MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

SERVICE PIPES.

It is an open question in many cities and towns, says Fire and Water, as to the method of procedure of introducing service pipes leading from water mains to the inside of buildings to be furnished with water. It is customary for water departments, private and municipal, to insert the required sized tap in the water main. This is the general rule. As to connecting and introducing the service pipe, it is done in many cases by the water department with relative to the ment either laying the service pipe to the curb line of the street, and continuing it to the inside of the building, or permitting a plumber or licensed party to perform the work under the rules and regulations of the water department. In the one case, the service pipe becomes the property of the service pipe becomes the property of the water taker, who is obliged to keep the service pipe in repair. In the other case, the service pipe is the property of the corporation, and the question of repairs is the obligation of the owner, under these two conditions of administra-tion of service. When properly admin-istered little trouble is experienced: in istered little trouble is experienced; in fact, if trouble occurs by reason of the use of poor fixtures, which is frequently the case, it at once becomes more than local; good street paving of every description is torn up; streets are blocked; and travel is inconvenienced. The result is travel is inconvenienced. The result is that the original surface condition of a street thus torn up can rarely be restored to its former excellence. Nearly all this can be avoided, if proper rules and regulations are established and enforced. None but material of the most permanent character should be permitted to be used under the streets. If this step is taken, the serious and important item of street

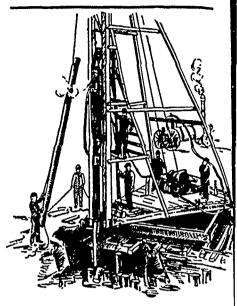
repairs would be reduced to a minimum. The question of allowing licensed parties to use the streets in the manner they do (even under inspection), to repair service pipes or place them, is capable of vast improvement. It is time a substantial reform is inaugurated in this branch of the public service. It would seem reasonable and proper that the departments controling sewer and water services should perform this work, even if it only extended to the curb line. In fact, they control the streets by law, and issue permits under rules—conferring the authority upon licensed persons. In this way, the responsibility is not so direct, and the work is not satisfactory, as it would be under the direction of the city authorities. There would be no need of fear on the score of negligent inspection, and the administration would undoubtedly be able to render efficient service in preserving the surface conditions of streets, which are in good order, and at the same time would use only the best materials for construction of underground work. In many cities and towns licensed plumbers are permitted to use any kind of cheap material for service pipes and curb-cocks. It is time this practise should be abandoned, and the work performed by the city authorities or the water department. It would save expense to property-owners, as the city can afford to do the work at cost, and it would be controlled by those in whose hands the authority properly lies.

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