OUR IMPROVED WATER WORKS.

A New Lang Pump Purchased And Put Up.

The Ogdensburg City Water Works were erected in the summer of 1868, and put in operation in November of the same year. When first opened the motive power was supplied by three of the Holly water wheels and three rotary pumps. One of the rotaries was used for pumping water for domestic purposes and the other two held in abeyance for use in cases of fire. The first winter demonstrated the liability of stoppage of the works from anchor ice, and the low tide in the following summer showed a want of power resulting from low water. It was therefore decided to improve the works by introducing a 125 horse power engine and adding several miles of mains. The first appropriation for the erection of the works was $100,000, and for the extension $35,000. For both the city's bonds running 20 years, bearing interest at 7 per cent payable semi-annually, were issued and were sold for a small bonus. The rotary pumps were run till 1874. The domestic pump had been once rebuilt and several times repaired. The racket of the rotary pumps was equal to a trip hammer. In 1874 it proved to be insufficient for the demands made upon it. In April of that same year it was removed and its place supplied by a double plunger Flanders' pump, built by the Vergennes, Vt., pump company. It proved sufficent for the work required till the low water season of 1879. It had run incessantly night and day for six years without receiving repairs to the amount of a single dollar. During that year new rubber washers to the value of $26 were supplied. It cost when put in $3,000.

In the spring of the present year the commissioners deemed the addition of greater pumping facilities a public necessity, and submitted a plan for their further improvement. The plan was adopted by the Common Council and the necessary funds voted by the people. A contract was made with B. S. Nichols & Co., of Burlington, Vt., for a double plunger Lang pump of a capacity of 75 gallons per revolution. This pump was to be furnished, set up, and in running order for $5,200. The contract was completed something more than a week ago. This pump has supplanted the other rotaries. The works are now supplied with Flanders' and Lang pumps. The capacity of one is 37 gallons each revolution, and the other 75 gallons per revolution. With the present water power the Flanders' pump will keep up a required pressure of 45 pounds, making 13 revolutions per minute, while the Lang pump will give 100 pounds, making 9 revolutions per minute. The works are supplied with two Holly and one Curtis wheel, and with the power at command it is believed that the present pumps will be able to supply all demands for water for many years.

At the present time there are 1,011 consumers, and the water rates are something over $9,000 per year without counting hydrant service and the public buildings.

From the moment the works were put in use in 1868, to the present time they have been under the care and superintendence of A. H. Lord, who is not only an excellent mechanic, but a practical engineer. He has made himself familiar with every minutia connected with the works. He superintends the digging of trenches, the lining and laying of pipes, the tapping of the mains and the running of the machinery. Everything about the works are kept scrupulously neat and clean. It is a pleasure to visit the works at any time. No one need hesitate to take a lady or gentleman to see the machinery and examine the works for they are always certain to find them in perfect order and the premises as neat as a pin.

Mr. Lord is greatly pleased with the new pump, and the water commissioners are satisfied that a most important improvement in the running of the works, has been made and all the taxpayers may rest assured that the city is well protected against conflagration.