

questing permission to supply the city with water, (under an exclusive privilege, for twenty-five years) to be bro't from the river, or spring of water in the neighborhood, that the Council may approve of; have had the same under consideration, and are of opinion that it is highly expedient to grant the prayer of the petition.

Your Committee might enumerate many reasons favorable to the adoption of the proposed plan; but shall content themselves with mentioning a few of the most prominent, namely:—The health and more general convenience of the citizens, that a plentiful supply of pure water brought into the city, will greatly contribute to this end, does not admit of doubt in the minds of your Committee; and whilst each individual can obtain an abundant supply of water at a price not exceeding \$10 annually, for the first ten years; & for the remainder of the term or lease to your petitioner, at, and not exceeding Eight Dollars per annum; to purchase at which prices, will be entirely optional with every individual.—Your committee are of opinion that such as may wish to procure the hydrant water at said prices, ought not to be prevented, by Council withholding their assent to the proposed plan.

Another reason of obvious importance is, that a plentiful supply of water is almost the only mean which can be successfully used to prevent, or stop the progress of Fire; and as a great proportion of the houses in our city are built of wood, it must be an object of the first consideration to the owners and occupiers of property of this description, to obtain in abundance the means requisite to put a stop to the progress of an element, which, if not timely arrested, might overwhelm us in one common ruin.

The probability that the rates of Insurance will be much lower than they now are, is another reason in favor of the proposed plan; and from those who are disposed to purchase, this additional guarantee for the security of their property, it is confidently believed, not more than half of the present rates will then be required.

To keep the city pumps or wells in repair, require an annual appropriation of twelve or fifteen hundred dollars;—this sum will be saved by the city—your petitioner offering to keep them in complete repair, for and during the term of his lease or charter, free of all expense; the saving that will thus accrue to the city, for said term, deserves consideration. Your Committee, without adducing further reasons in support of the measure, beg leave to report the subjoined Resolution:—

Resolved, by the City Council of Augusta, that from & after the passage of this Resolution, that George M. Towers, shall have permission, and be fully authorized to bring water into the city, from the river or such spring as may hereafter be designated by Council, for the term of twenty five years, (to the exclusion of all others who may solicit a right to bring water in a similar manner) in pipes of wood, iron or clay, of five inch bore or caliber;—and the said Towers shall be permitted to lay down his pipes through the streets of the city, and within the corporate limits thereof, so far as Council can give him that right; the streets &c. so disturbed, to be put in order by him. *Provided* nevertheless, that the said George M. Towers shall bring the water into the body of the city, within one year from the passage of this Resolution, and be ready to supply such as may choose to purchase the water from him, so far as he may have progressed; and *Provided* he shall bring the water in plentiful supply for the use of all applicants, and for public purposes, of a pure character, and shall not charge any person applying to him for the use of the hydrant water, more than Ten Dollars per annum for the first ten years of his lease, and Eight Dollars annually, for the use of said water, for and during the term of his lease or charter thereafter, (public houses and taverns excepted, who shall make their own conditions; but the sums demanded from them shall not be unreasonable)—and *provided*, that the water thus purchased, shall be delivered within the lot or enclosure of the applicant, from a hydrant to be located at such spot as the purchaser may designate—& *provided*, that such number of hydrants for public use shall be erected, and located in the streets where Council may point out, at their expense, to be supplied with water free of all charge, for the purpose of watering the streets when required, of quenching fire, and for other public purposes; and *Provided* the supply of water shall be regular and without intermission, and shall not fail for a period of time, more than two days, either for public or private use; in which event, said Towers shall forfeit to each and every purchaser of the hydrant water, one dollar per day; and if the supply of water should fail for eight days in succession, either for public or private use, then and in that case, the said Towers shall forfeit all the right hereby conveyed, unless it should appear that the stoppage of the water was unavoidable, for the purpose of mending the pipes or any accident that may occur, which could not have been prevented by ordinary diligence and care.

Resolved, That the water works, at the expiration of the lease, and all the appurtenances thereto belonging,

shall, at a just and fair valuation, become the property of the Corporation, should Council be of opinion that it would be to the interest of the city to purchase said works.—*Provided* that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the City Council, and the said Towers, or his legal representatives, from entering into a new contract, (or continuing the old,) upon such principles, and under such stipulations, as may be mutually agreed on.

The following is the Report of a Committee of Council on the proposition by Mr. Towers to supply this city with water. The Resolution has been adopted; and we understand that he has signified his willingness to act under the conditions.

In Council, JULY, 13, 1822.
The Committee to whom was referred the petition of George M. Towers, re-