recent fuel oil business as phenomenal.

## **Worry Over Coal a Factor.**

"The attitude this year of a large number of people to whom I spoke," said Mr. Langraff, "is that of absolute disgust with the coal situation. They had their experience last year, before, during and immediately after the coal strike and they are not taking any more chances. They would be willing to substitute oil for coal even if it cost them over a third as much more.

"People don't want to have the worry of how to get coal to heat their homes in the winter. They are willing to pay the price for comfort and convenience. Oil burning is past the stage of infancy and is accepted now as a going proposition. There has been a phenomenal increase in the installation of oil-burning appliances, especially in residences in the suburbs of New York and in New Jersey and Connecticut."

The present price of fuel oil ranges from 4½ cents a gallon, for heavy Mexican oil for use in big buildings, to 9 or 10 cents a gallon for refined oil. The latter is burned in the smaller furnaces.

A more uniform temperature than can possibly be attained through coal heating is furnished by oil, Mr. Langraff asserted. Another advantage is that of cleanliness. The cost of having ashes carted away is also removed, he said. Another saving, Mr. Langraff pointed out, is the pay of coal heavers. An engineer, or any competent person can watch the oil burners, he declared, because they were automatic for the most part.

The saving to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel during six months after conversion from coal to oil amounted to \$25,490. This figure was given out by former Fire Commissioner Robert Adamson, President of the Petroleum Heat and Power Company, which has installed oil burners in many of the large buildings in New York and near-by cities. Those in this city that now use or have contracted for oil burners include the following:

Equitable Building, Metropolitan Life Insurance Building, Mount Sinai Hospital, R. H. Macy Company, Hotel Claridge, Columbia University, John Wanamaker, Saks & Co, Knickerbocker Building, James A. Hearn & Son, American Lithograph Company, Beth Israel Hospital, Bonwit Teller, George Borgfeldt & Co., E. I. Doheny Jr. at 15 East Eighty-fourth Street, 12 East Eighty-sixth Street, Excelsior Savings Bank, Fleischmann Company, Adolph Gobel, Hotel Imperial, Institute for the Blind, Hospital of Joint Diseases, Loyola School, Manhattan Brass Company, National Printing and Engraving Company, New York Times Annex, Park Avenue Hotel, Pershing Square Building, Prudence Building, Runkle Brothers, San Remo Hotel, 328 Seventh Avenue, 352 Seventh Avenue, 100 William Street and a number of large apartment houses on Riverside Drive, Park Avenue and other streets.

## **Furnaces Easily Transformed.**

Since Major H. A. Bleecker, manager of the Singer Building, started burning oil several years ago, the increase in conversions has been large and steady, said Mr. Adamson. In the last year and especially in the last few weeks, when threats of another coal strike were again made, persons have contracted for oil-burning appliances in increasing numbers, the former Fire Commissioner declared.

Transforming a coal furnace to an oil burner takes about two or three days in a small house, Mr. Adamson said, but Mr. Brown contended it could be done in a day. The existing boiler is not changed but the inside of the fire box must be lined with fire brick to withstand the heat, he explained. Storage tanks, which must be enclosed inside solid concrete or masonry walls, are installed and the necessary piping, pumps, regulators, heaters, shut-off devices, &c., are provided. Plans for the installation must be approved by both the Fire and Building Departments before the actual work can be started.

Mr. Adamson declared that about 130 to 140 gallons of oil are equal to a ton of coal.

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