

In accordance with a resolution of the last meeting of the Council, Mayor Bennett made the following report:

GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL:

When the city voted to take the controlling interest in the stock of the Jackson City Water Company, said company appointed me Superintendent for the construction of the works, and authorized me to purchase land, contract for machinery, pipe, etc., and do all things necessary to carry forward the work to its speedy completion. Acting upon this legal authority, I have visited and corresponded with the different companies manufacturing the required material, obtained the lowest prices for the same, contracted with those offering the most liberal terms, and have reported to the Council from time to time what has been done, which reports have been approved by said Council. As these were verbal reports and were not published, and as the Council adopted a resolution requesting a full report of what has been done, I will repeat my previous reports in imperfect shape for publication.

At the citizens meeting called to consider the water works question, there was a unanimous vote to adopt the Holly Water Works. On this action the Jackson City Water Company contracted with the Holly Manufacturing Company, of Lockport, New York, for one arch frame double cylinder piston engine, with cylinders sixteen inches in diameter, and twenty-seven inches long. Also one Holly patent elliptical, rotary steam engine, of one hundred and fifty horse power; also, two Holly's patent rotary pumps, capable of furnishing three million gallons of water per diem, and all necessary gearing, shafting, steam pipes, water and vacuum gauges, and all valves used with said machinery; and also, one donkey engine and one boiler feed pump, two steam boilers, and everything else necessary to make the whole machinery complete and adapted to its perfect use. Before the machinery is accepted, the said Holly Water Company agree in their contract, to cause said machinery to throw six one-inch streams of water, at the same time, to the vertical height of one hundred feet, from hose attached directly to the hydrants, anywhere between Mill and Jackson streets; also to throw three streams of water in the same manner, to the same height, from hydrants located in the highest altitude in the city. The contract price for said machinery is \$40,000—complete in every respect for use. The Jackson City Water Company also contracted with the same parties for fifty patent, double hydrants, at fifty dollars each.

As Superintendent I had interviews and corresponded with all the principal pipe manufacturers in the country, and finding that Mr. Wm. Smith, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, would furnish equally as good pipe on more favorable terms than others, contracted with him at an average of about three cents per pound for the main pipes, and four cents per pound for crosses, T's, U's, reducers, sleeves, dead laps, etc., all delivered here free of charge. Sufficient pipe has been ordered for between five and six miles, to be laid on Franklin, Washington, Mill, Main, North Main, Blackstone, Jackson, Mechanic, Milwaukee, and some other streets, affording the best possible fire protection the coming winter.

I have employed to lay the pipes Messrs. Collins & Kinsey, of Dayton, Ohio, experienced pipe layers, who come highly recommended by the authorities of Dayton, Ohio, Peoria, Illinois, and other places, and who guarantee all their work to stand the required pressure.

Messrs. Brown & Olegg, of Troy, New York, furnish Brown's patent stop-valves, for shutting off the water from different pipes when required, for seven hundred and sixty-one dollars.

We require nearly or quite ten tons of lead, besides packing, for use in making the joints in the pipe. The lead was procured at Galena, at 7½c per pound.

When the citizens voted to adopt the Holly Water Works, I immediately invited Mr. Holly, a celebrated hydraulic engineer, and inventor of this system of supplying cities with water, to visit our city, and after thoroughly examining it, to designate the proper locality to construct his works. After doing so, he decidedly favored the one now being used for this purpose. This meeting the views of the company and having perfect confidence in the judgment of this engineer as to the proper locality, to secure the perfect success of his works, the four lots now being used were bought for two thousand dollars.

In deciding upon the style of building needed, we procured plans and elevations from Peoria, Illinois, Dayton, Ohio, and other places where this system of water works is adopted, but found none to suit so well, both in style and price, as the one submitted by one of our home architects, which plan and cost was approved and accepted by the Council.

Mr. Hugh Richards has contracted to do all the mason work in the construction of the building, for five thousand and five hundred dollars; and the same party is to prepare the foundation for the machinery, etc., for four hundred and fifty dollars; all to be done and finished according to the plans and specifications drawn by the architect. Mr. I. F. Coots has the contract for the carpenter work, roofing, etc., for the completion of the building, according to the plans and specifications, for the sum of four thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars.

Our first plan was to construct a reservoir and sink artesian wells, but learning that this water would not be taken and used for steam purposes, thereby depriving the city of one of its largest sources of revenue, and becoming convinced from the experience of other cities, that good river water, properly filtered, is the very best water that can be obtained, we thought it advisable to at first furnish the filtered water, believing that it will prove perfectly satisfactory, in all respects, for culinary purposes and for all other uses required. If not, the artesian wells can still be bored, using the same reservoirs necessary in either case, without incurring much extra expense.

The trenches to receive the pipes, and the filling of the same, will be done by day laborers under the charge of a competent foreman.

I regret exceedingly, gentlemen, that this whole burden has been thrown upon me. But with the counsel and advice of our best citizens, and daily correspondence with gentlemen of experience in the construction of water works elsewhere, I am confident that everything has been, and will be done for the best interests of the city. The weather thus far has been very unfavorable for the rapid progress of the work, but we hope that by the first of August, we shall be able to give such an exhibition of the wonderful workings of this system of water works, that the most skeptical will be thoroughly converted.

W. M. BENNETT.

Accepted and ordered printed.