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The anxiety of cities to get the Republican national convention is due to the foregone conclusion that the ticket nominated by it will win.

If Secretary Carlisle had sent in his report of the condition of the finances as have other men holding that position, Congress would have a basis for legislation.

Those papers which exhibit rage when it is proposed to pension worn-out and poverty-stricken old men are always the first to urge the pensioning of the widows of general officers. There is no consistency in this.

Iowa is getting ready to celebrate her semi-centennial anniversary next year. There are some people in this State who think that even a centennial anniversary is not worth celebrating.

Kentucky has a Republican Governor, and so would Indiana if the election had come about last November. A year from this time the Republican Governor-elect of Indiana will be writing his inaugural.

Some of the Cleveland organs are urging a popular loan to make the revenues equal to the expenditures, in which they seem not to agree with the assumption of the President that there is revenue enough.

Senator Cameron, by declining a re-election, has relieved the Republicans of Pennsylvania of the unpleasant duty of setting him aside because he is not in accord with the sentiment of the party on several questions.

The final granting by the Sultan of firmans for war ships to pass the Dardanelles is no victory for the powers. It is rather a victory for the Sultan, who held them off for several weeks and only yielded at last in his own time.

A Chicago paper caps the climax of a really generous indorsement of St. Louis as a convention city by saying that "in location and in accessibility from all parts of the country it is second only to Chicago." Magnanimity could no further go.

The text of Senator Morgan's speech relative to the payment of the $425,000 for damages done to Canadian sealers is not only severe, but it shows that the President is ignorant regarding the matter. The alleged award was not made in accordance with the terms of the treaty, and is no award whatever.

It is not probable that the House foreign affairs committee will report back the resolution looking to the impeachment of Embassador Bayard with a favorable recommendation, but the censure of the House was deserved. Even the London Times is of that opinion.

Representative Wheeler, of Alabama, proposes to replenish the treasury by cutting down $5,000 salaries 20 per cent. and all which exceed $800 10 per cent. This would include the poorly paid railway postal clerks. If the ex-Confederate cavalry leader is in earnest, why does he not propose to abolish the private clerks of members?

An Omaha dispatch says there is a movement on foot there embracing some of the largest capitalists in the Northwest to organize a syndicate for the purpose of lending money to farmers and stock growers to carry them over a dull market or a bad season. Would the farmers oppose this as a trust in opposition to hard times?

Ten Republican national conventions have been held in five cities, viz., 1856 and 1872 in Philadelphia; 1860, 1868, 1880, 1884 and 1888 in Chicago; 1864 in Baltimore; 1876 in Cincinnati, and 1892 in Minneapolis. The earliest date was May 16, in 1860, and the latest June 19, in 1888. Two of the conventions were held in May and the others in June.

While the President had not a word to say in his message for the wool industry in the United States, he advertised the Argentine Republic as "the country from which our woolen factories draw their needful supply of raw material." Unfortunately, that wool, for the most part, reaches us through the Liverpool market, being taken there by British ships and then shipped here.

The selection of St. Louis as the place of holding a Republican national convention is another evidence of the gradual obliteration of old sectional lines and of the widening growth of the Republican party. It may be regarded as further typical of these facts that on the very day the decision of the committee was made a Republican Governor was inaugurated in Kentucky. The world does move.

The News says that "Embassador Bayard's offense, so far as there was an offense, was against propriety." Yet the London Times admits that his speeches "were rather surprising;" the St. James Gazette says "Mr. Bayard's indiscretion was deliberate," and adds, "We, too, should resent it if our ministers made similar statements;" and the London Globe thinks "the Republican majority is not unreasonably annoyed that Mr. Bayard permitted himself the freedom of speech which is impossible to the diplomatist of the old world." There was a great deal more in Mr. Bayard's offense than a breach of propriety. It was a breach of patriotism.

NO PRETEXT FOR INACTION.

The President's silence regarding the deficit may be accepted as his opinion that the revenues are sufficient to pay the current expenses of the government. Indeed, that is the only inference that can be drawn from his silence on that point. But the President's opinion should not be accepted by the Republican House unless that body is ready to accept the executive's opinions and judgments on other subjects. The revenues have been insufficient to meet the needs of the government since June, 1893, and will be $15,000,000 less than the expenditures during the half of the present fiscal year which will end with this month. In all probability the deficits will be of monthly recurrence so long as there are no other sources of revenue than are provided by existing laws. Besides, if the revenues are increased so that there will be, for a season, a surplus of two millions a month the greenbacks may be gradually retired or laid by with that surplus when they are presented at the treasury for redemption. It has been said that the Republican House may take the President at his word and make no provision for further revenues. That will not do. Nor will it be any excuse for the Republican House to make to the country that it does not provide for more revenue because the President leads them to assume that it is not needed. That body must act upon its own judgment unless it is willing that the President should go on issuing bonds to pay the current expenses of the government. The people are opposed to an issue of long-time bonds, and if the House makes it possible for the President to issue more bonds to syndicates it will be made to share whatever odium is attached to it. And it should.

THE PRESIDENT MAY BE CENSURED.

