

Mr. Ward M. Otis, brother of Edward Otis of this city, and a prominent resident of Watertown, Massachusetts, where he is a selectman and clerk of the Board of Selectmen, writes to his brother an interesting description of a trial of the Holly water works system which he recently witnessed. Mr. Otis says: "A week ago last night Mr. Richardson, agent of the Holly Water Works Company, came out here and invited two of the Selectmen to go to Bangor, Maine, with him, to witness the trial of the new water works just completed by that company. So Mr. Shaw (one of the Selectmen) and myself went down; ~~arriving the next morning~~ in Bangor. There was a party of about twenty from different towns; and a jolly time we had. I presume you saw an account of the trial. The Holly system pumps directly into the pipes and does away with reservoir and stand pipe. These pumping works are a mile and a half above the city on the river, and they played through six-hydrants—twelve one-inch streams 115 feet high at the same time. The next trial was from hydrants elevated 221 feet above the pumps and two miles distant, and they throw five streams 124 feet perpendicularly. "How was that for high?" Another trial was with a two-inch stream, which was thrown 185 feet high, and at still another trial a three-inch stream was thrown 241 feet high by measurement." They have seventeen miles of pipe, 137 hydrants, and the engine house and works complete cost \$185,000. How is that for water works? The Bangor people are very much pleased, and I should think they might be. This system does away with fire engines. Our town came very near adopting the old reservoir system last year at an estimate of \$400,000, and it would probably have cost half as much more before it was completed—such things usually do."

Our people every now and then take a spurt on the water works question, but nothing practical or decisive is arrived at. Just now the subject is beginning to be agitated again, and we suggest that if the advantages thus outlined by Mr. Otis are as great as they appear, with no demerit to offset them, that the Holly system would bear looking into by our public-spirited citizens. Certainly an abundant supply of good water is one of our most pressing needs, and if water works can be constructed that will provide a supply at so comparatively small a cost, it would be true economy to construct them.