

The Southern Illinois Railroad.

The citizens of Carmi and White County, Illinois, have heartily manifested a disposition to co-operate with Evansville, heretofore, in the construction of the line of Railroad, in which both sections are mutually and equally interested; that, now that there is a disagreement between us, we deem it due to them that we publish their views upon the subject. As an expression of the sentiments of the people of White County, we direct attention to the article from the Carmi Courier, in this issue.

The Courier is mistaken in alleging that the Evansville Directors have contracted for the building of a road in Illinois with a party, who has no franchises for the construction of a road in that State. Our Directors were advised by their attorneys that they had no authority to contract for the construction of a railroad outside of this State, and their contract with General Winslow is only for building the road to the Wabash River; and the payment of the county appropriation is made contingent upon the completion of the line of road in Illinois, for the construction of which the Indiana Directors do not contract.

Water Works Contract.

We copy from the Courier of yesterday—to whom, as a matter of party favor, it was furnished in advance—the contract between the Water Works Committee and William C. Weir, of Lockport, New York. It is, as Mr. Heilman designated it, a most "extraordinary" document, and well worth a careful perusal.

1. It is very evident that the document was drawn up by the contractor, Mr. Weir. It is fair to presume, therefore, that his interests have been carefully guarded, whatever may be the luck of the city.

2. The contract has been awarded without advertising for bids, or inviting competition of any character, and in the face of the fact that responsible parties were willing to do the job for a great deal less money. Every effort seems to have been put forth to prevent competition. Mr. Long himself, who has obtained the sub-contract for furnishing the pipe, was prepared to bid on the whole job had a favorable opportunity been granted him for doing so, but no such opportunity presented itself, and he was compelled to take a sub-contract.

3. While the precise spot for the location of the pumps, well, engine house, &c., is not designated in the contract, the plan for laying the pipe indicates that they are to be stationed in the lower part of the city, in order, no doubt, that the citizens may have the full benefit of the daily discharge from the city sewers. This arrangement is of itself enough to nauseate every citizen who had designed using the water for culinary purposes.

4. The contract does not obligate Mr. Weir to furnish "filtered water." He only agrees that the water shall be free from "turbidity;" that is, it shall not be thick with mud. This, we think, will be a great disappointment to those who have based their expectations upon the profuse promises of being supplied with clear, soft water, filtered through gravel.

5. Mr. Weir does not obligate himself to leave the streets in as good condition, after laying the pipe, as he found them. On the contrary, the bowlders are to be "placed in piles on the streets," to be relaid at the expense of the city, which any one may readily see will prove no small item.

6. All changes from the letter of the specifications are to be paid for by the city, as "extras." As the specifications, as well as contract, were prepared by the contractor, no one but that gentleman has any conception of what is in reservation for the city in the shape of "extras."

7. Every fourteen days, upon estimates made out by the contractor, the city shall pay ninety per cent. of said estimate in cash, provided that not over ninety per cent. of the whole contract shall be paid in advance of the completion of the same. But the only protection the city will have against extravagant estimates will be Mr. Weir's honesty. The contract affords no protection whatever. We are inclined to the opinion that the last mentioned item is without a parallel in municipal legislation. It is, most unquestionably, an improvement on any thing hitherto ventured by the notoriously corrupt Tammany Council of New York City.

8. The city has contracted, in advance of the sale of bonds, to pay out two hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars in cash, by the first of February, 1871, thus advertising its necessities in such a way as to necessarily depreciate the value of its bonds.

9. The pretended reservation of ten per cent. is no protection whatever to the city in case Mr. Weir fails to perform his part of the conditions agreed upon. He may so slight or imperfectly do the work, upon which he has been paid ninety per cent., as to make it utterly impossible for the city to make the same good out of the ten per cent. held in reserve.

The above are some of the objections which present themselves to our mind on looking over the agreement, to which we invite attention. With the details of the contract, such especially as refer to the technical specifications embodied therein, we know as little about them as the Water Works Committee. Whether Mr. Weir, who alone of all the contracting parties is familiar with them, has given the city some peculiar and particular advantages in the details, or

has reserved all things to himself, is a point we are not prepared to decide. He cannot regard us as particularly uncharitable, however, if we express the opinion that he does not often find a city who so willingly places itself at the mercy of a strange contractor.

