

How the Holly Works Stand at Dunkirk.

One of the groaning tax-payers of Dunkirk, New York, writes as follows of the Holly water works just completed there. The committee of the Titusville Council which has a roving commission to travel and inspect the Holly works at the city's expense should visit Dunkirk and interview the tax-payers thereof. He says:

Practical tests have shown that we have had the most lamentably defective pipes laid down, and that we are in danger, in times of fire, to have our reliance on a supply of water suddenly destroyed by the bursting of supply pipes. I should have been negligent of duty had I failed to call public attention to the manifest deficiency of miles of supply pipe laid down. There is another feature of this question to be examined. Now, in the middle of the month of July, I cannot hear of a single instance of the water being used for drinking, culinary, or any other purpose. Our bonds are out and drawing interest, and we have to pay it. Our special tax of over thirteen thousand dollars has been, or is being, collected, and no income whatever is as yet derived from our investment. I understand that the contract was that the water should be ready for use by the first of June, and we were told that there were hundreds ready by that time to take the water and pay for its use. Had this been accomplished there would have been some help to our heavily burdened citizens—how much I cannot estimate—and much of the grumbling now heard would have been silenced. Who is to blame I do not know; who makes money by the delay I do not care to inquire—I only know that our patient people are beginning to grow restive and petulant under their burdens, and are wondering why somebody does not look after their interests. The interest on one hundred thousand dollars amounts to about \$135 per week, and it will require, at the rate of ten dollars per annum rent for the use of the water, and seven hundred persons or families should use the water. It will cost at least five thousand dollars per annum to keep the works running and in repair, and this would require five hundred more persons or families to take the water, making a total of twelve hundred. Our annual expenditure on account of water works, cannot be less than twelve thousand dollars, without counting the cost of extension, and it becomes our duty to hurry up, as rapidly as possible, the chances for making the works pay a portion of this great expense. It is true that economy requires that time should be given to make the machinery perfect, before we accept it and release the contractors; but there is a limit to the patience of even the most patient people. Every week is adding to our burdens, and I would be lacking in duty as your local correspondent did I fail to ventilate this trouble—I can only echo public sentiment. Indeed, I think that if our local press had been more out-spoken and independent in the past, we should all have been better off. There are hundreds of our people paying tax for water works who cannot, for years to come have any chance to use the water; this tax, in many cases, would more than pay insurance, and they have the right to complain of any and all expensive delays. I greatly fear that our troubles are all before us.