THE DISPATCH,
BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.
CASH—INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.
The DAILY DISPATCH is delivered to subscribers at FIFTEEN CENTS per week, payable to the carrier weekly. Mailed at $6 per annum; $3 for six months; $1.50 for three months; 50c. for one month.
The SEMI-WEEKLY DISPATCH at $2 per annum, or $1 for six months.
The WEEKLY DISPATCH at $1 per annum.

BROWN'S IRON BITTERS.

SEEK HEALTH
AND AVOID SICKNESS.

Instead of feeling tired and worn out, instead of aches and pains, wouldn't you rather feel fresh and strong?

You can continue feeling miserable and good for nothing, and no one but yourself can find fault, but if you are tired of that kind of life you can change it if you choose.

How? By getting one bottle of
BROWN'S IRON BITTERS
and taking it regularly according to directions.

MANSFIELD, O., November 26, 1881.
Gentlemen,—I have suffered with pain in my side and back, and great soreness on my breast, with shooting pains all through my body, attended with great weakness, depression of spirits, and loss of appetite. I have taken several different medicines, and was treated by prominent physicians for my liver, kidneys, and spleen, but I got no relief. I thought I would try BROWN'S IRON BITTERS; I have now taken one bottle and a half and am about well—pain in side and back all gone—soreness all out of my breast, and I have a good appetite and am gaining in strength and flesh. It can justly be called the *king of medicines*.
JOHN K. ALLENDER.

BROWN'S IRON BITTERS
is composed of iron in soluble form; cinchona, the great tonic; together with other standard remedies, making a remarkable non-alcoholic tonic, which will cure
DYSPEPSIA,
INDIGESTION,
MALARIA,
WEAKNESS,
and relieve all LUNG and KIDNEY DISEASES.
[ja 20-eod1w]

WINTRY BLASTS.

WINTRY BLASTS BRING
COUGHS,
COLDS,
CONSUMPTION,
BRONCHITIS,
RHEUMATISM,
NEURALGIA,
PERRY DAVIS'S PAIN-KILLER
CURES
COUGHS,
COLDS,
CONSUMPTION,
BRONCHITIS,
RHEUMATISM,
NEURALGIA.

Provide against the evil effects of wintry blasts by procuring
PERRY DAVIS'S PAIN-KILLER.
EVERY GOOD DRUGGIST KEEPS IT.
[ja 2-eodtFel]

KIDNEY-WORT.
Trade Mark. KIDNEY-WORT
HAS BEEN PROVED
the surest cure for
KIDNEY DISEASES.
Does a lame back or disordered urine indicate that you are a victim? THEN DO NOT HESITATE; use KIDNEY-WORT at once (druggists recommend it), and it will speedily overcome the disease and restore healthy action.
LADIES.—For complaints peculiar to your sex, such as pain and weaknesses, KIDNEY-WORT is unsurpassed, as it will act promptly and safely.
EITHER SEX.—Incontinence, retention of urine, brick dust or ropy deposits, and dull, dragging pains, all speedily yield to its curative power.
SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS. Price $1.
KIDNEY-WORT.
Trade Mark.
ACTS AT THE SAME TIME ON KIDNEYS, LIVER, AND BOWELS.
[oc 3-Tu,Th(w)&SatAp3]

VALENTINES.

VALENTINES.
LARGEST STOCK IN THE CITY.
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.
COMICS, 35 cents per gross.
C. F. JOHNSTON,
ja 25-eod6t* 918 Main street.

PRANG'S ARTISTIC VALENTINES.
ELEGANT, POLITE, AND PURE.
No vulgarity or coarse wit. Suited to the use of ladies and gentlemen, misses, and youths.
CARLTON McCARTHY & CO.,
ja 24 805 Main street, Pace's Block.

VALENTINES, VALENTINES.
OPENING DAY
AT
N. LEONARD'S, 908 MAIN STREET.
Large displays of Prang's and Phil Haake's ARTISTIC VALENTINES.
UNDOUBTEDLY THE FINEST ASSORTMENT EVER OFFERED IN THIS CITY BEFORE.
200 CHROMO BOX VALENTINES at half price; COMICS at 30c. per gross.
ALSO,
FINE LOT OF
WEDDING-, BIRTHDAY-,
AND
CONGRATULATORY-CARDS.
DON'T FORGET
THAT
TUESDAY
WILL BE
OPENING DAY FOR VALENTINES at
N. LEONARD'S, 908 Main street,
ja 21 fourth door from corner Ninth.

MACHINISTS.
JOSEPH H. HULCHER, Late of Tredegar Works. | JOSEPH G. ROSS, Late of C. and O. Shops.
HULCHER & ROSS, PRACTICAL MACHINISTS, 1508 and 1510 east Cary street, near Fifteenth street, Richmond, Va. Machinery of all kinds repaired and put up carefully. Being practical machinists and doing our own work, with the latest improved machinery and tools, we feel assured that we can give entire satisfaction both as to price and workmanship.
ja 2-eod3m*

BOOK AND JOB WORK NEATLY EXECUTED at the DISPATCH PRINTING-HOUSE.

DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. LXIII. RICHMOND, VA., THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 25, 1883. NO. 21.

THE DISPATCH.
TERMS OF ADVERTISING:
CASH—INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

One square, one insertion	$ 00
One square, two insertions	1 00
One square, three insertions	1 50
One square, six insertions	3 00
One square, twelve insertions	5 50
One square, one month	10 00
One square, two months	18 00
One square, three months	25 00

Richmond Dispatch.
THURSDAY.....JANUARY 25, 1883.

☞THE CIRCULATION OF THE DISPATCH IS LARGER THAN THE COMBINED CIRCULATION OF ALL THE OTHER DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF THE CITY.

[Entered at the Post-office at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter.]

WEATHER REPORT.

INDICATIONS FOR TO-DAY.—For the Middle Atlantic States, cloudy weather, with light rain or snow, warmer southerly veering to westerly winds, falling followed by rising barometer.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY was generally clear and cool.

THERMOMETER YESTERDAY: 6 A. M., 20; 9 A. M., 26; noon, 43; 3 P. M., 42; 6 P. M., 38; midnight, 36.
Mean temperature, 34 1-6.

LOCAL MATTERS.

THE PISTOL.

An Affray Last Night and Probably Fatal Shooting—Arrest of the Party.

Last night about 11 o'clock a shooting scrape occurred on Broad street just above the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway depôt, westward of it, and just in front of house No. 1512, occupied by a woman named Clara Marshall.

A man named Washington G. Blackburn, a plumber and gas-fitter by trade and a married man, whose wife and five children reside at 740 Seventeenth street, was in Clara Marshall's house, and according to his statement heard a woman scream and call for the police on the opposite side of the street. Blackburn said he went over to the rescue of the woman, found a man beating her, and the woman in her night-clothes. He asked the man to desist, and told him he would carry her off if he would let him get her shoes. With this intent he went in the house and picked up the shoes, when the man who had been beating the woman charged Blackburn with attempting to rob him, and drawing a large-sized Colt's pistol commenced to fire upon him. The first shot took effect in the left cheek, and Blackburn fell. The second penetrated his neck just where it joins the left shoulder, and ranged downward. Another shot missed the mark. In a short time Sergeant Matthews and Officer Hardy were on the ground, and arrested the man who did the shooting, and who gave the name of Cornelius Holloway.

He is a Manchester man, and has a wife and five children, and recently opened a shop for repairing pistols, &c., in front of the house where the affray occurred.

The woman he was beating was the Clara Marshall who rents the house in which Blackburn was when he said he heard the woman's screams.

Holloway's version of the affair differs from Blackburn's in that he claims that the latter came after him with a weight in his hand and threatened to kill him, whereupon he drew his pistol and commenced firing. He was taken to the First police station and locked up. He is a small man, and is about fifty-five years of age.

Sergeant Hall and Officer Robinson took Blackburn back to Clara Marshall's room, which is in the second story of an old frame tenement. Here he was placed upon a bed, and Dr. Jackson attended him. He seemed anxious to talk, notwithstanding the wound in the face, which caused his lip to swell greatly, and indicated by his manner that he had been drinking.

Dr. Jackson said his wounds were very serious, and it is possible that they will prove fatal. It was too late to take him to the City Hospital, and he was left at Marshall's until this morning.

There were two pistol-balls in the door and door-post, and it was plain that they were fired from the street, which fact disproves a part of Blackburn's statement.

UNITED STATES COURT.—The jury in the case of Thomas Deane refusing to agree were discharged by this court yesterday morning, subject to the call of the United States marshal, until the April term of the court, and Deane was released on his own recognizance in the penalty of $300 to appear at the term of the court mentioned. This is the second jury that has failed to agree in this case.

The court heard the evidence in the case of the steamer Carrie, recently libelled for salvage by Mr. J. L. Schoolcraft, and reserved its decision.

The court adjourned for the term yesterday.

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS.—Boisseau *vs.* Boisseau, guardian, &c. Appeal allowed and *supersedeas* awarded to a decree pronounced by the Corporation Court of the town of Danville on the 4th of August, 1882.

Baines *vs.* Walker; Baugh's executor *vs.* Walker. Argued by Colonel John H. Guy for appellants and W. W. Henry, Esq., for appellees.

POLICE COURT.—The following cases were disposed of yesterday:

Edward Page (colored), assault and battery, was committed for six months in default of surety.

Isaac Shelton (colored) was fined $5 for assaulting and beating Mary Ann Fowler.

