

DECISION LONG WAY OFF

Settlement of Water Works Appraisal Bill in Dim Distance.

TESTIMONY AND ARGUMENTS ARE IN Now for Red Tape Which is Not on the Program—Values Named by the Respective Sides.

The water company values its plant at \$1,500,000 and City Attorney Wright thinks \$1,200,000 ought to be enough for the entire system.

The arguments in the matter of the appraisal of the Omaha Water company were finished last evening and the matter is now in the hands of the board of appraisers.

He said the city was authorized to buy the waterworks outside the city limits as well as inside the limits. He elaborated upon the going value of the plant and undertook to show that the first years of the life of a water plant were unprofitable.

"The water company," he said, "has borne the burden without reward. The plant was built for a city of 200,000 or 300,000 people. The rip-rap work at the intake point was at a unique point and should be regarded as an asset of value. There was no point on the Missouri river like it, between Nebraska City and Fort Benton. The rip-rap work was made durable and has never stirred from the day it was built."

Mr. Hall was followed by J. M. Woolworth, general attorney for the water company, in a similar line of argument, but bearing more upon the legal phase of the question and the justice of the claim made by the water company.

In reply to an inquiry as to when the board of appraisers would probably render its report on the evidence and arguments one of the board said:

"Our work has but just begun. We have an enormous mass of evidence to consider and the examinations of schedules and reports may take weeks and possibly months. At this time it would be utterly impossible to make even an attempt to forecast when we may submit our final report."

Wright Concludes for City. City Attorney Wright presented the city's side of the question. In a brief discussion of the evidence before the board of appraisers he said:

"Witnesses here cannot be prosecuted for perjury, therefore the statements of individuals must be taken into consideration. The water company has not produced an original record before this board. If you are satisfied, that is all that is required. There have been a few statements which I think the company has submitted that this board should not rely upon. First, the river work, together with the figures, rest entirely upon the memory of one man, Second, ordinary figures as submitted by Mr. Mansfield in his argument when he was making comparisons with other towns. Then there is the question of depreciation and decay of the river projection works. A plant half worn out is not worth the half of a new plant. The present depreciation for each year should be taken into consideration. The value of a plant does not, in fact, bear any relation to the question of interest. The accumulations of a sinking fund are not transferable to purchasers. At the intake point the expenditure of maintenance is increasing every year, and then again, part of the bank is on the low side of the river. Value, then, is not where the hazard is. The cost of river protection to a bedrock basis could have been made, but to compare estimates at \$0 per front foot instead of \$60, as stated by the water company. You must take the valuation at what river protection would actually cost."

Going Value of Plant. Mr. Wright then entered into an elaborate argument upon the question of "going value" of the plant and a comparison of the Kansas City case, which he maintained was essentially different from the Omaha contract with the water company. The Kansas City proposition stated that after a period of years the city may purchase "everything including and belonging thereto."

"Our contract says we may, after twenty years, buy the works, not the 'going value' of everything pertaining thereto," as in the Kansas City case," he said. Mr. Wright, "The 'going value' is a question of law and law only. The board should return a separate valuation of the 'going value.'"

Mr. Wright fortified his argument with a diagram indicating a determination of the income during the different years for a period of ten years, including the net income for service connections, and asked that the board make its return and award fair to both the city and water company.

City Engineer Rosewater followed Mr. Wright. He said:

"I was surprised to learn that the water company had estimated a fair valuation of its property to be \$1,500,000. I am addressing a jury of competent engineers, who I am satisfied are experts in their profession. The question of appraisement of the water works seems to involve the water works in Omaha, South and East Omaha. My contention has always been that the appraisement should be for Omaha alone, according to our charter. We have no right to go into Iowa, or any other string of towns to speculate in franchises as the water company has done."

History of System. He then went into a history of the plant and its extensions to South Omaha and East Omaha and the conditions that prevailed, there relative to water rates. He made an elaborate showing of how the expenses of maintenance could be materially reduced.

"There have been no field notes of records of the water works for twenty-five years past. All that has been done in this line by the water company has been done within a year or two past."

Mr. Rosewater questioned the right of South Omaha to receive water through pipes, laid especially for Omaha, for the benefit of private corporations. Speaking on reference to the intake valuation, he said:

"The water company cannot claim value for anything it cannot deliver. It has no vested right in the Missouri river and cannot prevent others from taking water from the river at any point they please, hence it has no right to charge any of these investments to capitalization. It is an improvement and not a part of the value of the plant."

He spoke further of the loss by leakage, which in New York was about twenty-five gallons per capita per day, while here it ran up into about 60,000 gallons per family of five per week, and from this cause alone raised the disconnection of families to take water at meter rates.

