

TO CORRESPONDENTS

On Correspondents. We will be pleased to hear from our correspondents on all matters connected with the general interest of the people of our State.

REAL ESTATE MATTERS. In full, in each and every case accompanied by communication of what nature desired. Not to be intended for publication, but for our own satisfaction and the good of our State.

ASSASSINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE—whether made by self or friends, and whether by notice or communication to the Editor, are (until notice is made) simply personal, and will be charged for as advertisements.

All communications should be addressed to E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

With Barney Shannon as its recognized leader, the new City Council bids fair to become very popular.

COUNCIL BLUFFS polled 2,026 votes at her city election Tuesday, which exceeds by several hundred the vote polled at any previous election.

TRUCKS are asked to define his position on the Chinese question by the San Francisco Post, which thoughtfully requests that the answer should not be in cipher.

The supplementary elections in France last Sunday were a sort of jug handle affair. Out of fourteen members elected to the assembly thirteen are Republicans.

HITCHCOCK and Yost are happy now. Major Balcomb has called at the Republican office to express his gratification at their fortitude in swallowing the Crouse crow.

NEW YORK is governed too much. An amendment to the State Constitution, changing the sessions of the Legislature from annual to biennial, passed the Assembly of New York last week, by an almost unanimous vote.

GENERAL JOE HAWLEY struck the nail on the head in his speech on the new rebellion when he said to the Confederate brigadiers: "Gentlemen, in all frankness, I warn you against some of your friends. There are men in the North to-day who walk around with prone heads, ponderous brows, and solemn utterance, who say they are statesmen, and who tell you that the North will stand by you. Gentlemen, I tell you that they can not deliver the goods."

The silver question is beginning to attract the attention of the British government. Lord Beaconsfield has stated in debate that the question was one which could not be neglected, and that the ministry would in due time have something to say about it.

Only fifty members of the House have so far indicated a desire to speak on the legislative appropriation bill, to which it is proposed to attach the repeal of the supervisors act.

The Iowa Greenbackers have called their State Convention at Des Moines on the 28th of May, one week after the meeting of the Democratic State Convention, which is to be held at Council Bluffs.

Our County Commissioners are showing commendable enterprise in contemplating improvement of Farnham street west of Twenty-second. This improvement is an essential part of the program for making Farnham street more mercantile and thoroughfare in name but in fact.

The heavy outlay already incurred by the city in the grading of upper Farnham street would be virtually money thrown away, so far as the public is concerned, unless the crest of the high hill at the western extremity of the street is cut down and made accessible for teams.

Nearly one-sixth of the taxable property of Omaha is on Farnham street, and the county commissioners can not expect the county funds to better advantage as an investment than in the contemplated improvement, which will be followed during the present session by the extension of the horse railway to Hanson Park.

St. Postmaster Yost is shocked and distressed by the discovery that his successor in the Omaha postoffice has filled a vacancy temporarily with a young man who has recently come to Omaha from the East. This is a very grave misdemeanor on the part of the postmaster, and we apprehend no bloody revolt in Omaha at that score.

The sensitive and distressed manager of the Republic must meantime possess his soul in patience with the assurance on our part that Mr. Hall cheerfully assumes the entire risk until he can fill the position with a competent and trustworthy citizen.

Incidentally we would remark that the Omaha postoffice is not now subject to wholesale thefts and embezzlements as it was in the days when Yost was P. M., judging by the entries in the post-office books, which show various thefts of postage stamps and valuable packages, amounting to about \$4,000.

WATER-WORKS IN OMAHA

Elsewhere in this issue we republish the report made in 1874 by Mr. Whitman on water works in Omaha. Mr. Whitman was the engineer in charge of the St. Louis water works, which derive their supply from the Missouri river. Before making this report he had made a large number of experiments on the filtration of the Missouri river water, with a view of supplying the people of St. Louis with pure and clear water as possible from that source.

Several weeks of careful personal observation of the surroundings of Omaha, coupled with his previous experience, renders Mr. Whitman's report by far the most reliable ever presented. The difference in the price of labor and material now and at the date of the report is about fifty per cent. This fact taken into consideration leads to a presumably fair conclusion that a thorough set of works with settling and supply reservoirs and a double set of pumping engines, together with 15 miles of pipe, can be put up at this time for considerably less than \$200,000.

An investment of that nature, by a responsible company, will yield good dividends for many years. It is a question now as to what individual or company will avail themselves of the opportunity of securing this valuable franchise in time to secure prior consideration by our authorities.

Mr. Whitman's report is republished by us at the instance of leading citizens and the city authorities to enable those outside of the city to learn the facts bearing upon the subject. If any evidence were needed to prove the accuracy of Mr. Whitman's observations and his conclusions we would need but to call attention to his prediction in 1874 of the cut off which took place in 1878. This possible event which has since become a reality he urged as an objection against the Sulphur Springs location, and as will be seen in his opinion seemed to incline to one of two points. One at Florence in the event of using Missouri river water, because of the permanent character of the river channel at that point. The other point is based upon going to the Papillion creeks for the water supply, and building a large settling basin from which to pump water to a reservoir, which in each case is recommended to be at a point on the western boundary of Omaha, where an elevation of over 360 feet above the river can be easily secured with a resultant constant pressure in the business part of the city of over 100 pounds to the square inch.

