

XENIA WATER-WORKS.

IMMENSE CROWDS WITNESS THEIR
INAUGURATION.

The Occasion Celebrated by a Grand Pa-
rade, Band Contest, Fireworks
and a Ball.

XENIA, O., October 1—[Special]—The in-
auguration of the Water works today brought an
immense crowd to the city, people coming in from
every direction, and most of the trains early
in the forenoon being well loaded
with persons from Springfield, Dayton, Columbus
and other points. The streets were so jammed with
crowds that pedestrianism was nearly impossible.

Last night at a special meeting of the City Coun-
cil the Water works were accepted from the
builders, or rather the city entered
into its contract for service, the builders owning the
works and operating them.

Hon John P. Merrill the original contractor who
secured the building of the works by Messrs Good
hue & Birnie, of Mason, is receiving congratulations
on all sides.

The procession this forenoon was a big affair,
witnessed by an immense crowd it being almost im-
possible in some places to get through with the
vehicles. The parade was headed by a detachment
of city police riding fire chiefs from other cities
following in carriages. Then came the famous Big
Big Band from Springfield, followed in order by the
Xenia colored militia, uniformed and equipped
company of boys from the Soldiers
Orphans' Home city patrol wagon and
Police Commissioners members of the first fire de-
partment in the city (M) Parkers Fire Brigade,
an imitation colored company, Port Williams Band
Xenia Fire Department, old fashioned bucket
brigade Spring Valley Fire Department with
old fashioned "coffee grinder" hand engine,
visitors City Councilmen from Colum-
bia Urbans Piqua and other places
a fine display of boats by business firms—dry goods
carriage-makers carpenters coal dealers
plumbers blacksmiths and paper hangers with
journeymen at work twice factories, with display
Xenia Paper Mill Xenia Lumbering Com-
pany exhibit and a fine display by the
Hight Telephone Company, with a regular
telephone office operated on one end of the
line and a pole and a telephone line on the other.
The Township Trustees made an appearance in the
parade with an immense road scraper that did much
good in scraping the mud from the streets. The pa-
rade was one of the largest and prettiest ever given in
the city.

Several hand fire engine companies were expected
to be present but as only one put in an appearance
there was no contest. An exhibition of the throwing
properties of the new water works was given in the
afternoon and the whole Court house square, in the
center of the city nearly flooded.

The band contest took place at 8 o'clock. For the
first prize of \$100 there was only one entry, the Big
Big Band of Springfield which easily of course
earned the money. It is said that two or three other
leading bands intended entering for this prize but
they failed to come to time. The contest for
second prize fifty dollars and county prize
thirty dollars excited great interest, and in the main
was a very close affair indeed. The judges awarded
the money to the band from Port Williams Litchfield
County, and the band from Hellbrook, Greene
County. The judges were Ben Helsing and John H.
Hubber, of Springfield, and Prof L. M. Garfield, of
this city.

After the band contest a drill was given by the
company of boys from the Orphans Home who went
through the maneuvers with wonderful precision for
such young fellows and considering the fact that
they had marched all over the city during the fore-
noon parade.

The visiting Councilmen were taken out to the
pumping station, to the stand pipe and all around,
every one expressing great satisfaction with the
completeness of the works and the wonderful purity
and clearness of the spring water with which the
reservoir is filled.

The exercises of the evening to be remembered day
closed with a display of fireworks in the public
square and a ball at the Casino Hall.