GIVES ALL A SHOW.

The City Council Decides to Let Woolston Furnish Two-Thirds of the Water Supply,

And Agrees to Distribute the other Third Among the East Side, West Side and Chessman Companies.

The lobby at the City Council chamber last evening was crowded to its capacity by citizens assembled to see what the board of aldermen would do on the water question, for which the meeting was called. The Council was likewise fully represented, every member being present, and the reporters' table was crowded with an unusually large number of pencil pushers. In the lobby Messrs. Woolston, Power, Hale, Chessman and other water men were conspicuous listeners. Mayor Fuller called the meeting to order at 7:30 o'clock.

Miscellaneous business was dispatched first as follows:

A communication from G. N. Miller, superintendent of sewers, and a report from the sewerage committee were read, stating the progress of the work, and also recommending the building of lateral sewers. It was estimated that the latter work would require an additional expenditure of $133,000.

Mr. Howey spoke briefly on the importance of the subject. He said the question was to raise the money required. whether by the assessment of property holders willing to be assessed for such purpose or by petitioning the legislature for pewers to incur more bonded indebtedness. The matter was referred to the sewerage committee with instructions to report.

The Mayor and City Clerk, to whom was referred the matter of

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC BRIDGE

over their track on Main street, reported, recommending the adoption of a resolution to the effect that, in consideration of the erection by the railroad company at the place mentioned of a good and substantial bridge forty feet wide, the city would pledge itself to keep the superstructure in repair. The resolution was adopted without dissent.

PETITIONS WERE RECEIVED

as follows:

For sidewalks on East Broadway, Raleigh and Davis streets. Property holders ordered to put down said sidewalks and the street commissioner instructed to build the needed cross walks.

To change the name of Edwards street from Main to Howie street, to Ming street Granted.

For permission for T. W. Warren, watch maker, to put up a sign post in front of the Vienna Bakery on Main street. Laid on table. Mr. Warren was granted privileges given to other watch makers to hang out a sign over his door eighteen inches out.

For permission for R. H. Kleinschmidt to lay a board sidewalk in front of Granite Block, provided he would put down a stone or cement walk before June 1st, 1889. Granted.

To change the proposed route of the Moter Line from Lyndale avenue to Gallatin street. Referred to the committee on streets and alleys.

From Byron DeWitt, protesting against the practice of coasting on the sidewalk in the vicinity of Blake and Highland streets. Referred to the City Marshal.

For a sidewalk on the West Side near school house from Spruce to Hayes street. Referred to the committee on streets and alleys.

From the Helena Street Railway Co., asking an extension of time in which to build their Grand avenue extension until August 1st, 1889. Referred to ordinance committee, with instructions to frame an ordinance granting the extension asked for.

In view of the difficulties in the way of a proper numbering of streets, City Engineer Cumming suggested that the whole of Clore street be named Park avenue and the whole of Park avenue in the northern part of the city be called Columbia street. On motion the street names were so changed.

REPORTS ON WATER.

Loeb, chairman of the committee to whom was referred the bid of George F. Woolston to supply the city with water, announced that the committee had disagreed and would present two reports. The reports were then read as follows:

MAJORITY REPORT.

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council: The undersigned, a majority of the committee to whom was referred the consideration of the proposition of The Helena Water company, represented by George F. Woolston, to furnish water to the city of Helena for city purposes, beg leave to report that we have given the matter due consideration, and that while we are of the opinion that the price per hydrant proposed to be charged is high considering the number of hydrants to be taken, we are still of the opinion that the interests of the city require that said bid be taken. We think no good purpose would be subserved by rejecting the bid and re-advertising for proposals for the reason that no other company or person can furnish the supply of water required, at any price, and there would be no other bidders.

"There being no alternative we therefore respectfully recommend the acceptance of the proposition of said company, upon condition that it enter into a contract with the city to furnish an ample supply of water for all city purposes, the performance of which shall be secured by a good and sufficient bond in the sum of $25,000, to be approved by the mayor and city council.

F. ADKINSON,
J. S. FEATHERLY."

MINORITY REPORT.

To His Honor, the Mayor, and City Council of Helena: Gentlemen:—We, the minority of the committee to whom was referred the bid of The Helena Water Company to supply the city with water for city purposes, beg leave to submit the following report:

1st. In our opinion the price asked by said company, $90 per hydrant per year, is altogether too high as many of the hydrants, although their location may have been approved by a former council, are entirely too near each other for the present necessities of the city, and some of them are situated in such sparsely settled districts that there will be little, if any, demand on them for some years to come.

At $90 per year the total cost of 145 hydrants would be $13,050. At $60 per year for the same number it would amount to $8,700, which, in our opinion, would be a liberal and sufficient price to pay for the service. We therefore recommend that if this bid of the Helena Water Company be accepted, the price to be paid for the 145 hydrants now located, and all hydrants hereafter ordered by the city council to be placed on Main, now laid and for the water to be furnished through the same for fire and sewerage purposes, be $5 per month, payable monthly, and that the price for all hydrants hereafter located on its extensions, ordered by the City Council, together with the water through the same for fire and sewerage purposes, be $4 per month for each hydrant.

The reference to ordinance No. 93, commencing on the third line of the second page, has nothing to do with the making of this contract and should not be considered. We therefore recommend the same be stricken out before this bid is entertained.

Respectfully submitted,
JACOB LOEB."