T. L. Walthall was fined $2 for contempt of court in failing to appear to answer for a misdemeanor.

Henderson Rose, charged with racing his horse through the streets in a reckless manner. The case was fixed for Friday.

Samuel Dean was fined $2 for leaving his team standing in the street.

F. W. Thomas, charged with obstructing the sidewalks with beer-kegs. Discharged.

CUSTOM-HOUSE NOTES.—The British steamship Angers, R. Pinkham master, lying at West Point, cleared at the custom-house yesterday for Rio Janeiro and Santos *via* New York, with 17,500 barrels of flour and 1,300 kegs of lard—total value, $108,785. The flour was shipped by the Haxall-Crenshaw Company, the Gallego Mills Manufacturing Company, Messrs. Dunlop & McCance, and Baltimore firms.

The British schooner Gordon, E. Jago master, was entered yesterday in ballast from Madeira, to load at West Point for England.

THE MOZART THIS EVENING.—First, overture, "Pearl of Gold," (Hermann,) amateur orchestra; second, solo alto, "Erl King," (Allmuth,) Miss Carrie E. Staude; third, duo, clarinet and trombone, Messrs. Jardella and Equ; fourth, a, gavotte, "Stephanie," (Fliege,) b, galop, "Fortuna," (Durege,) amateur orchestra; fifth, solo alto, "Cradle Song," (Wallace,) Miss Carrie E. Staude; sixth, duo, violin and piano, "Huguenots," (De Beriot and Thalberg,) Messrs. Kessnich and Reinhardt; seventh, waltzes, "Tres Jolie," (Waldteufel,) amateur orchestra.

THE THEATRE.—Robson and Crane had an immense audience last night. The seats and some parts of the aisles too were crowded. The play has been performed here before, and was well known to be chock full of fun, tinged by the suggestion rather than the appearance of impropriety. It seemed from the patronage and the applause to be just what was wanted by our people, and there were plenty of ladies present.

To-night "Our Bachelors." It is full of humor and devilment and is unobjectionable.

GAS GLIMPSES.

THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN LOOKING AFTER LIGHT.

Two Reports from the Joint Committee on Light and Finance and a Proposition from the United Gas-Improvement Company of Philadelphia—Judge Crump, Counsel, Advocates the Latter, and Mr. Williams, in the Role of an Orator, Brings Applause from the Friends of the Present Gas System—Dr. Cabell Thinks the Water-Gas Fatal to Health on Account of Its Carbolic Oxide Properties—Mr. Todd Arranges that the Committee Shall Be the Judge of the Standard of Purity of the New Gas, and Promises that It Shall Be Free from Poison—Mr. Anderson, a Contractor, Guarantees to Furnish Gas in the Burner at Sixty Cents—The Entire Question Recommitted to the Joint Committee.

A called meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held at 7 o'clock last night. Present, Mr. President Bass and the following members: Messrs. Barksdale, Burwell, Cabell, Chaffin, Cohen, Cole, Crenshaw, Crump, Dickerson, Duffield, Glasgow, Pleasants, Rankin, Taylor, Todd, Wellford, and Williams.

The clerk read the minutes of the previous meeting, and they were signed by the President. The President stated the object of the meeting to be to hear the report of the joint Committee on Light and Finance.

THE MAJORITY REPORT.

Mr. Glasgow, chairman of the joint Committee on Light and Finance, submitted the following report, which was read, as follows:

To the Council of the City of Richmond:

The joint Committees on Finance and Light, to whom was referred a resolution from your body of August 14, 1882, accompanied by a proposal of the United Gas-Improvement Company of Philadelphia to supply the city with gas on certain conditions, beg leave to report:

On consideration of the matter it was referred to a sub-committee consisting of two members from each of the two joint committees, to which was added their chairman. At a subsequent meeting the sub-committee reported that they could not obtain such information as would enable them to make a satisfactory report on the quality of water-gas, which it was proposed to supply, without visiting places where it is manufactured and consumed; thereupon the joint committees instructed them to make such visit and obtain full information. The sub-committee having discharged this duty, presented a report to a subsequent meeting, signed by four of its members—viz., Messrs. Glasgow, Cohen, Todd, and Barksdale—giving the results of their investigations, the substance of which will be embodied in this report. A minority report was also presented, signed by one member, Mr. Higgins. This will no doubt come before you in a minority report from the two joint committees.

The sub-committee say in their report:

In pursuance of your instructions we visited several of the northern cities seeking the information desired. The discussion of the subject at home had developed apprehensions of the quality of what is known as water-gas, and that its use was deleterious, and to this feature we addressed our inquiries as well as to its illuminating power and merits generally; and as we found that water-gas was made by various processes and under various patents, it may be well to state that in all it is made by the use of water converted into steam, the hydrogen being obtained by decomposing the steam and the illuminating power added by the use of petroleum oil or some one of its products; that is, it is made from water and oil by different modes of manipulation, the product being the same in all, its illuminating power varying with the quantity of oil used.

