

THE CITY SWINDLED OUT OF \$30,000!

Corruption and Rottenness.

Our readers are aware that labor on the Springfield water works was commenced just before the recent election. The announcement in the Journal that the work had been let to Messrs. Ennis & Eastman for the snug little sum of \$139,000, was the first official notification that the prosecution of the work had been resolved on. In accordance with the provisions of a city ordinance, one of the aldermen had moved that the work be *advertised* and let to the *lowest bidder*; but, strange to say, that motion was voted down by the republican majority! The next thing known to the public was the fact that the work had been let out.

Sometime last summer Messrs. Jones & Harrison, of St. Louis, (contractors on the Adams street sewer,) and both republicans, were told by Mayor Sutton that the idea of supplying the city with rain water would undoubtedly be carried out, and they expressed a wish to bid on it. Not seeing it advertised, and work being dull with them, they both came up a few days ago to see about the job, but were not a little surprised to find that the work had been let. They visited the contractors, and got an insight into the work. Surprised at the largeness of the sum bid for the kind of work required by the specifications, they could not help expressing it to Mayor Sutton, whereupon that officer waxed exceeding wroth. Mr. Harrison then told him that a better article of pipe could be put down, and a better job generally done, for \$100,000, than the city was paying for. The more evidence Mr. Harrison gave of understanding the cost of the work, the madder grew the irascible mayor. *Is the mayor concerned in this contract, that he should show so much feeling?* Notwithstanding a "break" has been made upon the work, we understand that the contract has not been formally approved by the city council. Have any of our citizens got the public spirit and pluck to sue out a *mandamus* and restrain this work? Are not our taxes heavy enough yet, or shall we also shoulder the burden of a contract made against law? In view of the "hard times coming," let the work stop, before heavy damages accrue.

We expect soon to be able to give a thorough expose of the whole matter.