

The Holly Waterworks System.

Pamphlets containing a history of the origin and progress of the Holly waterworks system, in the form of a prospectus of the Carrollton Holly Waterworks Company, are distributed about the city. In reading one of them out of curiosity, we found that it is a new system of waterworks, invented by Birdsell Holly, of Lockport, New York.

The peculiarity of the Holly system of waterworks is that the supply of water is direct from the inlet pipes without the use of a reservoir. The delivery of water takes place through properly constructed mains and services provided with fire hydrants, placed at convenient intervals and at proper points. By means of a suitable arrangement of safety-valves, pressure gauges and registers, perfect uniformity of flow and complete control of the water is obtained.

These works dispense with the reservoir system entirely, and the result is purer and more wholesome water. Very likely, if Chicago had the Holly waterworks, which reach out by their underground pipes throughout the entire city, where there are always several hydrants on hand, ready upon the turning of a wrench and the attaching of a section of hose for instant and successful action, that city would not now be in ashes.

The water supply of these hydrants, with the pumps driving the water into the mains in a volume sufficient to give sixty pounds pressure per square inch in every part of the city, is so immense and powerful that a fire has no chance in a contest. Streams can be thrown sufficiently high to deluge the tallest buildings, and extinguish the fire.