We first visited in New York the works of the Excelsior Gas-Light Company, at Astoria, and spent several hours with the president, Mr. Gross, and the treasurer, Mr. Perry. We found the small gas-works formerly used for coal gas now used as an experimental station to prove and perfect the process invented by Mr. Gross.

Mr. Gross claims that his process is perfected. He exhibited to us the works in operation, and the gas seemed to us satisfactory in all respects. He had recently contracted to light the town of Astoria, and had commenced digging for the mains.

We next visited the Municipal Gas Company. This company was organized to supply water-gas within the past two years. The secretary stated in proof of the merits of their gas that their production had already grown to a daily output of 4,000,000 cubic feet. He referred us for its quality to the New York Hotel, where we were lodged. Our inquiries at the hotel proved that the gas was in all respects satisfactory, and our own observations confirmed it. We next visited the Manhattan Gas Company and had an interview with the secretary and engineer. This is the largest gas company and one of the oldest in the city, and supplies coal-gas only. The officers of this company treated us very courteously and answered our inquiries frankly.

The question naturally suggested was, why, when it was claimed that water-gas was superior both in quality and economy, they still adhered to coal-gas? Their answer was substantially to deny that water-gas was of better quality than theirs, and as to any difference in cost, they had never been satisfied that it was sufficient to justify the large loss they would sustain of three quarters of a million of dollars in making the change, besides the large sum demanded for the right to use the water-gas, that their conclusion was at present prices they were doing well, and it was wisest to let well enough alone. In answer to a further inquiry they said they were bound to admit that, as far as they knew, water-gas gave satisfaction to its consumers.

We had now visited the two largest gas-companies in the city, one coal and the other water, but neither having experience in the process of the other. We next concluded to visit the New York Gaslight Company, an old company which had previously furnished coal-gas, but in 1880 bought the water-gas privilege at a cost, we were told, of $300,000, and since then have supplied their customers with water-gas. We found the secretary in his office, and learned from him that his company is satisfied they did well to make the change; that certainly the cost of water-gas was found to be less than coal-gas, and that it gave his customers better satisfaction. He assured us that there was nothing in the manufacture, distribution, or use of it, that caused any doubt of the propriety of the change.

The sub-committee visited, amongst others, the Brush and Edison Electric-Light Companies, and obtained information of the progress made in introducing the incandescent light in private houses. They witnessed an illustration of it in the Everett House, where the electric light had been substituted for gas in the chandeliers formerly used for gas. The secretary of the company (the Edison) did not claim that the electric light could be made at as low cost as gas, but that from its superior merits it would gradually supplant it. He stated also that he was using water-gas in his residence, and that there was no ground for any charge that it was inferior in any respect to coal-gas.

In Philadelphia we found the gas-works owned by the city, and the gas furnished on municipal account. A bitter contest was going on between a committee of one hundred selected by the people and the trustees of the gas-works. We found a wide-spread dissatisfaction with the management. It was denounced as a corrupt political ring that had for years controlled all elections in the city, and enriched its members out of the public treasury. The result was that the people had become so disgusted that there was a general clamor for a sale of the works.

Our informant, a very intelligent lawyer and a native Virginian, though a pronounced Democrat, had been elected to the City Council from a strong Republican district on this issue; had been appointed a member of the Committee of One Hundred, and had taken an active part in the contest. He told us that whilst nine tenths of the committee favored a sale of the works, he differed from them, however, and thought the city's wisest policy was to retain the ownership of its works, and after ousting the present management to let out the manufacture of the gas, delivered in the holder, to private enterprise, the city to take charge of the distribution, and to stand between the contractor and the citizen. In this mode the evils of political influence would disappear, and the gas be obtained cheaper than when manufactured on municipal account. He told us further that though the committee had been gradually winning for a year or more, the people electing its nominees, yet so strongly were the managers entrenched that it would require a year or more still to finally dislodge them.

In Baltimore we found the Consolidated Gas Company supplying both water- and coal-gas, and we obtained here quite as satisfactory information as we had gotten at any other place. The president of this company, which supplies much the largest part of the gas consumed in the city, stated that they had formerly used coal only. Some five or six years ago they adopted the water process for about one fourth or one third of their capacity; after using it for two years, and finding it necessary to increase their capacity, they decided to enlarge their water-gas works, and they are now making about equal quantities of each. In one district they distribute water-gas separately, and in another they distribute it mixed with coal-gas. In every respect—in manufacture, distribution, and consumption—the water-gas had given satisfaction, and when mixed with coal-gas had improved its quality. In cost they found it from five to ten cents per 1,000 less; it may be remarked that they manufactured coal-gas very cheaply. Mr. Hall, the president, thought the policy of his company should be to maintain their works for the manufacture of both, because in this way they could to some extent influence the prices of coal and oil.

