

## Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners—Interesting Reports.

The Board of Water Commissioners met at the Recorder's Court room last night at 8¼ o'clock.

President Anthony Murphy presided.

There were present: Messrs. Murphy, Adair, Dunning, Toy, Terry, Hammond and Redwine.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

Mr. Ketchum's report of the amount of water furnished by South river. He estimates that the two streams which unite to form South river will furnish exceeding 350,000 gallons every twenty-four hours. The report was received.

Mr. Ketchum's report as to the cost of wells was read and received. He estimates that if wells will furnish a sufficient quantity of water, it can be furnished for \$13,000. This he recommended some time ago if practicable—but afterwards withdrew his recommendation on account of the formation here, and leaves it with the Board for experiment. Mr. Ketchum's report of the cost of furnishing 1,500,000 gallons of water daily, respectively from South River, from Peachtree Creek, and from the Chattahoochee, also the cost of furnishing 3,000,000 gallons daily from the Chattahoochee.

From South River, with two miles of distributing main, 45 hydrants and means of filling cisterns at a distance from fire hydrants, \$255,000. This includes all expenses necessary to the introduction of that amount of water.

Total approximate estimate from Peachtree Creek, same amount of water, \$280,000.

From Chattahoochee River, same number of gallons, \$445,000. For 3,000,000 gallons, \$615,000.

He recommends the South River water on account of its quality and its economy in point of construction.

President Murphy thought the iron could be bought cheaper—that the estimates of cost were all too high.

On motion the report was received and placed on file.

Dr. Redwine made some remarks relative to the report of the engineer. He advocated the South river plan—favored reporting this plan to the Council and get their permission to go to work, and an assurance from the Council that they will issue the bonds. It would take about \$300,000 in bonds to bring the water from South river.

Of course if the well system was practicable and cheaper it would be adopted. He did not believe the well system practicable for many reasons.

Thought it was time to go forward; was willing to experiment on the well system if thought advisable, but had no faith in it. Col. Adair was always ready to meet any issue fairly and squarely; concurred with Dr. Redwine; was ready for action; had been investigating for the past six months; saw water works at various places; Atlanta needs water works to furnish water for fire, sanitary and other purposes.

Most of the upper stories of buildings in the city were now perfectly valueless, on account of the want of water facilities. The cisterns could be filled for from \$75,000 to \$125,000, but we want more water than that. In case of a general fire, the cisterns would be exhausted in twenty minutes, and the city would be destroyed. Was willing to ask Council to issue \$300,000 in bonds, and then go to work and expend it honestly in the erection of water works.

Col. J. A. Stewart made a few remarks by way of apology for his presence. Was always willing to learn. Felt no disposition to dictate. Did not know when he made his remarks on 'Change that the well system was then under consideration. The well system worked so well at Rome that he wanted Atlanta to receive similar benefits. Was a water works man all over, even if they had to go to the Chattahoochee river. An experiment on the well system would not cost any great deal.

Mayor Hammeck was glad that Colonel Stewart was present.

Dr. Redwine moved that a committee of three be appointed to go before Council at a regular or special meeting, and lay before them the report of A. R. Ketchum, engineer, and ask that the bonds be issued to the amount of \$300,000, to be used in the construction of waterworks.

Col. Adair seconded the motion.

Judge Dunning made some remarks on the subject. He wanted the Council to issue the bonds, and the Commissioners would take care of the contracts. This farce of asking the Council's permission to make contracts had been repeated too often.

Dr. Redwine thought the Council would issue the bonds. He wanted to know whether they would or not. If they would not, he, for one, would go before the people, and see that those who oppose it do not get back into the Council.

Colonel Adair thought Dr. Redwine's motion was right. Courtesy was a cheap commodity, and he wanted the Council and everybody else to know what they were about.

Mayor Hammeck thought water works were a necessity—was not afraid to go before the people—was satisfied that the Council would issue the bonds by a very decided majority.

President Murphy thought there would be no difficulty about Council issuing the bonds.

The resolution was adopted, and Dr. Redwine, Judge Dunning and Colonel Adair were appointed as the committee.

On motion the Board adjourned.