

## Chicagoan, Humorist Meet in Miami



Fred Poor, Chicago manufacturer (left), and George Ade, Hoosier humorist, at Miami Beach, Fla., where they both spend part of each winter.

[Associated Press Photo.]

## SANITARY BOARD EXPERIMENT TO BE FAIR EXHIBIT

### World's Engineers Will See Stickney Plant.

Engineers from all parts of the world will visit the sanitary district's new experimental plant at Stickney when they come to a Century of Progress this summer. Thomas J. Bowler, president of the district, announced yesterday that in response to inquiries from foreign experts the plant will be thrown open as a World's Fair exhibit.

Mr. Bowler pointed out that because of experiments conducted by Edward J. Kelly, chief engineer of the district, and his assistants in burning sludge the district board will be able to save more than \$1,000,000 a year in operating expenses by 1938. This will represent a direct saving to the taxpayers.

#### The District's Big Job.

Chicago's sanitary district, with a population of 4,130,000 on the basis of the 1930 census, is the largest municipal corporation of its kind in the world. The problem of disposing of sewage is correspondingly large. New York City's problem is comparatively simple, for it pumps its sewage into the ocean.

By 1938 the Chicago sanitary district, under mandate of the United States Supreme court, must limit its diversion of water from Lake Michigan to 1,500 cubic feet a second. Up

to Dec. 20, 1932, the diversion averaged 6,453 feet a second.

Because of this limitation by the end of 1938 the entire sanitary district must be under artificial sewage treatment. No sewage can be disposed of by dilution in the drainage canal. The present method of disposal, other than dilution, is by the activated process, by which cultivated bacteria disintegrate the sludge. The cost is heavy, however, for a large acreage is needed and the sludge must be stored during four winter months.

After going through the treatment tanks the sludge in the activated process is spread four inches thick over sand beds. When it dries out it is scraped off and dumped in a heap at Summit.

The incineration process has been decided on for future disposal. Sludge contains half the heat value of the best Illinois coal. In order to burn the sludge the water content must be reduced to 50 per cent. Dewatering is one of the problems being worked out in the experimental plant at Stickney.

The test plant was built at a cost of \$125,000 and placed in operation last August. Its facilities include a vacuum filter, rotary drier, self-cleaning furnace, and equipment for eliminating odors.

The experiments have proved highly

successful, according to Mr. Bowler. The engineers have dewatered and burned sludge, using a small amount of coal at times. They have produced a harmless, odorless cinder, which is valuable for filling purposes such as track ballast.

Twenty tons of dried sludge are handled daily at the new plant. At the end of 1938 it will be necessary for the sanitary district to dispose of 650 tons of dried sludge daily. The saving in the new process is estimated at \$5 a ton, or \$3,250 a day, making an annual saving of more than \$1,000,000.

In addition the experiments will result in an estimated saving of \$9,775,000 in the district's construction program, according to the semi-annual report to the Supreme court.

## Walks Barefoot in Zero Weather to Pay Hoover Bet

Yakima, Wash., Jan. 2.—(AP)—A. S. Hillyer of the Sunnyside Sun celebrated the new year in near zero weather by walking barefoot from his home to his office in the center of the business section while early morning spectators cheered loudly. Hillyer was paying off an election debt made with John Heffron, Democrat, elected state senator. Hillyer bet President Hoover would be re-elected.