In Washington a coal-gas company hitherto had recently contracted with Messrs. Granger & Co. for the erection of water-gas works of some 600,000 feet capacity. The company have also recently erected coal-gas works upon a process patented by their engineer. Both works were in operation in the same building. We heard no objection to the quality of the water-gas; on the contrary, it was admitted to have greater illuminating power than the coal-gas. Mr. Mellhenny, the company's engineer, is said to be well educated in his profession, and as great effort has been made to use his name against the Granger process, it seems proper to inquire what his testimony is, and whether he is a proper judge to give a verdict between his own invention and the other. Being a competent engineer, he examined into the merits of the water-gas before introducing it. If there had been any ground for the charge that it is dangerous or deleterious, would he have permitted its introduction, or would he now be distributing 15,000,000 feet of it monthly in the city of Washington, where the highest standard and most rigorous test is enforced? Nor does he make any such charge. Mr. Mellhenny has induced his company to erect at large cost works on his patented plan and on his representation of its merits. His reputation is at stake to prove the justice of his claims. Is he the impartial judge who is to decide upon the merits of the Granger process? Whatever his character and his merits, no court in the land would accept him for a moment as a juror in such an issue.

To sum up, in all our investigations we found no one familiar with the manufacture or consumption of it to call in question the good quality of water-gas. On the contrary, the large preponderance of evidence was in favor of its superior quality and cheaper cost. Against a very bitter opposition from the coal-gas interest, it is rapidly winning its way to public favor. To-day, though of comparatively recent introduction, nearly one half the gas consumed in the city of New York is water-gas, and quite one half in the city of Baltimore, and there, where millions of feet are daily distributed, not one word did we hear against its quality. It is therefore our opinion that if favorable terms are offered for its introduction there should be no apprehension as to its quality.

The sub-committee presented a proposal from the Excelsior Gaslight Company, which they thought contained the basis of a favorable contract for the city. They recommended that if the details could be arranged satisfactorily that this proposal be accepted, whereupon it was referred to them for further consideration. The two joint committees met on the 19th instant. The sub-committee reported that they had not been able to arrange satisfactory terms with the Excelsior Company, and had abandoned the negotiation with them. They presented a proposal from Messrs. A. O. Granger & Co., which was recommended for acceptance by a vote of 4 to 1. Plans and specifications were also presented from the Committee on Light, with a resolution appropriating $25,000 for the purpose of remodelling a part of the retort-benches. After a discussion of the relative merits of the two propositions, upon a vote a majority of the committees favored the offer of Messrs. Granger & Co., and recommend it for your acceptance.

It seems proper that this report should give the reasons that influenced the majority in their decision. The minority will present to you a report, and will doubtless fully state the reasons for their action.

Some months ago the Auditor prepared a statement showing the cost of gas for a period of five years prior to the 1st of February, 1882. The cost was distributed under three heads—labor, coal, and expenses. This statement also showed the net annual production of gas during the same period furnished by the Superintendent of the Gas-Works. The result shows the cost of gas during that period $1.35½ cents per thousand feet. He has now brought this statement up to January 1, 1883, and the result is not materially altered. No one calls in question the accuracy of this statement. The Auditor's books show the money to have been paid, and the reckoning is made on the statement of product furnished by the superintendent of the works. During the past year it began to dawn on us that our gas was costing too much. A proposition from the United Gas-Improvement Company stimulated this belief, and set on foot an inquiry which has resulted in the two reports now before you. Let us examine the majority report: Messrs. Granger & Co. are engineers and builders of water-gas works. They have constructed a number of gas-works in different parts of the country, converting coal-gas works into water-gas works, and furnish evidence that their work and their process has given satisfaction. Unobjectionable evidence was obtained in Philadelphia of their commercial standing and responsibility.

They propose to erect works at their own cost, with a capacity of 700,000 feet per day (50 per cent. greater than ours), and to furnish gas of eighteen-candle power in the holder at 60c. per 1,000, the city to have the option of buying the works at the end of the first year for $50,000, and at the end of each succeeding year for $5,000 less, until at the end of the eleventh year the works, with the rights, revert to the city.

The minority report presents a resolution appropriating $25,000 for remodelling one half the benches in the retort-house upon a plan submitted by Mr. Anderson, of Cincinnati. It was suggested to the chairman of Committee on Light that Mr. Anderson should accompany his plan with a bid for the construction of the work; that there would not occur hereafter, should the city adopt his plan, such an opportunity for competition, and that it was obviously his interest now to make his bid as inviting as possible. After the city adopted his plan there would seem no alternative but to give him the work, as we must hold the author of the plan responsible for its success. The reply of Mr. Anderson was that he would let us know the cost after the city adopted his plan; and this seems to have satisfied the chairman of the Committee on Light. We will learn then what the work will cost after the city is committed to the plan.