That Embassador Bayard's slurring speeches about American politics and policies were highly improper and unpatriotic there can be no doubt. No public man in the United States nor any newspaper dare defend their utterance by an American representative in a foreign country. The Journal has already expressed the opinion that Mr. Bayard's offense does not call for so serious a proceeding as impeachment, but it does call for a strong expression of disapproval by Congress, and, no doubt, there will be a vote to that effect.

Mr. Bayard is not the only high official who is likely to be reprimanded by Congress. From present indications the President will also incur the indirect censure of that body by its action on the Cuban question. His position on that question in his recent message was as little in accord with American ideas as Mr. Bayard's speeches were. In all that the President said concerning the present insurrection there was not one word of sympathy with a people struggling for liberty. On the contrary, the whole effect of what he said was unfriendly and discouraging to the insurgents. He spoke of the insurrection being confined "to a large part of the eastern interior of the island," whereas the Cuban forces occupy fully three-fourths of the island and really control everything outside of the fortified cities on the coast. He deprecated "this flagrant condition of hostilities" because it had the effect of "arousing sentimental sympathy and inciting adventurous support among our people." He said the Cubans seemed to be "struggling for larger autonomy and greater freedom," whereas everybody knows they are struggling for entire independence. He speaks of "the cruelties which appear to especially characterize this sanguinary and fiercely conducted war" without mentioning that, so far as known, the cruelties and barbarities have all been on the side of the Spaniards. His hope that "the devastation of armed conflict may speedily be stayed and order and quiet restored to the distracted island" evidently means that he hopes the Spanish government will soon succeed in putting down the insurrection.

With much less verbiage than this the President could in a few sentences have given expression to the love of liberty which pervades the American people, to their sympathy with all who are struggling for freedom, and to their hope that eventually every part of the western continent and the islands of the sea will come under republican government. He could have done this without violating the proprieties of his position or subjecting himself to the charge of jingoism, and the people would have approved and applauded it. His treatment of the question is entirely devoid of Americanism.

If Congress passes resolutions directing the recognition of the insurgents as belligerents, or if it even passes resolutions of sympathy with the insurgents it will be so distinct a disapproval of the President's position as to amount to a vote of censure. And really he deserves it almost as much as Mr. Bayard does, for, while one was conspicuously unpatriotic, the other omitted a notable opportunity to express patriotic and American views.

BELITTLING THE POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT.

A press dispatch published in the Journal a few days ago related with considerable detail how the Postmaster-general had summarily dismissed three employes of the department. The cause assigned for their dismissal was "giving out official information and conspiracy to belittle the department." In another place it was said that the men had been "tampering with the records and were improperly giving out to parties not connected with the department information regarding the official records and the departmental business." It appeared from the statement that the persons dismissed were all employed in the office of the First Assistant Postmaster-general, and it was said that the action was the result of an investigation ordered by him. The dispatch bore internal evidence of having been furnished by the department, and read like an attempt to forestall other and perhaps fuller accounts of the transaction by an official one. There was something about it that suggested more behind, and perhaps an attempt to suppress part of the truth. It was noticeably silent on the point whether the official information given out by the men was true or false. If true it could hardly belittle the department, and if false it could not be official.

Later information tends to invest this vague and somewhat mysterious dispatch with even greater interest. It appears that the "official information" which the dismissed clerks had been giving out related to First Assistant Postmaster-general Jones's system of putting spies on the track of letter carriers and his attempt to reform the postal service by sneak methods. Up to the 1st of October last, according to the admission of the First Assistant himself, this system had cost the government $75,000, and the net results were a few carriers suspended, a few reprimanded and a large number made very indignant. The expenditure of so large a sum of money for such comparatively worthless results raises a suspicion that it may not all have been spent in detective service. It is now charged that a portion of the money was used as a campaign fund in aid of the Democratic State ticket in Ohio. The "official information" alleged to have been given out by the discharged clerks related to this charge. One of the men says:

> I freely admit that I have been giving information to members of Congress with a view to an investigation later. It is all on account of the present system of "spotter" espionage, which must not be confounded with that of the postoffice inspectors. The whole thing is a political jackpot, and concerned in it are the First Assistant Postmaster-general, who has a number of personal and political friends among those spotters; Sixth Auditor Howard, who has four put in by his influence, and Mr. Machem, whose two brothers, Frank and Charles, are among them. Now, Congress never appropriated a dollar to pay for this kind of service.

This man further says he has a letter in his possession from one of the spies stating that he and others had paid an assessment on their salaries to the Democratic campaign fund in Ohio.

This whole spying business is a nasty one. Congress never made any appropriation for such service, and the creation of a fund for it was an arbitrary and illegal act on the part of Postoffice Department officials. The business would not bear ventilating, and the moment it began to be talked about it was inevitable that somebody would be accused of talking too much. The first dispatch on the subject endeavored to create the impression that the Postmaster-general had unearthed a conspiracy against the public welfare and made certain dismissals in order to purify the service. It now appears that the dismissals were made in order to suppress disclosures concerning the misappropriation of public funds through the First Assistant's espionage system. The real work of belittling the department began when spies were set to dog the steps of letter carriers.

