CHICAGO'S SCHEME

ALL TOP WILLIAM PARCASE TO THE OWNER.

For Supplying Itself With Water.

Some Interesting Facts for Growing Towns,

As Illustrating the Way They do Things in the Lakeside City.

Editor Omaha Bee. through meters the city gets \$80 per million gallons. The meter system is to be found mainly in the set works, who come to them with a flourish of trumpets, to spend millions in the erection of water works, for the benefit of this city hoping for nothing themselves except the glory of being permitted to squander their wealth in the erection of water works, and devote the money of the citizens to the crection of works which they would then—as Chicago does now—own. It would appear to the writer that they would be conserving the interest of the people who elected them to their offices, a greater extent than their present methods will do. The artesian well sunk lately by Mr.. Conrad Geisse, would seem to the writer to indicate a way by which the citizens of this place could be effectually, certainly and cheaply furnished withan inexhaustable supply of pure water. Let the council devote for three-years annually the amount of the water service in the downtown have a mount of the water service in the downtown have and that at present rates this service would be much less profitable than they resent service, because it would cost on great deal more to give the addition-pressure deal more to give the addition-pressure, and because at the high pressure. The head would be much less profitable than the present service, because it would be much less profitable than the present service, because it would be cost of pipe extentions is taken out of the twelve months end of the result and form of the twelve months ending last April the city received for water delivered to squander their wealth in the erection of the works which they would hen—as Chicago does now—own. It would appear to the writer that they would be ended at the present methods will do. The artesian well sunk lately by Mr.. Conrad Geisse, would seem to the writer that the end of last year 260 water elevators \$271, the city and the city and the high pressure supply the water levators in that portion of the city and the city and the city and the city and the city a

fold—the owners of water elevators purposes. and other hydraulic machinery complain that the city's water is not sup-plied in a sufficient head for their pur-purposes; the fire department wants plied in a sufficient head for their purpurposes; the fire department wants the assistance that a separate water supply would afford, and the convenience that a high-pressure service, making every hydrant an engine of considerable power, would supply; the citizens generally complain that the ience that a high-pressure service, making every hydrant an engine of considerable power, would supply; the citizens generally complain that the large volume of water used for waterengines impairs the efficiency of the service in their homes and their

places of business.

Which of the two shall do it? The citizens of Chicago constitute a mutual water supply company. They have invested nearly 5,000,000 in the necessary plan; more than half of this thep have already paid, and nearly year in the district designated \$4,544, thep have already paid, and nearly \$4,000,000 they still owe. For the maintenance of the work, they assess pay all the operating expenses, extend the works from year to year, keep the capital investment capital capi capital investment good, pay the in-terest on the bonds, and redeem these as they fall due. The business of supplying the city with water

HAS PROVED PROFITABLE. organized on the mutual and not on debt. All that the city can save by the stock plan, there are no dividends not furnishing this water is the to declare, but every member of the company gets his share of the profits in a reduction of his water rents. At present the earnings of the concern nut shell, it comes to this; If the \$500,000. present the earnings of the concern are expended in extending the works and taking care of the debt. If the works were not extended the profits would be distributed in the shape of a would be distributed in the shape of a concern are expended in extended the profits and lose \$64,000 in receipts. But these figures give only a general idea to the profits and lose \$64,000 in receipts. But these figures give only a general idea to the profits and lose \$64,000 in receipts. works were not extended in the shape of a would be distributed in the shape of a of the effects on the finances of the years the redemption of the bonds will leave the water office in possessession of a large surplus, unless the rents are materially reduced, which will, of course, be done as that is the only way in which the profits can be divided among the owners of the

beginning of the year of over half a delinquent rents collected and other sources of revenue, making a total income of \$1,425,239 55. Out of this there were paid for operating and office expenses, repairs, shops and stables \$206,330 55. It will be observed that the

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WATER

for the year and the cost of carrying on the works was more than \$650,000.