Let us consider now what it is claimed will be saved under the Anderson plan. He claims that the labor will be reduced by the discharge of twenty-eight men in the retort-house—this and no more—a saving of 16 cents per thousand feet. He claims that the coal will cost 38¼ cents, and the Auditor shows it now costs 46 cents—a saving of 7¾ cents. These two items make 23¾ cents saved by his own figures, and this is all. The Auditor's statement referred to above shows that the only other item entering into the cost of gas besides labor and coal is for incidental expenses. These, we may infer, consist of lime and other materials for purifying, repairs, small tools and implements, materials for smith-shop, office charges, and numerous small items, for which the city has paid during the past five years 11 cents per thousand feet of gas manufactured.

There is no other saving but the two items named above.

Now the problem stands thus:

	Per M.
Present cost of gas shown by the Auditor	$1 35½
Deduct (per Mr. Anderson's statement) for residuum	11
Leaving cost	$1 24½
	Per M.
Mr. Anderson claims saving of twenty eight men	16
Saving on coal	07⅝
	23¾
Cost by his claim at burner, per thousand	$1 01
Deduct for distribution:	
Mr. Adams shows cost of it	12
Cost by Mr. Anderson's claims in holder, per thousand	89

Compare the above with the results on Messrs. Granger & Co.'s proposition:

	Cts.
Contract price in holder	60
Add for condensation	6
Cost in holder	66
Add for distribution as above	12
Per thousand	78

In the above the only uncertain elements are Mr. Anderson's claims that with the new benches of retorts twenty men will do the labor of forty-eight, and that he will obtain from the coal 16⅔ per cent. more gas than is now obtained—that is, if one pound of coal yields now 4½ feet of gas, in the new benches it will yield 6 4-10 feet. Both these claims are largely too great.

Mr. Anderson presents the following estimate of cost:

Coal	38¼c. per 1,000
Purifying	5
Labor	17
	60⅝
Less residuum	11
	49⅝c. in holder.

	Cents.
The Auditor shows the present cost of labor per 1,000	78
Deduct distribution per Mr. Adams	12
Leaving cost in holder	66
Deduct for 28 men discharged	16
And the cost of labor remaining is	50

Mr. Anderson solves that problem and derives the result of 17 cents.

The Auditor shows cost of incidental expenses	11
Mr. Adams allows for purifying	5
Leaving out of his estimate	6

These figures show how false are the results obtained from a partial standpoint, but there is a defect in his estimate pointed out by Mr. Adams, which shows how deceptive it is even from his own standpoint.

In that estimate the month of December or the present is assumed as the basis. In the winter time the production being so greatly increased the cost per 1,000 is greatly diminished. Fortunately it can be shown what the gas would cost for the entire year, on the estimate presented of 49½ cents, based on the cost in December.

The Auditor shows the cost for the entire year	$1.35½
Deduct for distribution	12
Claimed for residuum	11
	23
Present cost in holder	$1.12½
A published statement gives cost in December in holder, 66c., add for condensation 6½c.	72½
Difference in cost in December and the entire year	40
Add the estimate presented of	49½
Cost in holder for the entire year	89½

This result is derived from the data offered us, and shows beyond question how deceptive is the estimate given of 49½ cents in the holder.

	Cts.
It has been shown that, giving Mr. Anderson credit for all he claims, the gas will cost in the holder	89
By Messrs. Granger & Co.'s bid, which is absolute and not estimated, the gas will cost in the holder	66
Showing in favor of Granger	23

The superintendent estimates the year's production at not less than 120,000,000 feet net—on this the saving in one year is $27,600; add to this the appropriation for remodelling the works, $25,000, and the city is the loser in one year to the extent of $52,600.

It is by no means admitted that there would be saved 23¾ cents on the present cost, as is claimed under the Anderson plan. There is the same quantity of coal to be handled and carbonized, the retorts and furnaces being enlarged, which is the only change. It seems a very rose-colored view that by this change twenty men would then have only the amount of labor to perform that forty-eight men do now.

Our estimate would divide this claim by two, granting a saving of fourteen men, 8 cents. In Mr. Anderson's letter of 22d December last he estimates the increased yield of gas from the coal at 5 to 10 per cent; grant a saving of 7 per cent. on cost of coal, which is 46—3 cents—makes the saving on the Anderson plan over present cost by our estimate 11 cents; making 34 cents difference in favor of Granger, equal to an annual saving to the city on 120,000,000 feet of $40,800.

Referring to the proposal of the United Gas-Improvement Company, the committee express the opinion that it is not the true policy of the city to part with the ownership of its works. The policy they recommend is to let out the manufacture of gas delivered in the holder, which it has been shown can be done at greatly less cost than to continue the present process—the city to take charge of the distribution and stand between the contractor and the citizen. In other respects the offer now presented to you is much more favorable than that of the United Gas-Improvement Company.