The Attorney-general of Illinois and other members of the State government are in St. Louis for the purpose of taking final steps preparatory to filing suit against the two bridge companies and the ferry company which handle the transportation between St. Louis and East St. Louis, for entering into and maintaining a pool. The action is taken under a resolution passed by the last Illinois Legislature calling for a thorough investigation of the alleged "combine" and the report of a committee recommending that suit be brought. The United States Attorney-general is kept advised of the proceeding, and has notified the district attorney that if a case of pooling is made out against the companies the Secretary of War would probably take possession of the bridge company, and its rights and franchises would be forfeited to the government. The case is of general interest as showing the growing disposition of State and national authorities to enforce anti-trust laws against transportation companies and in the interest of the public.

The usual number of bills are being presented to remove the charge of desertion standing against men when the war closed. That was over thirty years ago. Since that time there has been a tribunal to straighten out the records of all those against whom injustice had been done. Moreover, there was ample time to have applied for the removal of the odium of desertion before June 27, 1890, when the disability pension bill was passed. Under these circumstances it is better that more than nine-tenths of the applications for the removal of the charge of desertion thirty years after the war should be rejected. In cases where the prayer of the petitioner is granted it would be well that the bill contain a provision that he be denied a pension. A number of such bills have been presented by Indiana Representatives.

In indorsing Governor Matthews for President the Democratic State central committee say: "We know that he is thoroughly devoted to the fundamental principles of the Democratic party." Just so. A year or so ago the Governor was devoted to the fundamental Democratic principle of free and unlimited silver coinage, but now he is devoted to the fundamental Democratic principle of honest money. He covers all the fundamental principles.

Retiring Governor Brown, of Kentucky, in his address at the inauguration of Governor Bradley, rather marred the proprieties of the occasion by saying that Democracy is not dead but sleeping, and four years hence a Democratic administration would be inaugurated. The remark elicited some hisses, while many laughed at what they considered the speaker's bad taste. There are times when even partisans should eschew partisanship.

It is natural and proper that the Democrats of Indiana should recommend Governor Matthews to the party as a presidential candidate and resolve to stand by him. He is at present the most prominent Democrat in the State, and circumstances have given him some national celebrity. From a party point of view he is worthy of support, and State pride should give him the cordial support of the Indiana Democracy.

It is probable that Colorado has the richest and most valuable gold properties in the world, but the man or woman in this locality who has a few dollars to invest had better put them in a loan and building association. In mine speculations those who can stay in are those who make the money, but scores of shares are sold at a small price out of which the person who buys a few will, in nine cases in ten, get no return for his money.

Mr. Kohlsaat, late editor of a Chicago bakery, and now of the Times-Herald, prints his instructions to correspondents of the paper at the head of the editorial page instead of giving them privately, as is the custom with other papers. One of the rules laid down is that the correspondents shall tell the truth, and the only reason for alluding to the matter here is to suggest to Mr. Kohlsaat that he has evidently neglected to send a marked copy to Mr. Walter Wellman, of Washington.

The inspiration of the coming Republican convention moves the St. Louis Globe-Democrat to unusual eloquence. Below are leading editorial contributions to its pages yesterday morning:

Poor old Chicago.
Poor old San Francisco.
Poor old Pittsburg.
Poor old New York.
Grand old St. Louis.

Mr. Joseph Jefferson's talks on art and acting, which he has been making before young women's art schools in several cities, show that if he had not been a great actor he would have been one of the greatest of lecturers.

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

Aphorism.

"Ef I wasn't so shy of the long green," remarked Mr. Dismal Dawson, with a sigh, "I wouldn't be so long dry."

As Usual.

The little boy, with heart made glad
By thoughts of Christmas near,
Now loves his ma, and eke his pa,
And even "teacher dear."

No Jingo.

"You call yourself a patriot, but I bet if a war should break out, the best you would do would be to send a substitute. Now, wouldn't you?"

"I—er—well, I ain't no blame jingo, that's a fact."

Uninterested.

"Have you ever thought of the great crime of 1873?" asked the gentleman with the whiskers.

"I?" said Chollie. "Neveh, old chappie; neveh. The cwime of 1776 is sad enough for me to contemplate."

LABOR'S LEGISLATURE

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL FEDERATION CONVENTION.

Declaration in Favor of Silver Coinage at the Ratio of 16 to 1—A Delegate's Idea of Boycotting.

NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—So slowly has the work of the Federation of Labor progressed that instead of adjournment being reached on Friday or by Saturday noon, at the latest, which was the original programme, it is not likely that the election of officers will be reached before Monday, and possibly Tuesday of next week. At the opening session to-day the credentials committee reported, the convention concurring, that W. E. Ward, claiming to represent a painters' union, a dual organization, be denied a seat. Subsequently the subject of duality of organization within the ranks of the federation was brought up by Vice President T. J. Elderkin, who protested that unless the condition was corrected the federation would fall under the control of antagonistic elements. Instancing the case of the 119 lodges of the Brewery Employes' National Union, a small majority of which are attached to the Knights of Labor, Mr. Elderkin said: "These Knights of Labor assemblies have a national trade assembly and meet in national convention and secretly legislate for the National Brewery Employes' Union. As a result a great national union attached to the federation is controlled absolutely by an inner circle of the Knights of Labor." As a remedy for this condition a resolution was offered to the effect that hereafter a seat shall be refused to any representative whose organization has within its ranks any other organization comprising less than the total membership.

