

### Water Works—Gordon's Plan.

It will be recollected by our citizens that some time in January, the plan known as Gordon's for supplying the city with an abundant supply of good wholesome water, was approved by a vote of the people, and so far as that vote went, the Council were authorized to go forward and close up the contract with Mr. Gordon upon his proposition. That proposition, however, was submitted to the city authorities previous to the fire, at which time city bonds were quoted nearly at par. The fire caused the bonds of the city, for a time, to fall considerably in market, and consequently placed Mr. Gordon relatively in a much more unfavorable position, as he proposed to receive bonds in pay for his work, for the payment of which the proceeds of the water works, after paying all expenses, were to be pledged.

Under these circumstances he was, very naturally, not very anxious to close a contract under which, at the then price of bonds, he would be certain to experience a loss of several thousand dollars. As a consequence no contract was finally concluded between Mr. Gordon and the late City Council.

But since the day of the water work election, the condition of the city has greatly changed for the better. A plan to grade and plank the streets has been adopted—the levee has been fully tried and stood firm, and together with the prospective payment of the July interest and bonds then due, have nearly placed the credit of the city where it stood on the first of November last.

Under this improved condition of things we are pleased to learn that Mr. Gordon expresses a readiness to renew the negotiation—or rather to complete the contract, upon the original basis, if the city authorities are still desirous of so doing. We trust the matter will command the attention of the Council at an early day. Its importance claims for it immediate consideration and action.

When before the people in January we supported the plan under the conviction that it would furnish the city with as much water as would be needed, either for family use or for the extinguishing of fires, and in addition give to the city an income, which in a few years would do much towards paying her indebtedness.

There are, however, other reasons of nearly or quite as much weight, which may be urged in favor of closing this contract. It is one of a series of measures for placing our city in a position impregnable to the attacks of water or rivals. After the levee and streets, it is the next most important improvement proposed for the benefit of Sacramento. It would probably prove as effective an agent in fixing and advancing the destiny of the city, as either of the measures named in the series. To issue bonds for the establishment of a profitable system of water works would improve the credit of the city, not depress it. The pipes once laid down and they will be there for the use of generations yet unborn. They could be laid too, while the process of elevating the streets is going on, at the proper grade, and that without the least excavation. This would make a very considerable difference in the cost of "pipe laying" to the contractor. We respectfully and earnestly urge the consideration of this contract upon the early attention of the Mayor and Council.