With a supply reservoir at the point mentioned water would rise to the third story of the high-school, which would be sufficiently adequate for all purposes upon the hills and hillside of this city in the emergency of fire.

Council Bluffs is reported to be moving in the matter of water works as the question materially arises in connection with its enterprise and conceded prospective progress. It is to be out done in a matter of this kind. If there isn't ready capital outside, there certainly ought to be enough inside of the city to undertake this work.

The confirmation of Judge Crouse as Collector of Internal Revenue will be hailed with satisfaction by honest men of all parties, as a testimonial of confidence in a man whose stainless career and unflinching fidelity to every trust reposed in him have won for him the universal esteem of the people of this State.

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WATER-WORKS.

Major Whitman's Report an Omaha Source of Water Supply.

Methods of Distribution—Estimated and Relative Advantages.

Location of the Works and Reservoirs—The Settling Process.

St. Louis, Sept. 23, 1874. To the Honorable City Council, of the City of Omaha, Nebraska.

GENTLEMEN: In pursuance of your request I make the following report and estimates for the construction of works to supply the City of Omaha with water for domestic, manufacturing and fire purposes.

In the consideration of the quantity of water required, I have assumed that the immediate capacity of works should not be less than 1,500,000 U. S. gallons per day of twenty-four hours. This amount, the present population being estimated at 20,000, allows a consumption of 75 gallons for each inhabitant per day of twenty-four hours. This is a full and ample supply for all purposes.

In each of the estimates provision has been made for the extension of the works and much of the work adapted to such extension, is embraced in the estimate of cost given; for the extension of the river engine pit is to be constructed large enough to contain an additional engine, the brick conduit is calculated to pump 4,000,000 U. S. gallons in twenty-four hours, and the high service engine is designed to contain a second engine.

The city has two sources from which a sufficient supply of water of suitable quality can be obtained, one from the Missouri river, the other from the Papillion creeks, two small streams that unite at a point about five miles southwest of the location of the storage reservoir.

If the supply be taken from the Missouri river, some method of clearing the water from sand and earthy matter that it carries with it would be required, and the estimates for obtaining the supply from this source include a method by which the water will be cleared of the major part of such matter.

The following estimates give the cost of constructing works as per the location indicated: Estimate 1—Water to be obtained from the Missouri river at Florence, about five miles northwest of the city.

Estimate 2—Water taken from the Missouri river at Sulphur Springs, about one and a quarter miles north of the city.

Estimate 3—Water obtained from below the junction of the Papillion creeks, a point about five miles southwest of the location of the storage reservoir.

Estimate 4—The supply to be taken from the Missouri river at "Point of Rocks," about five thousand feet below the bridge.

The following description of the works to be constructed in accordance with Estimate 1, will apply to all the locations on the Missouri river:

The river engine pit should be located in an engine pit near the bank of the river, and so arranged as to secure a water supply at its lowest stage. The foundation of the engine pit to be carried to the bed rock, which is estimated to be ten feet below low water at this point.

The storage reservoir and the system of distribution within this case be the same as if the supply was taken from the Missouri river.

Estimate No. 2 differs from estimate No. 1, only in the location of the river service engine and the positions of the settling basins.

Estimate No. 3 shows cost of taking the water from below the junction of the Papillion creeks.

By this scheme of works the river service engines and the settling basins are disposed with and the water is pumped, from the water tower, with a stone masonry waste weir and culvert across the valley.

Estimate No. 4 contemplates the location of the pumps at Sulphur Springs.

We consider that the solid matter reduced from 104 grains to from eight to twenty by going through the settling basins, we have a water which will compare favorably with the water with the supply furnished to any city.

While considering the quality of the Missouri river water, it may be well to compare it with the water of the Papillion creeks. I have no analysis of the water of these creeks, but from the examination that I was able to make, I judged that it would not require settlement in the manner that the water from the Missouri river would, and therefore in the consideration and estimate of the Papillion creeks as a source of supply, the settling basins are not included.

From appearance and from the statements of those informed in the matter, I judge that the quality of water flowing in these creeks is about the same as that of the Missouri after the latter has been allowed to deposit the solid matter that will precipitate in a 20 to 24 hours. It appears to be a harder water than the river water, and to possess a considerable more organic matter.

I now continue the description of the works: The clear well is to be a brick basin, capable of containing 150,000 gallons, from which the high service engines take their supply.

From the clear well the high service engine will pump the water through a fifteen-inch cast iron pipe main, 12,500 feet in length, into the storage reservoir, situated on the high ground just north of Hanson Park.

The storage reservoir is to be constructed in the usual manner, with its slope walls puddled and protected by rip-rap and stone paving.

The high service engine will be a beam and fly-wheel condensing engine working two "Thomas Ditton" pumps. The system of distribution contemplated, is to consist of eleven miles of 10-inch pipe, and 6-inch pipe laid in connection with the pumping main so that the head throughout the city will be greater than the head of the running tank at the head due to the height of water in storage reservoir.

This would give ample fire protection at elevation below 225 feet above low water.

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300 cubic yards masonry in foundations of buildings at \$8.00 per cubic yard, \$2,400.00

1,000 cubic yards brick and mortar, \$1,000.00

1,000 cubic yards concrete, \$1,000.00

1,000 cubic yards stone, \$1,000.00

1,000 cubic yards earth excavation, at \$1.00 per cubic yard, \$1,000.00

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