It was resolved to extend an invitation to the Women's Christian Temperance Union to send fraternal delegates to the convention. The president of the W. C. T. U. had been invited to attend, but sent regrets, at the same time stating that delegates from the organization would be present at to-morrow's session of the convention.

The committee on resolutions reported favorably a resolution asking that all outside trades unions be invited to become affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. A resolution by Samuel Gompers against capital punishment was adopted. A resolution was adopted reaffirming the declaration made yesterday in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. A resolution by delegate Andrew Furuseth, of San Francisco, protesting against the passage in Congress of the compulsory arbitration bill was adopted.

The committee on labels and boycotts reported favorably on the adoption of a uniform boot and shoe workers' union. This gave rise to a debate on the proposed amalgamation of the Boot and Shoe Workers' National Union and the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union of Chicago. The resolution was finally laid on the table until to-morrow.

A resolution having for its object the most active prosecution of the boycotts against the United States Baking Company was adopted. Delegate Elderkin, of Chicago, said that his idea of boycotting a man was to run him out of the business entirely and not advertise him for a year, and then when he gave in give him a union label.

A resolution that the secretary of the federation communicate with the Metropolitan and Prudential insurance companies for the purpose of securing a modification of the contract agents are obliged to observe, which, it was represented, were oppressive and unjust, was adopted.

There was nearly an hour's discussion over the resolution to discontinue the publication in the Federationist of the "fair list," containing the names of firms understood by the Federation of Labor, and of the "unfair list" as well, consisting of firms antagonistic to the federation. The matter was referred to a special committee.

A ball was given at the Concert Hall in Madison-square Garden to-night, in honor of the delegates. The affair was tendered them by trades and labor unions of New York and vicinity. Samuel Gompers had charge of the committee on arrangements. A banquet was served in the Assembly Hall adjoining at midnight. All the officers were present and there were informal speeches. The meeting was adjourned at the conclusion of the speakers' remarks.

Steel Freight Ships.

CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 11.—During the last week the firm of Pickands, Mather & Co. have made contracts for the building of fourteen steel freight vessels to cost $3,500,000. Eight will be steamers and four will be tow barges. Twelve of the vessels are for John D. Rockefeller and two are for the Minnesota Steamship Company. Each will carry at least 4,000 gross tons on 14 feet 6 inches draft. The vessels will be built, three in Cleveland, three in Bay City, Mich., four in Chicago, two in Detroit and two in West Superior, Wis. All are expected to be completed before Aug. 15 next, and will go at once into the iron ore trade. Rockefeller and the Minnesota company own the great Mesaba ore range in the Lake Superior region and the railroad reaching it, and now they are prepared to control the lake transportation of their ore.

Altgeld's Advice to Farmers.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 11.—At to-day's meeting of the Illinois State Grange, Mortimore Whitehead, of New Jersey, formerly a department chief under Secretary of Agriculture Rusk, delivered an address in which he scored the politicians and their methods, and made a strong plea for co-operation. Governor Altgeld delivered a brief address. He advised farmers to organize and look out for their own interests. The committee on transportation reported in favor of advocating legislation looking to a reduction in the rates of railroad transportation for freight and passengers.

WATER PLANT SCORED

SYSTEM OF MAINS IN BUSINESS DISTRICT SHOWN TO BE DEFECTIVE.

Meeting of Fire Subcommittees Last Night Brings Out Some Interesting Information.

The joint committee appointed by the Indianapolis Board of Trade and Commercial Club to investigate the city's needs in the way of better fire protection met at the Commercial Club last night to hear the reports of the subcommittees appointed at the meeting held last week. In response to an invitation from the joint committee Mayor Taggart delegated four city officials to attend last night's meeting. They were City Controller Johnson and Councilmen Allen, Cooper and Clark. D. P. Erwin presided as chairman of the meeting. The first report heard was that of the committee which investigated the city's water supply and the contract existing between the city and the water company. The report was exhaustive in detail and treated the water question in all its phases. E. B. Martindale was chairman of the committee. Following is the full text of the report, containing the views of F. M. Griswold on the condition of the plant:

"The Indianapolis Water Company, which is under contract to supply water to the city, is organized with a capital stock of $600,000. It has a bonded indebtedness of $1,000,000, of which $500,000 is drawing 6 per cent. and $500,000 is drawing 5 per cent. interest, payable semi-annually. The company has little, if any, floating indebtedness. The company has laid and is now supplying water in about 160 miles of mains, which range in size from four inches up to twenty-four inches. The dimensions of these mains are, in certain localities, not equal to the standard required by water-works engineering to furnish adequate fire protection to a city the size of Indianapolis. These mains were all tested before being laid in the ground to a hydrostatic pressure of three hundred pounds to the square inch. The thickness of metal in each size of main is made by a standard adopted by the factories, based on long experience in actual tests. Their endurance of pressure is based on the strength of new pipe free from defects. All pipes will weaken from year to year in proportion to the time they have been in service, and the rust, decay and weakness resulting therefrom.

THE WATER CAPACITY.

