

# A BIG ENTERPRISE.

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## MAINS TO BE LAID FOR STEAM-POWER PURPOSES.

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About \$400,000 to Be Expended  
Within the Next Eight  
Months.

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R. S. Bishop, president of the American District Steam Company of Lockport, N. Y., is in the city arranging the preliminaries of an enterprise of vast importance to San Francisco. The proposition is to commence work immediately upon the erection of a boiler-house and the laying of mains for the transmission of steam for power and heating purposes.

A franchise for this purpose was granted to the San Francisco Steam Company by the Board of Supervisors five years ago. The company consists of James A. Waymire, N. W. Spaulding, Abner Doble, John H. Dickinson and several others. Owing to the difficulty encountered in the selection of a proper steam distributing system operations have been delayed until a few days ago, when a contract to establish the plant was awarded to the company of which Mr. Bishop is president. The precise amount of the contract is unknown, but the figures exceed \$400,000.

It is the intention of the company to have the system in operation within the next eight months. The system to be employed is the Holly distributive. Safety boilers consisting entirely of tubes are being constructed, and in connection therewith will be a smoke-consuming apparatus. Attached to the boilers will be pipes which will convey steam to all parts of the city reached by the company's mains. The system is in use in fifty of the larger Eastern cities, principally in New York, which has thirty miles of steam pipe mains.

The plans thus far formulated provide for the laying of about six miles of pipe mains in the district bounded by Drumm, Kearny, Commercial and Folsom streets. The plant is to be located somewhere within the district, and the purchase of a lot for the purposes now being negotiated. Several sites have been inspected by the company and the purchase will shortly be consummated. As soon as this part of the business is settled a petition for a permit for the erection and maintenance of the boilers will be filed with the Board of Supervisors. When this is granted the work of construction will commence.

Mr. Bishop states that the system by which the company will furnish steam power will do away with the use of hundreds of engines now located in the business part of the city. He does not apprehend any difficulty in securing a permit to maintain the boilers needed in the system, as they consist of a series of tubes, by the use of which explosions are nearly impossible. He states that the company, having awarded the contract, will prosecute its work with dispatch.