Cincinnati Honors Taft. CINCINNATI, Dec. 30.—The Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce has given William H. Taft, secretary of war, the rare honor

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A great lot of ladies' pretty lace collars—turnovers, stocks, etc.—many beautiful embroideries in plain and fancy effects, worth as high as 50c each—at each 8 1/2c-15c-25c

All Silk Medallions at 3 1/2c Thousands of all silk medallions, for dress trimmings, in scores of new ideas—plain white and fancy colors—they are actually worth up to 25c each—on bargain square, at, each 3 1/2c

Ladies' Kid Glove Sale—New lots of kid gloves for street and evening wear—many are of well-known makes and all are new, up-to-date gloves—at 59c-\$1-\$1.50 pair

25c Hosiery at 12 1/2c Ladies', men's, boys' and girls' hosiery—some is fleecy lined, some fine and heavy ribbed—black and colored—worth 25c pair—at, pair 12 1/2c

Two Underwear Specials Misses', children's and boys' vests, Ladies' underwear—made of fine pants and drawers, Egyptian cotton—worth 75c—at, 15c-25c 39c

Great Sale of Ladies' Belts Hundreds of the swellest belts—in patent leather crushed velvet, satin, tailored belts, etc.—with fancy front and back buckles—many double-faced patent leather Buster Brown belts, worth 40c, go at 19c; many beautiful novelty crushed velvet belts, worth a dollar, go at 25c—many styles for your selection. 19c-25c

The Greatest Price Reduction of All. Your Choice of All the Shoes in the Basement on Bargain Squares 15c, 50c, 59c, 69c, 75c, 89c, \$1

SHEET MUSIC at 14c in the Arcade Here are some of the latest big hits—Bit o' Barney, Satisfied, Teasing, Alexander, While the Convent Bells Were Ringing, I Would If I Could But I Can't, She Was From Missouri, My Indian Queen, Why Don't They Play With Me (Big Glee), K. H. Harris, In a Strife With the Girl You Love, Blue Bell, Come Home Soldier, Boy in Blue, Gondolier, Troubadour, Iothanthie, La Mona, Lize Simpkins, Under the Anheuser Bush, Good Bye My Lady Love, I've Got a Feeling For You, and the latest sentimental ballad, By the Dear Old Delaware. 14c

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Holiday Clearing Sale

Begin Saturday Morning at 8.

This sale is awaited each year by thousands and must arouse the interest of every person who expects to buy Clothing, Hats, Caps and Furnishings this winter, as the values are absolutely unprecedented, being odds and ends.

Early comers will secure the best selections.

Furnishing Bargains

Men's White Collars, sold for 15c, now, 9c Men's assorted Colored Collars, sold everywhere at 10c, now, 2c

Men's Fine Silk Mufflers, sold at \$1, \$1.25, \$1.50, now, 54c Men's Silk Neckwear, sold at 50c, 75c, \$1, now, 29c

Men's fine heavy Underwear, sold for \$1, \$1.25, \$1.50, now, 54c Men's fine Fancy Vests, sold up to \$2.50, now, 98c

Men's mocha fleecy lined Gloves and Mittens, sold at 75c, now, 44c Men's Fancy Hose, sold for 15c and 25c a pair, now, 9c

Men's \$2 Stiff and Soft Hats, now, 98c Men's \$1 Winter Caps, now, 50c

Men's \$2c Winter Caps, now, 19c Men's Fancy Dress Shirts, sold for 50c and 75c, now, 39c

Men's All Wool Shirts, sold for \$1, \$1.50 and \$2, now, 79c Men's Hand Sewed Welt and Turn Shoes, sold at \$2.50 and \$3, now, 1.78

Men's \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2 Shoes, now, 1.10 Men's Canvas Leggings, sold at 50c, now, 21c

Men's Heavy Rockford Hose, sold for 10c, now, 7c Men's white, red and blue Handkerchiefs, sold for 10c, now, 6c

Men's blue bib Overalls, sold for 50c, now, 39c Men's corduroy fancy brown and black Pants, sold at \$1.75, \$2.25 and \$2.50, now, 1.39

Men's Duck Coats, sold at \$1.50, now, 99c

In Our Cigar Department

We have a special sale of the following brands of Cigars:

George Childs—seven for, 25c Henry George—seven for, 25c Tom Keene—seven for, 25c Little Joe—seven for, 25c Little Campula—seven for, 25c Little Tom—seven for, 25c Pete Daily—seven for, 25c Dan Sully—seven for, 25c Pathfinder—seven for, 25c Jap Rose—seven for, 25c Cremona—seven for, 25c Omaha—seven for, 25c Charles Denly—seven for, 25c Isle of Cuba—seven for, 25c

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