"The company has ten pumps at its lower station, with a combined capacity of 22,000,000 gallons in twenty-four hours. It has two pumps at the upper station, with a combined capacity of 15,000,000 gallons in twenty-four hours. It is now putting in two large "snow pumps" at the upper works, with a combined capacity of 20,000,000 gallons in twenty-four hours. The foundations are in and the building well under way in course of construction for these new pumps, and by the terms of the contract with the water company these new pumps are to be in place ready for use by the 1st of April next. When these new pumps are put in service the combined capacity of all the pumps of the water company will be 57,000,000 gallons in twenty-four hours, and will be ample for fire protection to the city for several years to come, provided they are amply supplied with water and the street mains and hydrants are so laid and constructed as to make the power of these pumps available. The water supply is now taken from a gallery about forty feet wide by two thousand feet long, and eight to ten feet deep, the estimated capacity of which is 40,000,000 gallons. This gallery is supplied mainly from six flowing wells, each of a six-inch diameter, and, in case of emergency, from White river. In addition, the company has a main with thirty-two-feet head for supplying water from the canal to the lower works; and, by order of the City Council, connected their pumping gallery at the lower station by a thirty-six-inch main with White river. This connection was sealed up after its connection, and no demand so far has required it to be unsealed. The water in the gallery in the upper works was not reduced over two feet at either of the last two large fires. If, therefore, there is a fair amount of water in the river, by the use of the thirty-six-inch inlet at the lower station we can confidently rely upon a sufficient supply of water to fight any fire the city is liable to have.

"While, however, the water supply is ample and the capacity of the pumps ample, yet if the water mains are not properly connected, of sufficient diameter and the fire hydrants are not the latest and best and properly located on mains where great pressure can be concentrated, then the ample water supply and ample pumping capacity will amount to nothing in a great conflagration.

"On this subject of the proper location of mains and the character and location of fire hydrants, this committee procured the services of Mr. F. M. Griswold, the general inspector of the Home Insurance Company of New York, who has made this subject a life-long study and who has been in this city for nearly two months inspecting our fire protection. He has made to this committee an elaborate report which the committee herewith transmit and fully indorse.

GLARINGLY BAD CONTRACT.

"The contract now existing between the city and the water company, which was approved May 5, 1892, provides that the same shall be in force from Jan. 1, 1892, until Jan. 1, 1897, 'and thereafter until a new contract shall be made.' The rights of the city under former contracts and under the new city charter to purchase the water works property are fully protected. The terms of the present contract as to furnishing water for fire protection, however, are not definite. The company agrees:

"To furnish the city with water sufficient to supply 807 fire hydrants or plugs for fire protection as now located and with sufficient power and pressure to throw eight streams at once a distance of one hundred feet vertically through one-inch nozzles, said pressure and power to be furnished within six minutes from the time an alarm of fire is sounded from any fire alarm box located on the line or within one square of the line of water pipe." This contract is glaringly defective in these particulars:

"First—It provides for a test through a one-inch nozzle, while it is well known that a one-inch nozzle is too small to do effective work at a fire.

"Second—It does not define the length of fire hose through which the test shall be made and it is a fact that the pressure is reduced twenty-six pounds through one hundred feet of hose, and while the test required may be easily complied with, where the hydrants are supplied with only thirty or fifty feet of hose, but in case of fire the water must be taken from hydrants one square from the fire. If short lines of hose can be used a pressure of one hundred pounds at the hydrant will throw a stream one hundred feet vertically, but where two hundred feet of hose is required, the one hundred pounds pressure will not throw a stream fifty feet vertically.

"At the late fire the water company maintained a pressure of 130 pounds at their upper station, 120 pounds at their lower station and 100 pounds at the department headquarters, and they contend that this pressure was a substantial compliance with their contract with the city, while, as a matter of fact, they did not throw eight streams fifty feet vertically.

"It will be seen that this contract is so loosely worded as to leave it largely to the discretion of the water company as to what protection they will furnish the city in case of fire. The most advantageous thing about this contract is the short life of it, having only a little over twelve months to run.

"Your committee are unanimously of the opinion that the city ought to own its water works. The power exists, under the present city charter, in the city authorities to purchase the water plant, or construct one of its own. By the terms of the contract between the city and the water company, which expires in January, 1897, the city may select two persons, and the water company may select two, and the four thus selected may select a fifth, and the five persons thus selected may make an appraisement of the property, not giving any value to the franchise, and the city shall have the right to purchase the plant at the appraisement thus made. A water company bears a different relation to the city from that sustained by a gas company or street-railroad company. An adequate fire protection and the supplying of pure, healthful water for domestic use, are so important to the business and sanitary interests of the city that they should be under the immediate control and direction of the city government. The water plant, under the direction of the city, may be made to furnish ample fire protection, furnish pure water for domestic purposes, furnish a liberal use of water for sprinkling streets and flushing sewers, and at the same time constitute a source of revenue to the city, rather than a heavy drain upon its treasury. It may be said in answer to all this that the city having no money and having a limitation on its power to create indebtedness, cannot purchase or construct water works. This may be true and it may not. The city may increase its levy of taxes, and may anticipate its collections. It may purchase the present water plant with paying off or assuming its one million of indebtedness, and allow the same to run until its maturity. It is certainly worth while to investigate the question and know of a certainty whether it is not possible for the city to own its water works."