WATER WORKS:

CONTRACT FOR PIPE, LAYING PIPE, WELLS, ENGINE, HOUSE, &c.

Article of Agreement Between Wm. C. Weir and the City of Evansville, Indiana

This agreement, made this—day of July, one thousand eight hundred and seventy (1870), by and between William C. Weir, of the city of Lockport, and State of New York, party of the first part, and the city of Evansville, County of Vanderburgh, and State of Indiana, party of the second part, witnesseseth:

That, in consideration of the mutual promises herein contained, the parties hereto agree as follows, to wit:

First, The party of the first part agrees to furnish all the materials and dig and make the necessary excavations for, and construct and build a pumping shaft or well and drift to supply water for the Water Works of the said city of Evansville, at such place within the corporate limits of said city, on or near the bank of the Ohio river, as the party of the second part shall provide and designate. Said well and drift shall be dug, built and completed so as strictly to conform to and comply with the following described specifications in every particular, which are hereby made a part of this contract:

The said pumping shaft or well will be eighteen (18) feet inside diameter and of the best paying brick laid in cement in a circular wall twenty (20) inches in thickness, the outside of which will be covered with two (2) coats of plastic for the purpose of excluding surface water. Said shaft will be supported on a heavy circular plate of wrought iron. Fifteen (15) feet from the bottom of said shaft a similar wrought iron plate will be located, on which will be built a water tight "pumping floor," which will be constructed of boiler plate half (1/2) of one (1) inch in thickness, with water-tight joints riveted. The rivets will be placed two (2) inches from center to center. Said floor will be attached to the wrought iron plate aforementioned by means of flanges three (3) inches in width turned upward, or angle iron may be used, through which three-fourths (3/4) inch bolts will be placed two (2) inches from center to center, around the circumference of said circular plate. Said floor will be attached to a center column in the same manner. Said floor will be supported by boiler plate joist one-half (1/2) of one (1) inch in thickness, and two (2) feet in width and twenty (20) in number, and made fast with angle iron through which three-fourths (3/4) inch bolts will be placed, three (3) inches from center to center, attaching them to center column above lower flange and circular plate on same level. Said joists will radiate from said center column to circular plate with equal space between them. Angle iron will be placed along the upper edge of said joists, to which the floor will be firmly bolted. Wrought iron braces twenty (20) in number, two (2) inches in diameter and eight (8) feet in length, will be attached to the lower edge of each joist and angle iron below in shaft with two (2) bolts.

A center column will rest on said pumping floor, which will also serve as a water discharge pipe, and will be twenty (20) inches inside diameter, the shell of which will be one and one-fourth (1 1/4) inches in thickness, cast vertically in dry sand, and sufficiently strong by actual test, to withstand a hydrostatic pressure of three hundred and fifty (350) pounds to the square inch. The flanges on said pipe will be one and one-fourth (1 1/4) inches in thickness and three and one-half (3 1/2) in width from outside of flanges to outside of pipe, and well-turned and fitted to a perfect water tight joint. Bolt holes of said flanges will be one (1) inch in diameter, and (5) inches from center to center. The length of said column depending on the depth of said shaft, cannot now be accurately described. There will be above the pumping floor an elbow, from which there will be two (2) flanged branches each twelve (12) inches inside diameter cast on the lower length of center column, said flanges fitted with a perfect water-tight joint.

A special casting, five (5) feet in length, will be furnished at the top of said column, which will contain a true curve branch of twenty inches, inside diameter, and a straight horizontal piece of pipe ten feet in length, extending to outside of said curbing, containing a faced flange at the outer end. Said circular column will be supported by braces of wrought iron bars. There will be twenty (20) of said braces, each attached to the center column and angle iron in wall, with bolts one (1) inch in diameter and two (2) at either end.

