

BIG MUNICIPAL PROBLEMS.

A Practicable System for Putting Electric Wires Underground.

RESEARCHES OF A NATIONAL COMMISSION.

Its President, Mr. Andrew Rosewater, Reviews Its Work—Gives Reasons for the Municipal Ownership of Public Works.

Mr. Andrew Rosewater returned last week from Washington, D. C., where he had been engaged for some time as one of a special commission of three appointed by President Harrison in compliance with an act of congress.

The purpose for which the commission was appointed, as defined in the act creating it, was to devise a plan of underground conduits or subways for the District of Columbia and make estimates of the cost.

The commission met in January last and organized by electing Mr. Rosewater president.

The work of investigation has been carried on vigorously ever since and it has been most thorough and exhaustive. The result of this investigation, together with the recommendations of the commission, were embodied in a very exhaustive report which was filed with the president.

A representative of The Bee called upon Mr. Rosewater and requested an interview upon the question of municipal ownership of electric light and power.

"The first thing for the commission to do," said Mr. Rosewater, "was to ascertain what experiments had been made, which of them had failed and which succeeded and with progress had been made in underground wiring.

"Experiments in Baltimore and Washington have developed a practical conduit system in the shape of rectangular sections of glazed vitrified clay, partitioned off into separate, distinct rectangular ducts.

"The report then takes up the question of the ownership of these conduits," continued Mr. Rosewater, "and recommends that the conduits should be owned and controlled by the public.

"The objection generally urged to municipal ownership," said the report, "is that we already have enough corruption in municipalities and why should we add to it by placing in our hands the political power which is now in the hands of private corporations.

"The board having, after due investigation, concluded that underground wiring in the city was practicable from a mechanical and electrical standpoint, the next question was the nature of the obstacles to be encountered.

"To determine the best system and method of construction it was first necessary to compare the relative surface and underground conditions of the thoroughfares of Washington and other cities.

"The fact that under municipal ownership the rates have been reduced and the service improved, is the best evidence that the same results can be applied to other branches of similar service.

"While few cities in the country own gas works, still the experience of that limited number of cities has shown that it is profitable to invest in gas works for municipal purposes.

"There are over seventy electric light plants in the United States owned by municipalities. Their average rates, all things considered, are slightly lower than municipal rates.

"The receipts from the franchise corporations in Berlin are sufficient to run the city of Berlin, and the same plan is being tried for municipal purposes in London.

"The fact is, as a rule, it may be safely assumed that 50 per cent of the valuation placed on gas works in municipalities is chargeable to the value of the franchise and not of the plant.

"Another point: What the telephone companies propose to do is to place their lines in metallic conduits to overcome the effects of current induction.

"The American Street Railway association has applied for 20,000 square feet in the Transamerica building for a suitable exhibit, which will be collected.

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So, from the borders of Nevada the poor, half-breed Indians were mounted on their worst ponies and marched off to the "Albion," and the Indian reservation was begun.

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207 S. 15th St., between Farnam and Douglas.

LITERARY NOTES.

Prof. W. C. Atwater of Wesleyan university thinks there is no consciousness about there being food enough for all the people who may ever be on earth.

When George the Second was King in an illustrated article in Cassell's magazine setting forth the manners and customs of the days of hooped skirts and knee breeches.

William T. Coleman, the chairman of the famous San Francisco vigilance committees of 1851, 1856 and 1877, in an account of their work which has been written for the New York Century.

One of the most interesting articles in the issue of the 15th of November is that of 'The Home and Haunts of Lowell' in the New England Magazine.

A prominent article in the October issue of Business describes the accounting method of the most successful business firms.

The Anarchists: A Picture of Civilization as it is, and as it should be, by the author of 'The Home and Haunts of Lowell'.

Dr. Birney cures catarrh. Bee bldg.

MOORE'S TREE OF LIFE

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