

**(VENTURA COUNTY.)
COUNCIL CUTS RATE.****Ventura Municipality Will Pay Less for
Water, but Citizens Will Still
Pay the Same.**

VENTURA, March 7.—The City Council has made a slight cut in the water rate for water furnished the municipality, while letting the rates to consumers generally stand as before. Last year the town paid \$1081.75 for water for all purposes. The board has cut \$17.50 a month off this amount. For use at the Plaza and Hill schools it has been paying \$15 per month for water though the latter school has never until very recently had an adequate supply. This amount has been cut to \$10 per month. For the High School, \$7.50 per month has heretofore been paid, and has now been cut to \$5 per month. The rate paid for water for sprinkling and including water for general town purposes outside of cemetery purposes, has heretofore been \$50 per month. This has been cut to \$25, and an allowance made of \$15 per month for cemetery purposes, making a reduction of \$10 per month, or \$17.50 per month all told. While a greater cut than this was expected, it is considered that this will help the town tide over the shortage which will soon occur in funds, when it may be necessary, says the City Clerk, to curtail expenses still more by shutting down for a time on street lights, or in some other quarter.

CIGAR STARTS BLAZE.

At 2:30 o'clock this morning the night watchman discovered a fire in the Board of Trade room in the City Hall. Investigation showed that some one, the night before, had dropped a cigar but into the wooden box used for a cuspidor, which had lighted the sawdust in the box. The fire had burned through the box and was making good headway in the floor when discovered. A hole a foot in diameter was the damage and a bucket of water saved the building.

TO PURCHASE PLANT.

The water company introduced a resolution at the last Council meeting which asked that the city agree to purchase the plant at the end of three years, at a price to be agreed upon by arbitration. The resolution was put over for future consideration.

BRIEFLY TOLD.

D. J. Reese has resigned as a member of the City Board of Education. Dr. Cunane was chosen to fill his place.

A castle of the Knights of King Arthur has been organized here in conjunction with the Episcopal Church