Spiral stairs will extend from the top of shaft to the pumping floor, and will be nine (9) inches triad and two (2) feet in width. The cast iron stepping plates for said stairs will be one-half (1/2) of one (1) inch in thickness, and attached with bolts one-half (1/2) inch in diameter to stair frame, which will be made of bar iron one-half by one and one-half (1 1/2) inches. Said stairs will be supported firmly by cast iron brackets.

The top of said shaft will be securely covered by a floor placed upon wrought iron girders, which will support the necessary pumping machinery connected with the gang pumps, which will rest upon the pumping floor situated fifteen (15) feet from the bottom of the shaft, and which has been described above.

Three feet above the bottom of said shaft will be commenced a drift which will be of cast iron, half ellipse in form, measuring four feet horizontally by six feet vertically, in segments jointed at the top with bolts one inch in diameter through inverted flanges and in sections one foot in width, the outer perimeter of which will be smooth from necessity that the joints of said sections will not obstruct the work of excavation. Said sections are to be connected by bolts one inch in diameter through inverted flanges. The sides of said sections are to be perforated for the purpose of admitting water by percolation. Said drift will extend horizontally below the bed of the Ohio river until five million gallons of water free from turbidity, is obtained daily.

Second, The party of the first part further agrees to furnish to the party of the second part the following described cast iron water pipes and special castings: All of which said pipe and special castings are to be made of good soft strong iron, and are to be subjected to a hydrostatic test of three hundred pounds to the square inch. All straight pipes are to be twelve feet long, and all of said pipes and castings are to be free from lumps, scabs and cold sheets and are to be of a uniform thickness of iron that is cast in such a manner as to prevent thick and thin sides on the same pipe.

The amount and quantity and the location of said pipe shall be as follows, to-wit:

Eleven hundred and fifty feet twenty inch pipe from pumping floor to First Street, along First Street to Lee Street.

Eighteen hundred and seventy-five feet sixteen inch, from Lee Street to Division Street, northerly, on Division to Fourth Street.

Fifteen hundred feet twelve inch along Division from Fourth to Eighth Streets.

Three hundred and fifty feet six inch along Main to Water Street.

Twenty-eight hundred and fifty feet eight inch along First Street, from Division Street to Oak Street.

Twenty-eight hundred and fifty feet six inch, along Second, from Division to Oak.

Twenty-eight hundred and fifty feet six inch pipe, along Third Street, from Division Street to Oak Street.

Twenty-eight hundred and fifty feet eight inch pipe, along Fourth Street, from Division to Oak Street.

Twenty-eight hundred and fifty feet six inch pipe along Sixth Street, from Division Street to Oak Street.

Twenty-eight hundred and fifty feet six inch pipe along Seventh Street, from Division to Oak Street.

Twenty-six hundred feet eight inch pipe along Oak Street, from Water to Eighth.

Three hundred and fifty feet six inch pipe along Oak, from First to Water Street.

Thirty-eight hundred and twenty-two feet eight inch pipe on Eighth Street, from Ann to Bell Street.

Six hundred and fifty feet six inch pipe on Bell Street, from Eighth to Lane.

Three hundred and fifty feet six inch on Lane from Bell to Wheeler.

Fifteen hundred and twenty-five feet six inch along First Street and Ashland Place, east to College Street.

Three hundred and fifty feet six inch pipe along College Street from Ashland Place to Avon Place.

Five hundred and fifty feet six inch pipe along Avon Place, from College to Jefferson.

Six hundred and fifty feet six inch pipe along Jefferson from Parratt to Putnam.

Eleven hundred feet six inch along Gum from First to Chandler.

Five hundred feet six inch pipe along Chandler from Gum to Sixth.

Seven hundred feet six inch pipe, along Sixth and Gum, from Chandler to Eighth.

Thirteen hundred and fifty feet six inch pipe, along Walnut, from Eighth to Smith.

Fifteen hundred and eighty-eight feet eight inch along Main, from Eighth to Ann.

Thirty-seven hundred feet six inch along Division and Washington, from Eighth to North Ninth.

Eighteen hundred and fifty feet six inch pipe, along Mary, from Ann to North Ninth.

Fifteen hundred and twenty-five feet six inch, along Ann, from Eighth to First Avenue.

