

It will be seen by the proceedings of the Common Council that an attempt was made last night to force through a resolution to give a committee of the Board full power to contract for water. This committee was to be named by the Chair, and might pledge the city to an annual tax of \$50,000 per year for just what this water company might see fit to give them. A more reckless and absurd proposition was never made to a representative body. This water question has been dragging for years, and there were no reasons for such hasty action.— Fortunately for the city, there were Aldermen in the Board who refused to sanction such a proceeding. Ald. Bier, Adleman and Quin objected to such hasty proceedings, and the proposition was so amended as to empower the committee to confer and report to the Board without making a contract. It is probable that the gentlemen who are serving up to the taxpayers of Rochester this hasty plate of soup will pass it in to-night. It is hoped that the Aldermen who are disposed to have this thing fairly done will insist that the terms of the contract be published and canvassed by the citizens before final action is taken.

No Alderman who is for fair dealing in the matter will object to a little time being taken to scrutinize the contract that is drawn for acceptance. This indecent haste tends to confirm the suspicion that there is a ring in this water business, and that fraud is to be perpetrated upon the city. Rochester needs water, but her wants are not so urgent as to demand of the Council, after sleeping ten or twenty years, to rouse up at midnight and commit her citizens to a twenty thousand dollars annual tax for a very poor apology for water works. There was never a time when the honest men in the Council were called upon to show their firmness more than in meeting this question.

—It is a suspicious fact in connection with this water works scheme that the President of the Board did not put upon the Committee a single Alderman who had advocated a protection of the city interests, while those who had advocated immediate action were put on. The Committee is made up almost wholly of men committed to this project. Ald. Bier, Adleman and Quin were entitled, one or all, to places upon that Committee, and would have been put there we have no doubt had it not been for their announcing in the meeting that they would not rush headlong into this scheme.