REORT ON POWER'S BID.

The committee to whom was referred the bid of the Helena Water company reported as follows:

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council: Your committee to whom was referred the bid of Helena Water company under city advertisement of November 14, 1888, find that said company has not a sufficient pipeage or number of hydrants established to enable it to cover that taxable and tax-paying area of the city that demands provision for protection from fire; it has, however, in the business portion of the city and in certain residence streets pipes and hydrants which, in the event of fire, could be made available, and on this ground we recommend a recognition of that company in the awards of contract under the said advertisement, if it can enter into agreement to comply with all the conditions that may be enacted from any or all companies to whom contracts are let for supplying the city with water for fire and other purposes. In case the fire department maintains its present form of organization and service we further suggest that arrangements be made for the use of the water of all companies having pipe and hydrants for fire purposes, thereby securing the use of all available sources of water supply.

WM. HARRISON,
R. H. HOWEY,
A. O. SIMONS.

Lissner then presented a communication from the East Side Water Company, signed by T. C. Power, in which said company agreed to take any number of hydrants at any reasonable price, provided the city would grant them a franchise, and also to comply with all provisions of ordinance No. 143, regulating water companies.

Loeb then offered a resolution, providing that if the city made a contract with The Helena Water Company, it should be distinctly stipulated therein that at no time should the water in the distributing reservoir be less than six feet deep nor the pressure at the court house less than 60 pounds to the square inch; the fire marshal to test both daily and report to the city clerk if these conditions were not fulfilled; and in case of failure the company to forfeit $500 for each failure, to be deducted from the monthly settlements.

Loeb moved that the minority report with his resolution be adopted. The motion was

SECONDED BY LISSNER.

The matter was then dipcussed pro and con. for a few moments, when a recess was taken to allow the aldermen a chance to "talk it over." Session convened again in ten minutes, when Morris moved as an amendment to Loeb's motion that $60 be named instead of $75, $5 instead of $4 and 125 in place of 145 hydrants. Seconded by Loeb.

The vote was then taken on the amendment, which was lost by the following vote:

Ayes—Morris, 1.

Nays—Lissner, Loeb, Howey, Adkinson, Featherly, Clewell, Worth, Simons, Klein, Harrison, Washburn, Kirkendall, Howey —13

The vote was taken on Loeb's motion, and resulted:

Ayes—Loeb, Lissner, Morris and Klein —4.

Nays—Howey, Adkinson, Featherly, Clewell, Worth, Simons, Harrison, Washburn, Howey and Kirkendall—10.

Featherly then moved that the

MAJORITY REPORT BE ADOPTED.

Loeb moved that his resolution be made part of the majority report. Worth moved to amend by laying Loeb's resolution on the table. Amendment carried.

The original motion to adopt the majority report was then put.

Howey arose and made a long speech favoring a compromise of the matter. He thought the other companies ought to be given a show and suggested that the city take, say 100 or 125 hydrants from Woolston at $90 per hydrant and the balance from Power, Chessman and others engaged in selling water.

Kirkendall said he thought the Council was acting like a lot of school boys. In his opinion there was one of the two things to do—either accept or reject Mr. Woolston's bid. The city called for bids and they had no right to cut down a man's bid after it was submitted. Either accept it as a whole or reject it as a whole. He himself wanted to see it accepted. Then if the city needed water from the other companies let them take it and pay for it.

After more discussion, Morris arose and

TOOK THE BULL BY THE HORNS.

He moved as an amendment to to the motion to adopt the majority report, that the number of hydrants to be furnished by Woolston be reduced to 100 in place of 145. On the vote being taken the result was seven ayes to seven noes, whereupon Mayor Fuller cast the deciding vote in the affirmative and declared Morris' amendment carried. The result created a mild sensation in the room and surprised everybody. The vote in detail on this question was:

Ayes—Lissner, Donnelly, Klein, Morris, Loeb, Simons, Howey, Mr. Mayor—8.

Nays—Worth, Featherly, Kirkendall, Clewell, Harrison, Washburn, Adkinson —7.

Loeb then moved that the bond be raised to $100,000, but got no second.

The question then recurred upon the original motion to adopt the majority report as amended and was carried by a vote of 13 to 1, Loeb voting in the negative.

Here Woolston arose in the lobby and addressed the chair. Loeb sprang up and vehemently objected to outside interference, declaring that he did not want "monopolists and schemers" to interrupt the proceedings of the council, after which heated outburst the Mayor declared Woolston out of order and that gentleman was fain to resume his chair with his words unspoken. He communicated what he had to say, however, to Worth, who arose to state that Mr. Woolston

WOULD NOT ACCEPT

the contract for 100 hydrants and would withdraw his bid; also that he would continue to furnish the city with water at $95 per hydrant, until January 20th next, after which time his actions would be governed by the wishes of his company in Boston, with whom he would confer in the interval.

Worth moved that the water committee be instructed to confer with the other companies and make arrangements with them to furnish water as the city may require. Carried.

On motion of Worth the council decided to continue taking water from Mr. Woolston at the stated price until January 20th, $95 per hydrant per annum for 145 hydrants. The vote on this proposition was thirteen to one.

The council then adjourned,

PROHIBITION in the South did not materealize at the recent Presidential election—not anything to speak of. Mississippi gave 218 votes for the Prohibition ticket, and Alabama 583.