Fourteen hundred feet six inch pipe, along Canal, from Division to Ann.

Sixteen hundred and twenty-five feet six inch pipe, along Ann to Eighth.

Four hundred and seventy-two feet six inch pipe, along Third, from Division to Carpenter.

Five hundred and fifty feet six inch pipe, along Carpenter, from Third to Clark.

Thirty hundred and seventy-five feet eight inch pipe, along First Street and Third Avenue, from First to Eighth.

Twenty-six hundred and fifty feet six inch pipe, along Fulton Avenue, from Front to Eighth.

Twenty-five hundred and twenty-five feet eight inch pipe, along Eighth, from Sixth to First Avenues.

One thousand feet six inch pipe along Fulton Avenue, from Eighth to Eleventh Streets.

Forty-four hundred and eighty-five feet six and four inch pipe reserved for hydrant branches and not yet distributed.

There shall be crosses or ties at each and every street intersection. The necessary special castings, cross-ties, easy-bands, and reducers to connect the above described pipe are to be of the same quality and workmanship as the water pipe.

The party of the first part further agrees to furnish all the necessary lead machinery and workmen, who shall be skilled and competent, and to lay all the said pipes and special castings, and to set the hydrants and water-valves in a good, substantial and workmanlike manner.

It is understood and agreed that the location of the above described twelve miles of water pipe may be changed by the Committee on Water Works at their discretion, but that in no event shall the quantity be increased to more than twelve miles, nor the respective sizes or weights increased.

Third, The party of the first part agrees to furnish all necessary laborers, implements and whatever else may be necessary therefor, and dig and construct, in a skillful manner, all the necessary trenches that may be required in constructing and laying pipes, and special castings for the Water Works in said city of Evansville, and after said pipes and special castings shall have been laid in said trenches to back-fill the same. All the said trenches are to be of sufficient depth to locate the tops of all water-pipes three feet below the surface of the ground or street, which will make the main depth thereof as follows, to-wit: For twenty inch pipe, four feet and eleven inches; for sixteen inch pipe, four feet and seven inches; for twelve inch pipe, four feet and three inches; for ten inch pipe, four feet and one-half inch; for eight inch pipe, three feet and ten inches; for six inch pipe, three feet and eight inches; for four inch pipe, three feet and six inches.

The trenches are to be back-filled, with the same earth that was taken out of them, and the metal of all streets is to be placed in the trenches, so back filled, and the bowlders placed in piles on the street.

In the prosecution of said work, the party of the first part shall prevent, as far as possible, all obstruction to public travel, or ingress or egress to or from private property; which, being done as far as circumstances will permit, the party of the second part will hold the party of the first part harmless from any damages that any person may sustain, by reason of such obstruction or delay. The party of the first part shall use due precaution, and provide sufficient safe-guards around said trenches during the construction thereof, to prevent injury or damage to person or property by reason of any person falling into, or riding, or driving, or walking into said trenches. And when said party of the first part shall have used said necessary precautions, the party of the second part agrees to hold the party of the first part harmless from any damage or injury that may arise by reason of said necessary prosecution of said work.

Fourth, The party of the first part further agrees to furnish thirty-three street valves, and sixty-seven hydrant valves, of first class, to be mutually agreed upon at his own proper cost, and to set the same in a good and substantial and workmanlike manner; also one hundred and ten (110) Holly's fire hydrants, with double discharge. Two street safety valves, and air-traps, if said air-traps shall be necessary, in the construction of the work, and to set the same in a good, substantial and workmanlike manner; also, the valve boxes and cast iron valve covers, said valve covers not to exceed one hundred and twenty pounds each.

Fifth, The party of the first part further agrees to erect at his own proper cost, and to furnish all the materials therefor, a water works building, sixty feet by eighty-five feet, and a smoke stack, ten feet at the base and battered to five feet six inches at the top, and to be eighty-five feet high; said building and stack shall be built and completed, so as strictly conform to and comply with the specifications annexed hereto in every particular, and which are hereby made a part of this contract. It is understood and agreed that no extra work shall be performed, or materials furnished beyond that provided for in this contract, unless necessary, and if ordered by the party of the second part, the reasonable cost thereof shall be paid by said party of the second part, nor shall the work be changed or varied, in any wise, except by the consent of the party of the first part, except at the cost of the party of the second part, as above provided.