The report is signed by E. B. Martindale, F. A. Maus, W. M. Scott and William H. Hobbs.

MR. GRISWOLD'S REPORT.

Below is the report of F. M. Griswold, the inspector who investigated the condition and construction of the water plant:

"In conformity with your request at to-day's conference, I beg to submit the following suggestions and remarks in relation to proper water supply for fire purposes in this city:

"First—An examination of the water company's map of piping develops the following conditions: There are three main lines or feeders from the two pumping stations, two of these lines being of 24 inches diameter and one of 20 inches diameter. In attempting to elucidate the service from these lines I deem it wise to divide them into two sections—i. e., from Washington street southward, and from same street northward, as follows:

"Second—From old pumping station a 24-inch main extends eastward on Washington street to Pennsylvania, then branches to 20 inches down Virginia avenue, to 20 inches east on Washington to East street, and up Pennsylvania at 20 inches to Massachusetts avenue and Michigan street.

"Third—The latterals from this Washington-street main, leading south, are as follows: At West street, 6 inches to South street; at Mississippi street, 16 inches to Georgia, then 12 inches to South street; at Capitol avenue, 4 inches to Pearl, then 6 inches to Maryland, returning by a bend up Kentucky avenue by 4-inch pipe to Washington; at Illinois street, 12 inches to Jackson place, then 8 inches to South street; at Meridian street, 12 inches to Louisiana, then by bend west on latter 10 inches to McCrea street, north on latter to Georgia by 8-inch; at Pennsylvania street, 12 inches to Georgia, then 6 inches to Louisiana and 4 inches thence to South street; at Delaware street, 6 inches to Georgia street; at Alabama street, 4 inches to Maryland and 8 inches to Virginia avenue; at New Jersey street, 6 inches to a dead end at Maryland street; at East street, 6 inches to South; at Virginia avenue, 20 inches to South street, then 16 to Huron, 10 to Pine, then 16 and 12-inch to Shelby street.

"Fourth—The 20-inch main from the old pumping station runs east on Pearl street to Mississippi, where it serves the 16-inch pipe, as described; on Pearl street, from Illinois, a 6-inch pipe runs to a dead end near the east end of block; on same street, a 6-inch line runs west from Meridian to center alley in the block, then south to Maryland street; on Maryland street an 8-inch line starts from Mississippi street and continues to Virginia avenue, then 10 inches to Alabama street; from this Maryland street line branches a 6-inch line down Kentucky avenue to South street; on Chesapeake street a 6-inch line branches from Meridian to center of the block, eastward, then south to Georgia; on Georgia street a 6-inch line extends east from West street to Meridian, then 16-inch to Pennsylvania and 8 inches to Delaware; from this Georgia street line drops a 4-inch line, south on Capitol avenue to Louisiana and east on the latter to a dead end at Illinois street; from Georgia street at Missouri street extends a 6-inch line to a dead end at Missouri and Kentucky; on South street an 8-inch line extends from West to Virginia avenue, with a 4-inch branch up Illinois to and east on McNabb street to a dead end at Pogue's run, and a second 4-inch branch up Meridian to McNabb, with dead end at Pogue's run, also a 6-inch spur to a dead end north on Delaware to near Louisiana street.

POOR SYSTEM OF MAINS.

"Taking that portion of the city lying between Mississippi street on the west, East street on the east, Washington street on the north and South street on the south, it will be noted that there is no line of pipe larger than 8 inches on any of the east-and-west streets south of Washington, save only the 'pocket' of 16 inches from Meridian to Pennsylvania, on Georgia. It will also be noted that the 'north-and-south' lines are not only small, on the average, but are not continuous, as, for instance, on Capitol avenue, Delaware, Alabama and New Jersey streets; this condition strikes me as being radically wrong, from the fact that in this district is aggregated the largest value in stocks and buildings, it being the wholesale district.

"Fifth—In the district north of Washington street, to and including St. Clair street on the north, and from East to West streets east and west, the water supply may be treated as coming from the pumping station at Fall creek, from whence comes, via Indiana avenue, a 24-inch main, continuing eastward through St. Clair street the same size to New Jersey street; from this 24-inch main at its junction with First street is a 16-inch line extending to and eastward on First street, at its junction with St. Clair street a 6-inch line extends down Indiana avenue to West street, then 12 inches to Illinois street (put in this year); on St. Clair, east of New Jersey, is a continuation of the 24-inch main to Massachusetts avenue (laid this year and not on map), at which point a 16-inch branch passes down Massachusetts avenue as far as Michigan street, then 20 inches to Pennsylvania street and down to Washington street, joining the 24-inch main.

