

STEAM DISTRIBUTION.

Details of a System Practiced East for Supplying Steam Like Gas or Water.

A number of local manufacturers and business men yesterday met at the rooms of the San Francisco Steam Company, Merchants' Exchange, to hear Dr. L. C. Bishop of New York, President of the American District Steam Company, give his views on steam distribution. Among those present were noted N. W. Spaulding, Abner Doble, Peter Dean, Charles McKay, J. A. Waymire, P. T. Dickinson and John P. Irish. A steam company has been formed here some time, but as yet no plant has been established, hence Dr. Bishop's views on the subject were of value and interest.

He expressed the unqualified opinion that this city offers an exceptional field for such a system, for steam may here be used for heating as well as power purposes a good part of the year. All objections to the principles of the system of distributing steam have long ago been met and exploded. There are now fifty plants established in this country and many in Europe. In New York steam was turned into the street pipes in April, 1882, and has been working well since. It is there used for cooking purposes as well as for heat and power. The largest restaurant in that city, feeding 10,000 people daily, has never had a fire, using steam for all purposes. Steam may readily be carried three and four miles without losing power. The loss by condensation is only from 2 to 8 per cent. In distributing gas the loss is much greater, from 14 to 20 per cent. The steam is carried in lap-welded, wrought-iron pipes, encased in asbestos, with an outer covering of wood. The steam system has been demonstrated in Eastern cities to be thoroughly practicable, contrasting greatly to the hot-water systems that have been tried in Boston and Washington.

Records were quoted showing that in the lower part of this city, between Telegraph and Kincon hills, there are 1,500 boilers that could be dispensed with by the distributing system.