Sixth, The party of the first part further agrees to construct and build in close proximity to the Water Works building, a circular reservoir, twenty feet inside diameter and fifteen feet in depth, said reservoir to be built of the best paying brick laid in cement. It is to serve as a suction receptacle for the rotary pumps during configurations. In said reservoir will be placed an ornamental fountain, both for the purpose of supplying the surface condenser and keeping the water constantly pure. Said fountain shall have four (4) vertical jets one eighth (1/8) of one inch orifice, which will constantly discharge for the purposes above mentioned.

Seventh, The said party of the first part further agrees to build and complete said well and drift, and to furnish and lay the cast iron water pipe and special casting, and to set the street valves, fire hydrants and street safety-valves, and to erect and complete the Water Works building, and to build the reservoir, and to deliver the same to the Water Works Committee of the city of Evansville, on or before the first day of February, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, in complete and entire order in every respect.

Eighth, For which machinery, materials and work above agreed to be furnished, made and done by the party of the first part, and in full satisfaction for the same, complete and finished, as above specified, the party of the second part agrees to pay to the party of the first part the sum of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, to be paid as follows, to-wit: At the expiration of each period of fourteen days, until the work shall be completed, as aforesaid, the party of the first part shall make a written estimate of the work done and material furnished in the construction of said water works; estimating the same at the proportionate value such labor so furnished and performed bears to the whole amount of labor and material to be furnished and performed under the contract; and upon the receipt of said estimate the party of the second part shall pay to the party of the first part a sum which shall be equal to ninety per cent. of the amount of each estimate; but the party of the second part shall not, in any event, be required to pay money to exceed ninety per cent. of the whole price of the one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, until the whole of the said work shall have been finished and completed, and delivered to the said City of Evansville. And whenever the said work shall have been fully finished and completed, and adjusted, as aforesaid, and shall have been found by actual test to be capable of throwing six one-inch streams to the vertical height of one hundred feet, and distributing the water about the city in sufficient quantities for domestic use at the same time, then the remainder of the one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars shall be paid by the party of the second part to the party of the first part.

It is agreed between the parties hereto, that the "Committee on Water Works" of the party of the second part may appoint a superintendent, who shall supervise the construction of said Water Works and their appurtenances, and shall see that the same is done and completed according to the terms of this contract; and shall, from time to time, report to the Committee on Water Works of the party of the second part, the condition and progress of said work, and the manner in which the same is being done. And should it appear from the report of said superintendent, that the said work is not being carried on in accordance with the contract, an investigation shall be ordered by the Committee on Water Works of the party of the second part, having the work in charge; and should said report be sustained by proper proof, the defects shall be remedied and corrected, and if not corrected, the city may rescind the contract, and complete said works, charging said party of the first part any excess of cost over and above the contract price; and should from any cause the progress of said job be suspended for thirty days, the party of the second part reserves the right to rescind this contract and take the completion of said job into its own hands, charging the party of the first part any excess in costs over the contract price. Provided said delay is not the result of unavoidable accident, or caused by the death of the party of the first part, and in the event of the death of the party of the first part, without his having made provision for the completion of said works, then in that event, the said party of the second part reserves to herself the right to finish and complete said works.

In testimony whereof the party of the first part has hereunto set his hand, and the party of the second part has caused these presents to be signed and its corporate seal affixed thereto by its Mayor duly authorized thereto the day and year first above written.

I undertake for William C. Weir, that he will faithfully and fully perform and do all the things which he has agreed to perform and do in the foregoing contract in every particular as therein set out. And in case he shall fail or refuse to perform and do any of the said things as aforesaid, I will pay to the said city of Evansville, all losses and damages that said city may sustain by reason of such failure or refusal.

Witness my hand at said city this—day of July 1870.

THERE is some talk of a Dickens memorial volume in London. Its contents will be made up of his personal habits and most striking characteristics; illustrations of his home, and a selection of articles written for French, English and American newspapers on his death.