"Sixth—The laterals from this 24-inch main on St. Clair street, leading south, are as follows: On West street, 6 inches to South; on Mississippi street, 16 inches to a point half way between North and Michigan, then 8 inches to Indiana avenue, then 12 inches to Ohio street, from thence 16 inches to Washington street; on Capitol avenue, 6 inches to Michigan street, then 4 inches to Vermont street, enlarged to 6 inches to a point half way between New York and Ohio streets, reduced to 4 inches to Ohio street, enlarged to 6 inches from Ohio to Market street, from thence 8 inches to Washington; on Illinois street, 6 inches to North street, reduced to 4 inches from thence to a point half way between New York and Ohio streets, enlarged to 10 inches as far as Market street, thence 6 inches to Washington street; on Meridian street, 6 inches to North street, then 4 inches to Vermont; on Pennsylvania street, 6 inches to Vermont; on Delaware, 4 inches to Walnut, then by bend up Fort Wayne to St. Clair; 6 inches from Walnut to North, thence 4 inches to Vermont; on New Jersey, 6 inches to Michigan, thence 4 inches to Market, enlarged to 6 inches to Wabash, thence 4 inches to Washington; on East street, 6 inches to Market, then 12 inches to Washington street.

"Seventh—The laterals east and west are as follows: On North street, eight-inch from Mississippi to Illinois, reduced to six inches thence to Pennsylvania, enlarged to eight inches thence to Alabama, reduced to six inches to East street; on Fort Wayne avenue, six-inch from North to Walnut, then west on latter four inches to Pennsylvania; on Michigan street, four inches from Indiana avenue to Capitol avenue, thence six inches to Illinois, vacant to Meridian street, then a two-inch to alley on north side, enlarged to four-inch to the center of block; from New Jersey street west, four inches to near Pennsylvania, then six inches for short space, reduced to four inches to a dead end at alley west of Pennsylvania; on Vermont, six inches from Mississippi to East street; on New York, a six-inch branch from West street to dead end at the canal; from Mississippi street a four-inch branch to dead end near canal; vacant thence to Meridian street, thence four inches to a dead end just east of New Jersey street; then from another dead end six inches to East street; on Ohio street, a four-inch branch from West street to dead end at canal; vacant to Mississippi street, thence six inches to East street; on Market street, four inches from West street to the Capitol building, thence increased to eight inches to and around the south side of the Circle and as far as Delaware street, thence six inches to East street; on the north side of the Circle, six-inch, continued up Meridian street to Ohio, thence four inches to New York, with a six-inch branch through center of the block to Illinois street; in the alley between Circle and Washington streets, four-inch from Illinois to Meridian, six inches across that street, then small section of eight inches, reduced to four inches to Pennsylvania street.

WHOLE DISTRICT EXPOSED.

"Analyzing the above outline evidences, the fact that such portion of the city as lies south of New York street and between Mississippi and East streets, is, with the exception of the twenty-inch line on Pennsylvania street, very poorly equipped to handle a fire of even ordinary size, and in case of a large conflagration the whole district mentioned might well be expected to be devastated under present conditions.

"In order to even approximate a sure and steady supply and equalized pressure of water for fire purposes, it would seem to be an imperative necessity to locate a series of large mains so arranged as to girdle the valuable property and large interests centered in the space included within the following limits: Mississippi, New Jersey (or Alabama), New York and South streets. To accomplish this end, mains of not less than twenty inches diameter should be laid from the twenty-four inch main on Indiana avenue to Mississippi street, thence east through New York street to Alabama, then south to South street, west to Mississippi and back to point of beginning; this girdle should be supplemented by a series of mains not less than twelve inches in diameter on all north-and-south streets within this district, excepting Pennsylvania, Meridian and Illinois streets, where the mains should be at least sixteen inches; all such enlarged north-and-south mains should be continuous from South street to New York.

"With such a system as above outlined, supplemented as it would be by the twenty-four-inch main on Washington street as an equalizer, there would be no chance to complain of a lack of supply or of pressure, so long as the pumping stations were in operating condition.

"Even with an enlarged service supply as above outlined, the proper and effective work of the fire department would be seriously hampered if the present old-style hydrants are kept in use; these hydrants were constructed with a view to be used for the attachment of hose using the direct pressure of the pumping stations and have no provision for the attachment of a suction pipe from the engines, thus creating a condition which may in the time of need, prove quite disastrous. All old-style hydrants should be replaced by modern ones having at least a six-inch connection to the mains, and each to be provided with a coupling for steam engine suction in addition to the usual hose connections; such new style hydrants to be located in the district outlined and in the heavy business portion of the city, where the hydrants are from 400 to 500 feet apart, additional hydrants should be located at the alleys to avoid the necessity for long lines of hose and consequent loss of pressure and volume by friction."

SPECIFIC APPARATUS NEEDED.