For the reasons set forth above, and because they believe a better gas will be furnished under it than under the Anderson plan, and at greatly reduced cost, the two joint committees have instructed me to recommend for your acceptance the proposal of Messrs. A. O. Granger & Co., which is herewith presented.

Respectfully submitted.
F. T. GLASGOW, Chairman.

After this report was read the Granger proposition, hitherto published, was read.

MINORITY REPORT.

Mr. Taylor offered a minority report, which read:

RICHMOND, January 24, 1883.

To the Honorable President and Members of the Board of Aldermen:

Gentlemen,—The undersigned regret very much that they are compelled to dissent from the recommendation of the majority of the committee that a contract be made with Mr. Granger, of Philadelphia, to furnish gas to the city for a term of years at 60 cents per thousand cubic feet. This we feel constrained to do—

First. Because it is against the well-established policy of the city to surrender full and complete control of our water and gas, a policy which the experience of other cities has taught us is a wise one, for wherever municipal corporations have parted with the control of the manufacture of gas they have almost invariably found cause to regret it.

Second. We object to the lease to Mr. Granger because it is not so favorable as another plan that has been suggested. If the Council will adopt the resolution appropriating $25,000 to make certain needed improvements at the works the running expenses of the department will be greatly lessened, and the cost of manufacturing gas, delivered at the holder, can be reduced to 50 cents per thousand cubic feet, which is 10 cents cheaper than the price which it is proposed to pay Mr. Granger. It is estimated that we will manufacture during the next fiscal year 135,000,000 feet of gas, for which under the proposed lease we would pay Mr. Granger $13,500 a year more than it would cost us to make it; and as it proposed to make the lease for ten years, we would in that time pay him $135,000 of the people's money, which we might save if we made the gas ourselves. This is assuming that there will be no increase in the amount of gas manufactured; but as with the growth of our population there will most certainly come an increased demand for gas, it is not unreasonable to assume that we would by making our own gas save in the next ten years not less than $175,000—enough to make a handsome nucleus for the building of the much-needed City Hall.

That your honorable body may know that our estimate of the proposed cost of manufacturing gas by the city is not an over-sanguine one, we herewith submit the estimates, from which it will be seen that we have understated rather than over-estimated our ability to make gas at less cost to the city than is proposed by the contract with Mr. Granger.

Trusting that this report may have your favorable consideration and approval, we are, very respectfully, yours,

JOHN M. HIGGINS,
JOHN H. FRISCHKORN,
JAMES E. PHILLIPS,
W. R. BOWIE,
W. S. GUNN,
RICHARD M. TAYLOR.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, CITY GAS-WORKS, January 20, 1883.

Mr. John M. Higgins, Chairman Committee on Light:

Dear Sir,—Below please find a statement of the cost per 1,000 cubic feet of making gas in the holder under the plans submitted by Mr. Anderson:

Amount of gas generated in 24 hours	600,000 cubic feet.
Amount of coal required, 59 tons, at $3.85	$227 15
Labor in retort-house, 20 men, at $2.25	45 00
Labor on coke stand, 5 men, at $2.25	11 25
Labor in purifying-room, 3 men, at $2.25	6 75
Labor in engine-room, 2 men, at $2.43	4 86
Labor in smith-shop, 2 men, at $2.50 and $1.50	4 00
Labor at lime-kiln, 2 men, at $2	4 00
Labor at brick-laying, 1 man, at $2.70	2 70
Labor at weighing coal, 1 man, at $2.25	2 25
Labor at repairs, 1 man, at $2.43	2 43
Labor in yard, 3 men, at $2	6 00
1 day foreman	3 75
1 night foreman	2 43
Incidental expenses	48 00
Total	$370 57

	Cents.
Cost of labor per 1,000 cubic feet	16
Cost of coal per 1,000 cubic feet	37
Incidental expenses	8
	61
Credit by residuals	11.5
Total	49.5

Very respectfully,
JOHN H. KNOWLES, Superintendent.

RICHMOND, VA., January 17, 1883.

John M. Higgins, Esq., Chairman Committee on Light:

Dear Sir,—As requested by the Committee on Light, in the early part of last year, of which Captain Curtis was chairman, I prepared plans for remodelling the city gas-works; and again, on your request, I have made new plans, with further improvements, which I herewith submit, with specifications in fullest detail, after carefully examining the situation, and I offer for your consideration the following remarks:

Firstly. The new range of ten benches of sixes would occupy the place of your present twelve benches of fours—the twelve benches of fives remaining undisturbed as auxiliaries in case of need.

