

THE SUPERVISORS.

Committee of the Whole Could in Session.

Application for Underground Steam-Pipe Franchise Postponed.

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Board of Supervisors was held this morning for the purpose of considering the application of P. T. Dickinson, N. W. Spaulding and others for a franchise to lay down an underground system of steam pipes for heating and cooling purposes. Dr. Kunkler presided.

An order granting the franchise, with the amendments suggested at the last meeting, was presented for adoption.

A motion to report the order for passage was favored by Messrs. Kunkler, Farwell and Pond, and opposed by McMillan, Gilleran, Gates, Meyer and Farnsworth.

Mr. Farnsworth said he was opposed to granting the franchise because he understood that engineers, mechanics and other workmen were opposed to it, and he wanted them given a chance to be heard.

Mr. Pond—Why have they not been here if they are opposed to the franchise?

Mr. Farnsworth—I don't know, but I think the matter ought to be postponed to give them a chance.

Mr. Gates said he understood a company was being formed to introduce hydro-carbon oil as a fuel in this city, and that a large number of capitalists were interested in it. He did not wish to grant a franchise like this without hearing what they have to say.

Mr. Pond said the franchise would not interfere in any way with the carbon oil scheme.

Mr. Farwell said the reasons given for killing this franchise were the most frivolous he had ever heard. This underground steam system was not an experiment. It was among the latest municipal improvements, and had already been introduced in many Eastern cities. It was absurd to say that working-people were opposed to cheapening fuel and power. He was in favor of hearing all that was to be said on the subject, but he objected to killing the franchise without adequate reason.

Mr. Farnsworth said he was not opposed to the franchise, but wanted the Board to consider it further. He understood the system was not a success and had been told by New Yorkers that the steam pipes were a nuisance in the streets.

Mr. Pond said he had heard nothing about opposition at the last meeting, but supposed everybody was in favor of granting the franchise. It appeared that now five members were prepared to kill the franchise without giving any adequate reason whatever. He thought these members owed it to their fellow supervisors to give the reasons that actuated them.

Gates, Farnsworth and McMillan denied that there was any concerted action. The latter stated that a committee of boiler-makers had waited on him with a protest, and he supposed other members had also been waited upon.

On motion the application and order granting a franchise were finally postponed until a week from Monday next.