

## **DES MOINES WATER PLANT SOLD.**

### **Litigation Over Rates Forces a Big Transfer.**

**DES MOINES, Nov. 16.**—(Special Telegram.)—Charles S. Parks of Boston, who is alleged to have bought the interest of F. M. Hubbell in the Des Moines Water company, which means practically that he has taken all of the \$600,000 of stock in the company, arrived in the city today. The mystery surrounding the alleged deal has only been intensified by Parks' presence in the city. The company has for years been involved in important litigation with the city with reference to rates, and was in the midst of this when the sale was reported to have been made. The value of the stock depends entirely on the outcome of the litigation, and when the sale was announced little stock was taken in it as a legitimate transaction. It was thought that for some ulterior reason President Hubbell wanted to get the property out of his own hands for a time. Parks confesses that he made the deal without any knowledge of the status of the litigation and without making an inspection of the plant.

Feeling against the water company is strong, and the belief that an attempt is being made to trick the city in some way has added to the probability that the city will insist on the letter of what are contended to be its rights in the rate matter.