Secondly. The new range would have a capacity about equal to or in excess of your present entire capacity, or would increase your capacity to over 900,000 cubic feet, and could be worked at a saving of 60 per cent. in labor and 30 to 40 per cent. in fuel.

Thirdly. The new range would not require any repairs as ordinarily experienced for at least two years, and perhaps three, and then the yearly repairs would show a further economy, inasmuch as but ten benches would require repairs instead of twenty-four.

Fourthly. The yield of gas would be greatly increased.

Fifthly. With the greater economy effected in the production of gas its cost would be reduced, and should not exceed fifty cents per 1,000 cubic feet in the holder.

Sixthly. The improvements would be repaid in the actual economy and the increased production in four months' operation.

Seventhly. I am prepared to give any reasonable guarantee of good faith and satisfactory results.

Respectfully yours, J. ANDERSON.

ANOTHER OFFER.

The clerk next read the following proposition from the United Gas Improvement Company of Philadelphia, submitted by Mr. George H. Poindexter:

"We will erect at our own cost at your city gas-works, according to the improved new Lowe system, works of a guaranteed capacity of 700,000 cubic feet per day, and deliver into your holders gas of 20-candle power for the sum of 60 cents per 1,000 cubic feet; you to furnish purifiers and station meter, and we to have entire charge of the works and to furnish all material and labor; the contract for furnishing gas at these rates to be for eleven years, and we give the city the right to purchase the works and exclusive patent-rights for the city of Richmond, with all improvements, at any time during the first year for $55,000, or at the end of the first year for $50,000, or at the end of the second year for $45,000, or at the end of the third year for $40,000; at the end of the fourth year, $35,000; at the end of the fifth year, $30,000; at the end of the sixth year, $25,000; at the end of the seventh year, $20,000; at the end of the eighth year, $15,000; at the end of the ninth year, $10,000; at the end of the tenth year, $5,000; at the end of the eleventh year, $1.

"I take leave to say in addition that in accepting this offer the city will obtain the very latest improvements made in the 'Lowe processes,' superior in every respect from the old patents, entirely new in principle, and which will be more valuable to the city when they purchase or become the owners at the end of the term than the old process. The works will be constructed under the supervision of Professor Lowe, himself a director and the consulting engineer of the above company. We will erect the works without disturbing your present gas-plant, and we will deliver gas in four months from date of contract, and are prepared to give bonds in any amount required by the city for faithful performance of the contract."

DISCUSSION.

Mr. Glasgow said that he could show that the deductions made in his report were unanswerable. He took up the Anderson proposition and asked why he did not take up the pay-roll of the past year and show how it could be reduced. They started from a false standpoint. Mr. Granger offered to deliver the gas in the holder at sixty cents, and there was no estimate about that. Mr. Glasgow said the subject needed study, and he had studied it, and if he had ever understood any question he understood this, and he challenged a refutation of his table of figures.

Mr. Dickerson advocated the retention of the present officials at the gas-works, and the giving of them an opportunity of making gas under an improved condition of affairs. He seemed to think that the city ought to keep the hands at work, even if the price of gas kept up. If the people had to pay taxes to keep up the gas-works, let the money be paid to our own people, and not to the oil companies, from whom the material to make the new gas must come.

Mr. Todd offered a resolution accepting the Granger proposition and directing the City Attorney to prepare the necessary papers to protect the city's interest.

Mr. Taylor offered a resolution appropriating $25,000 to improve the city gas-works under the Anderson plan.

Mr. Todd said he fully and heartily concurred in the report made by Mr. Glasgow, and he declared the figures there absolutely correct. He said the illuminating power of the water was admitted on all hands greater than coal gas. It was also free from complaint on account of not being healthy, and was not explosive. The price of gas in northern cities ranged from $1.75 to $2 per thousand feet.

Mr. Duffield offered a resolution to accept the proposition of the United Gas Improvement Company of Philadelphia, and asked that Judge W. W. Crump be heard in behalf of the same.

Judge Crump explained the merits of the company he represented.

Mr. Williams followed Judge Crump. A large number of gas officers and employés and their friends were in the auditorium of the Council chamber, and when Mr. Williams attacked the oil gas he was applauded. The President declared that such demonstrations would not be allowed. Mr. Williams spoke at length, and objected to water gas on account of its unhealthiness. He said that the present gas-works were antiquated, and if new machinery and improvements were put in the present works all would be right. Norfolk was remodelling her gas-works now. He did not want the works rented out, and the revenue accruing to the city lost.

Dr. Cabell said the question of using this water gas was one in which the lives of the people were concerned, and he declared emphatically that it was fatal to health, and cited numerous scientific authorities to sustain the assertion, one of whom declared that the objectionable feature in the gas was not combustible, which last fact Dr. Wellford caused to appear by putting a leading question to Dr. Cabell.

Dr. Cabell said he would be glad to get his gas next year at $1.25