A comparison of the water rents with the total amount of water supplied led benefit of that portion of the total amount of water supplied led benefit of that portion of led benefit of the benefit of that portion of led benefit of the benefit of the

SHALL IT GIVE TO A PRIVATE CORPORA-

south side north of Van Buren street. As the use of these machines is increasing, it is within bonds to assume that during next year it will supply eight hundred million gallons of The demand can be supplied either by the city or by a private corporation authorized to supplement the municipal water. The city ongineer is preparing specifications and estimates for the undertaking on the part of the city, and a corporation has been formed and is now asking the city to be allowed to do the work. \$64,000. The cost of the delivering water from the north-side works last leaving the city a gross profit of \$59,-456. True, the cost given above is themselves such water rents as will only the cost of operating the works; the gross profit, for the city has its mams, and it must take care of them; it must keep up the water office, keep the engines in repair, pay the interest on the same amount of bonds, and re-As the corporation does the work is deem, ultimately, the same amount of

> so that to put the whole thing in a water office that the establishment of a private water company will have, for there is no reason why a man living on the north side of the street should benied it. The establishment of private water works at a high presmeans that all water for mechanical

> very common, and would become still more common if the water service were satisfactory. There is a good deal of light machinery that could be abating in a great degree

THE SMOKE NUISANCE. But the pressure in the business part of the city is now only twenty-two or three pounds, and there is great difficulty in operating hydraulic elevators. Besides the cost of carrying on the works there was paid no less than have put tanks on the roof and in the \$264,635 59 for the extension of the basement of their buildings, and with works, that is, for pipe-laying, meters, hydrants, and stop-cocks. Furthermore, there was paid in interest on bonds \$282,873 03, and \$291,000 was expended in reducing the principal of water is used over and over again. With a low pressure the power of the It must be remembered that the water office is wholly distinct from the other departments of the city government so far as its finances are concerned—it takes nothing from the tax levy; it pays its own way, provides for its own interest, and takes up its own bonds. As all its revenues are conceded for the enefit of the same class.

The balance to the credit of the water fund at the end of last year was \$208,912 06. The July interest amounted to \$170,000, and after paying this the amount to the credit of the fund on Monday last was \$343,000. The city council has decided to buy two new pumping-engines with a capacity of fifteen million gallons a day cach. No tax will be collected for It must be remembered that the elevator is low, and more trips have to

already in the water business some a priori objection might be made to the city's engaging in any kind of business. But the city is already in the wrter business; it has a capital of nearly \$9,000,000 invested in it, and it has a bonded debt of nearly \$4,000, 000 to pay interest on, and ultimately to redeem. To abandon the most 000 to pay interest on, and ultimately to redecm. To abandon the most profitable part of the business to anvalue of its own investment, unless it has got to go to a greater expense to retain this part of the business than the profitableness of it warrants. The high-pressure works would cost

proper engines and large pipes; city officials who are in a position to speak with authority say that adequate works can be put in for the former sum. Allowing for the greater with allowing for the greater with authority say that adequate works can be put in for the former sum. Allowing for the greater with authority say that adequate works can be put in for the former any affection of the Threat Chart. sum. Allowing for the greater proportionate increased expense of doing work on a small scale, and for the proportionately increased expense of pumping water with a pressure of sixty instead of twenty-three pounds, it will cost to pump water at the high pressure, say, four times what it now costs to pump it, or \$22 77 per million gallons. The present price is \$80 per million gallons. Out of the difference would have to come all the office and other expenses and the return on the capital. A supply of three million gallons a day for three hundred days in the year, would earn \$72,000, and cost for pumping \$20,-448, leaving \$51,552 for all other expenses and profits. Allowing \$15,552 for repairs and general expenses, there would be left as the return on capital \$36,000, or 7.2 per cent. on

dollars. The gentlemen who want the privilege of putting up water works are careful business men, and to be on the safe side they estimate a much smaller demand for water from their works than nine hundred millions gallons a year, and no profits at all for a year or two. Doubtless sure than the city's works affords they are right in underestimating instead of overestimating the value of nual reports of the city engineer and the comptroller. The water rents for 1880 actually collected during that year amounted to \$823,163 18, to which sum is to be added a balance to the credit of the water office at the beginning of the private and the company can find no profit in supplying the the credit of the water office at the beginning of the private company can find no profit in supplying the district bounded by the river the district bounded by the river the lake and V. would be realized in the near future. The gentlemen who are proposing to go into the water supply business are in communication with a manufacrun with a water pressure of sixty in communication with a manufac-pounds, and would be run with it turer who says he will come to this were such a power available, thus city and establish a new business, and take two million gallons of water a day, if he can get it at sixty pounds pressure, and at a low rate. This is mentioned merely to show the possibilities of this business of supplying water at a high pressure.