The subcommittee composed of J. B. Conner, J. P. Dunn, C. F. Sayles, Robert Martindale and E. C. Rassman, appointed to inspect the organization and equipment of the Indianapolis fire department, reported having made an examination of each of the different fire houses. The committee found the department far from what it should be for a city of this size. In the judgment of the committee the following improvements are absolutely necessary at this time: The purchase of a water tower; three engines of Class A1; two engines of the next smaller size; twelve thousand feet of first-class hose in addition to the heavy hose necessary for the water tower; fifteen fire extinguishers to properly equip hose wagons and other apparatus, and fifteen nozzles for the same purpose. The committee thinks the present fire force should be increased by the addition of at least thirty men. The report makes specific mention of the requirements at each engine and hose house. The engine in use at the Madison-avenue house was found to be absolutely worthless. Engine company No. 6 was found with 150 feet of good hose and 550 feet of bad rubber hose. This company, it was reported, protects the largest special fire hazards in the city. Hose house No. 8, according to the report, is a disgrace to the city. The committee recommends that it be torn down and a new one erected. In nearly every branch of the department the committee recommends immediate changes. The discipline of the department was found to be too lax for efficient service. This trouble the committee attributes to the limited and uncertain powers of the chief of the department. A revision of the rules regulating the department and the express conferring on the chief as full power as possible under Sections 96 and 97 of the city charter is advised. In conclusion the report says: "In our opinion the use of good engines for pumping out cellars after floods or after fires should be stopped for the reason that it is liable to result in serious injury to the engines. We therefore recommend that instead of disposing of the old engines two or three be kept by the city for such work. The saving on good engines would more than compensate for any expense that could result from their maintenance. To this arm of the service the protection of both life and property are committed. These are too sacred to permit it to become the football of political and party interests. The paring down of the appropriations for these purposes to the end that good party records in economy may be made in order to catch votes at the next election cannot be too severely condemned. Your subcommittee recommends that all these things be urged upon public attention as necessary to further improve the service."

CHANGES WOULD BE EXPENSIVE.

John B. Conner, ex-member of the Board of Public Safety, was of the opinion that the changes urged by the committee would cost the city about $55,000. D. P. Erwin feared that the committee might overreach itself in asking for these improvements on so large a scale. He believed they should be sure of what they would be able to get from the city before going too far. J. P. Dunn, of the committee, took a different view of the matter. He said the department was in a bad condition, and he believed the sentiment of the people here would support an issue of bonds to raise the money, if it were necessary. Councilman Allen said the appropriation would have to be a special one if the Council did anything in the matter.

An interesting report was heard from the committee charged with the investigation of the various large buildings about the city and the efforts owners employ in protecting them from fire in accordance with the city ordinances. To begin with, the committee finds that the building laws of the city are very imperfect. Persons are permitted to erect four-story buildings without a fire wall, an iron shutter or even a closed hatchway. As an instance of these irregularities the report calls the attention of the joint committee to the building at the corner of Meridian and Maryland streets, recently destroyed by fire and described several years ago by the building inspector. That official said at the time: "Fire having once begun in a building of this kind would soon find its way to the elevator passage, and thus, whether the fire had its beginning under the roof or in the cellar, it would soon spread throughout the building. With such a combination of circumstances opposing us there is but one thing that the firemen could do to master the fire—flood the building. If the building is flooded the stocks are ruined and the department is censured for mismanagement."

BUILDINGS AT FAULT.

The subcommittee would recommend the amendment of Section 26 of the building ordinance so as to require fire walls in brick or stone business buildings more than one story (instead of two stories) high, and so as to require coping of either stone or terra cotta. A further suggestion was as follows: "No openings shall be made in party walls until plans, including provisions for standard fire doors, shall have been submitted to the building inspector and have received his approval, and it shall be his duty to see that such changes are made in accordance with the approved plans." Further the report recommended the amendment of Section 3 by the insertion after the words "over-loading of floors" of the words "the danger from fires," so that the amended sentence shall read as follows:

"He shall examine all public school buildings, public halls and churches, theaters, hotels, business houses, and all buildings used for manufacturing or commercial purposes at least once a year, for the purpose of determining the safety of such buildings, the facilities for egress in case of fire, the overloading of floors, the danger from fire, and where defects are found shall apply such remedies as he may be empowered to use."

In the opinion of the subcommittee all fire walls or party walls now being constructed should be carried up at least two feet above the roof of the building and should have no openings except such as are provided with standard fire doors. The report urged a careful consideration of the question of forbidding, within certain districts, as between Louisiana and Market streets and Capitol avenue and Delaware streets, of any structure other than fire proof or slow-burning buildings. The advisability of regulating by ordinance the electric wiring of buildings was suggested and the use of automatic sprinklers and eaves sprinklers urged. In connection with the recommendation of sprinklers the subcommittee seems to question the rate charged by the water company in view of the probability that the water may never be used and the certainty that, if used at all, it will will be used meagerly and in such a way as will greatly lessen the use of water by the fire department.

The report of the subcommittee on insurance companies contained the following recommendations: "The joint employment by insurance companies of an inspector whose exclusive business it shall be to discover and report to the insurance companies, to the city government and to the property owners all conditions conducive to fire; the granting of such inspectors of police powers; the refusal by insurance companies to insure property of those who refuse to comply with requests of such inspectors; the prompt investigation of city authorities of all reports made to them by inspectors." The report of the insurance committee was signed by John M. Spann, D. M. Parry and Robert Zener. The latter, although he had signed the report, did not think the "blacklisting" clause practicable and after some discussion it was stricken from the report. All of the reports of the subcommittees will be printed and at a meeting of the joint committee to be held Saturday night will be finally passed upon.

The Raise in Insurance Rates.

A prominent insurance man said, yesterday, he thought the recent action of insurance companies in increasing rates in some instances in the wholesale district would be rescinded as soon as the city showed that better fire protection is to be afforded. The raise in rates is not general, being confined principally to buildings that the companies do not think belong to the better class of risks.