

WATER WORKS PRACTICE

A MANUAL

ISSUED BY

THE AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION



BALTIMORE
THE WILLIAMS & WILKINS COMPANY
1925

Although many private water companies supply more than one community (up to 55 in one case) there are but few "parent companies," or corporations owning and controlling many local water companies, as in the gas and electric utility fields. The largest parent water company known controls some 30 companies, located in 15 states.

TABLE 2
Growth in number and changes in ownership of United States water-works since 1800

	TOTAL	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	UNKNOWN	PER CENT TOTAL		
					Public	Private	Unknown
1800	16*	1	15*		6.3*	93.7*	
1810	26	5	21		19.2	80.8	
1820	30	5	25		16.6	83.4	
1830	44	9	35		20.5	79.5	
1840	64	23	41		35.9	64.1	
1850	83	33	50		39.7	60.3	
1860	136	57	79		41.9	58.1	
1870	243	116	127		47.7	52.3	
1880	598	293	305		49.0	51.0	
1890	1,878	806	1,072		42.9	57.1	
1896	3,196	1,690	1,489	17	52.9	46.6	0.5
1924†	9,850	6,900	2,950		70.0	30.0	

* Since this table was originally compiled one additional works, privately owned, in existence before 1800, has come to light, but as the figures up to 1896 have been before the public for many years and the change is so slight, with percentages not affected after the first few lines, it has not seemed worth while to remake the table.

† Estimated.

The investment in water works runs into billions and is rapidly increasing. The total volume of reported water works "contracts let" in the Construction News Section of *Engineering News-Record* totaled \$61,445,000 for 1924 and was slightly higher for 1923, the figures including no jobs under \$15,000 each, but taking in work reported as to be done by force account. Water bonds sold in 1923 totaled \$86,831,000 and in 1922, \$93,693,000. These figures, combined with the facts that many water works jobs run less than \$15,000,