

SACRAMENTO WATER SUPPLY.

EDITORS UNION: On the 20th of this month the citizens will have a chance to vote on the water supply question. I have been watching this thing for some time and I believe this is the proper time to canvass the measure. There are two propositions submitted, either of which, it is claimed, is competent to furnish the estimated amount of water required; and, according to the bids on the specifications, they each agree to furnish a set of machinery and about twenty-seven feet of water pipe, and there ends their contract. The city is to furnish the balance of pipes, etc., that may be required. You will notice that these propositions come to the people in a dark-lantern sort of way. The Board of Trustees have not said to us we propose to furnish a building at a certain point that will cost about such an amount. They have not said we propose to filter the water before pumping into the pipes. They have not said we are going to pump mud and all into the pipes. They have not said we propose to erect a reservoir and pump the water into it and then draw it off into another reservoir and from there distribute to the people. It appears to me that the Board of Trustees should let the people know what they intend to do before the people vote upon either set of machinery. I have before me a book, which is the fifth edition of 5,000 each, published by the Holly Company. In page twenty, of the fifth edition, they set forth that Kalamazoo, Michigan, tested the Holly water works, and adopted it, after being recommended by thirty prominent citizens of that town. The City Council ordered the works and the following resolution was adopted:

"That the tests of the machinery for water works, provided in the contract between the Holly Company and the village of Kalamazoo, have been fully and satisfactorily made, and that we hereby recommend the acceptance of said machinery."

This all happened in 1869. Please turn over and look at the other side of the picture in 1872:

[From the Kalamazoo Daily Telegraph, June 26th, 1872.]

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held at Corporation Hall last evening. There was a full Board present. Mr. Gale reported that progress was making on the new boiler and it would soon be ready to remove to the works.

The subject of taking out the Holly pumps and supplying their place with something better was brought up, and the members of the Board were of one mind that something must be done immediately. Mr. Coates reported that he had a conversation with a gentleman from Vermont, who offered to furnish pumps and do the work of the Holly pumps at one-half the cost; and he also said that he would put his pumps in and if they did not do as he represented he would not charge a cent for them. Mr. Gale, the Superintendent, was instructed to get a definite proposition covering all the points discussed.

In view of the above, should we not pause a little and examine this matter? The Kalamazoo people appear to be alive about their water supply; and if, after testing the Holly works—and it is to be presumed that they furnished their best—for two years and they find that it is necessary to furnish some other machinery, I would ask if we would not be unwise to try the same experiment with such facts staring us in the face?

There are a great many things to be considered. First—If you adopt the Holly plan every supply-pipe in the city, and there are a great many, will have to be disconnected from the main and a patent automatic valve put in, as there is not a supply-pipe in the city that would stand when the fire pressure would be on. There is a nice little job in the valve business, as the inventor can charge what he pleases for his property, and you must have them, besides paying a heavy tax for the machinery. Every citizen that has water-pipes in his house will have to pay from \$10 to \$100 or more for plumbing before they dare to put on the fire pressure. I will here ask the wholesale merchants, who supply the corner grocery, and the grocer who sells to the mechanic, and the mechanic and laborer, if they will go the polls on the 20th and deliberately vote to send East \$150,000 that should be expended in this city, and distributed in a business way among all the citizens? It is a well known fact that the Holly company have been advertising their works for the last two years in pamphlet form, as well as through the papers and the person that simply read what they set forth are apt to get stuck after the Holly plan. Well, what does it amount to? I understand that the agent of the Holly Company, when in this city, claimed the exclusive right to pump the water direct into the mains. Why such a proposition should receive countenance I do not know. I am told that in Worcester, Massachusetts, they have been pumping direct to the mains for upwards of 25 years, and other places too numerous to mention. "Mechanic" asks some questions in regard to this matter, and in answer I will say that it is admitted that the Holly Company has a patent on certain valves, but he can examine the Patent Office Reports in the State Library, and he cannot find a patent on the principle of pumping water direct into main pipes. And here I ask the Board of Trustees to publish the answer they have received from the authorities of the town of Kalamazoo. The answer is to the effect that the Holly machinery is worthless and must be replaced by substantial machinery. I ask the Trustees to publish it for the purpose of showing that I have stated facts. KALAMAZOO.