It was stated a little while ago that the question was narrowed down to whether the city or a private corpora-tion should build the proposed works. Really the question is narrower than that. The promoters of the private water-works scheme says that the city ought to do the work, but if the city will not supply what is demanded, private citizens should be allowed to

this purpose; the engines will be paid for out of the earnings of the water office; there is on hand, as just shown, nearly enough to do this at once. It will take a couple of years to build the engines, and by that time the earnings will have amounted to enough to pay for them and leave another large accumulation on hand to be applied to the still farther extension of the works, or to the reduction of the rents, as may then be deemed best.

But there is one portion of the water service that is

Is MORE PROFITABLE THAN THE REST. A comparison of the water supplied

this purpose; the engines will be paid for out of the earnings of the water now used for mechanical purposes is not essential to a correct understanding of the question; it is certain that amount is large; that it is supplied at higher rate of profit as compared with the actual cost of enough to pay for the two new engines and as compared with the actual cost of pumping the water, which is all that the city can save by withdrawing from the business. Hence it follows that the withdrawal of the city from this part of the water supply would reduce the receipts in a far greater degree than it would reduce the current the expenses, and hence it would reduce the total amount of water supplied amount of water supplied to the still farther extension of the water rents with the cost of the two endicated to add to the west side pumping-works. The water office has now to its credit the water office and the water office and the cost of the water office and the water office and the cost of the two new engines and the cost of enough to pay for the two new engines and the cost of enough to pay for the two new engines and the cost of evaluation of \$234,000, or very nearly enough to pay for the two new engines and the cost of evaluation of the water office water o For the benefit of that portion of your subscribers living in Council ast year shows that the city received on an average a little less than \$41 for each million gallons of water decutting from the "Times:" "If the city council of this city would abandon its idolatrous worship of the abandon its idolatrous worship of the

with an inexhaustable supply of pure three years annually the amount of money they will pay annually to the water works' company, for all time, to the sinking of artesian wells of a large diameter and the laying of pipes, and I venture to say at the end of these three years this city will have a supply of water practicably inexhaustible, of the purest quality, entirely sufficient for the need of the city for years, and have it all paid for with no mortgage on the property of the city and its citzens. Clizzen

There is a demand for a high-pressure water service in the business portion of the city. This demand is three-fold—the owners of water elevators of the council devote for three years annually the amount of water in an area of one-half a square miles than to supply the same amount of water in an area of three square miles than to supply the same amount of water in an area of three square miles than to supply the same amount of water in an area of three square miles. The city has determined to add two pumping engines to the west-side water-works, to be engaged mainly in doing the least profitable part of the water service in the business portion of the city and its citzens.

Clizzen

There is a demand for a high-pressure water service in the business portion of the city. This demand is three-fold—the owners of water elevators

The the south state and the down and the down and the down and the city is the most profitable part of the down and the city is the most profitable part of the down and the city is the most profitable part of the down and make the city sale and machinery would need no alteration, and it ignores the serious mater of leakage. Leakage is simply mater of leakage. Leakage more for water at the proposed pres-sure of sixty pounds. The cost of the

period of years at a valuation, it may be said that if the city will not or canother concern is to depreciate the not build these works itself, this plan is probably the next best thing.

No Matter What Happens the profitableness of it warrants.

The high-pressure works would cost from a quarter to half a million dollars. The advocates of the private corporation say that it would require

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LEGAL NOTICE. In the Circuit Court of the United States, for the the District of Nebraska:

At a session of the Circuit Court of the United States, for the District of Nebraska, continued and held pursuant to adjournment, at the United States court room in the city of Omaha, on the 15th day of June, 1881, the Hom. Elmer S. Dundy being present and presiding in said court the following among other proceedings were had and done, to wit:

No. 63 G.

Sherman W. Knewle complainant, vs. Edward

Dr. J. B. Simpson's Specific MEEDING Services of the District of Nebraska, continued States court room in the city of Omaha, on the States court room in the city of Omaha, of States court room in the city of Omaha, on the States court room in the States court the States court room in the States court the C

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 1 88. DISTRIB STATES OF AMERICA. BS.

DISTRIBCT OF NERBASKA.

I. Watson H. Smith, clerk of the Circuit court of the United States for the district of Nebraska, do hereby certify, that the above and foregoing is a true copy of an order entered upon the journal of the proceeding of said court, in the cause therein entitled; that I have compared the same with the original entry of said order, and it is a true transcript therefrom, and of the whole thereof.

[SEAL] Witness, my official signature, and the seal of said court, at Omaha, in said district, this löth day of June, A. D. St. WATSON B. SMITH, C. JAMES M. WOOLWORTH, Solicitor for Plailetiff. m17dB je 29w4t

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