

WATER WORKS.

Another Proposition to Supply Kansas City.

The following letter to the City Council was read and filed Monday :

NEWARK, N. J., Jan. 27, 1872.

D. Ellison, Esq., President Common Council, Kansas City :—

DEAR SIR: The undersigned, with the knowledge that the great need of your city is an abundant supply of pure and wholesome water, beg leave respectfully to submit through you, to the city authorities, the following proposition for the construction of water works capable of supplying this want.

We presume from what we know of the location of your city, that there is an abundant supply of water within easy reach, and only requiring the proper appliances for raising and distributing it. We therefore propose the following plan for securing so desirable an object :—

We will erect suitable pumping engines and appurtenances, of capacity sufficient to furnish each individual of a population of one hundred thousand a daily supply of fifty gallons, the water to be delivered into a reservoir of proper capacity, or directly into the distributing pipes of the city, as may on examination be found preferable.

For the distribution of the water we will lay down at the outset, twelve miles of main and distributing pipes, to be provided with a suitable number of gates or valves, and about one hundred and fifty hydrants, the quantity of pipes, gates and hydrants to be increased from time to time as the needs of the city demand.

The details of construction to be determined by a competent hydraulic engineer, whom we will send to Kansas City, and under whose directions and plans the work shall be done, we agreeing that the plan and mode of construction shall be satisfactory to the authorities of your city.

For the construction of the works we will organize a company with capital sufficient, Kansas City to become interested in said company to the extent of one half the stock, so that the city would have a direct interest in the pecuniary profit of the works, and a voice in the control of its affairs. The amount of this interest would probably be in the neighborhood of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, for the payment of which the bonds of the city to be issued and secured by the company.

This company will be organized at the East, and the stock full paid.

Kansas City to pay for the water for public purposes for the first year, and a rent of thirty thousand dollars, and a future annual increase proportioned to the growth of the city.

For your information on the subject, we herewith enclose copies of the water rates of several cities, that you may judge of the fairness of the rates proposed.

Besides the regular water rates, it would be well to adopt the practice of other cities and collect what is called the indirect or surface tax, or tax on all property which may be unimproved, or not taking the water, but in front of which, water pipes are laid. This tax might be very light, perhaps not exceeding five cents per foot. The reasons for this are, the enhanced value of the property having the means of water supply, increased security against fire, etc. The city having by the plan, proposed a direct interest in the profit of the works, may very properly assent to such a tax.

There are many points which can only be determined by a careful examination and estimate, which we are prepared to make.

The work would be commenced as soon after the organization of the company as practicable, and we have the means and ability to prosecute it with vigor. The time of the completion will depend on the judgment of the engineers after a careful examination.

It is the intention, if we undertake it, to build first-class works, comparing favorably with any of similar extent in the country.

[Signed] Respectfully,
R. BACHUS.
WM. H. KUNNS.