

The Holly Water Works at La Porte.

About one year ago the City Council at Laporte (regardless of outside pressure against it) made a contract with the Holly Manufacturing Company, of Lockport, N. Y., for the construction of the "Holly" water works in their city; and on Wednesday last they were tested and formally accepted.

The occasion brought together a vast concourse of people. The town was not only thronged by people from the immediate surrounding country, but there were delegations present from most of the cities and towns in northern Indiana and southern Michigan, all intent upon the one object; that of satisfying themselves as to the practicability of the "Holly" system of water works.

The delegation from this city consisted of two members of the Council, (Messrs. Thompson and Dykeman,) the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, (Allen Richardson,) Rufus Magee, of the *Pharos*, and the writer of this. Prior to the test, we visited the works in company with Mr. T. T. Flagler, President of the Holly Manufacturing Company, to whom we are indebted for much valuable information concerning their practical working. These works are erected in a handsome brick building, put up for the purpose, on the bank of a small lake, from which the water is taken, immediately northwest of the city.

This building is divided into two rooms. In one—the boiler-room—there are two immense upright tubular boilers, constructed on the same principle as that in our steam fire engine. The other room contains the engines and pumps. The engines are three in number—two piston and one rotary—which can be run independently or collectively, and are capable of exerting 450 horse power. There are six piston pumps, so arranged in combination as to force a continuous stream through one common pipe. These pumps are sufficient for, and intended to supply the ordinary demand; but, as a reserve for emergencies, there are two powerful rotary pumps which can be brought into use at a moment's notice. By an ingeniously contrived machine, it is so arranged that whenever an unusual quantity of water is being drawn from the pipes, (as in the case of opening one or more fire plugs,) and a consequent reduction of pressure upon the pipes, a whistle is sounded at the works, additional steam let on, and the motion of the machinery proportionately quickened; and *vice versa*, when the pressure upon the pipes is increased, by shutting off any or all of the demands upon them, this same machine cuts off steam and "slows" the machinery according.

The test took place in the afternoon, between the hours of two and four, and was eminently satisfactory to all, in a practical point of view. The contract required that six streams should be thrown one hundred feet perpendicularly; which was exceeded by fully twenty feet, through $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch nozzles; and kept at that steadily for about an hour. Four additional streams were added without a perceptible difference. Then a very powerful stream was thrown through 1,000 feet of hose. The high wind which prevailed rendered it impossible to ascertain the exact distance thrown. Any of these streams were as large and powerful as that thrown by our steamer.

The pressure in the pipes (during the trial) was kept at about 100 pounds to the square inch, which, by a test, are proved capable of enduring 153 pounds.

They have five miles of main pipe laid, and fifty public or fire hydrants erected.

These works cost the city of La-Porte about \$95,000; and are now considered (even by many of those who at first opposed them) as a good investment.

The day was not a favorable one for the test or for seeing the city. It was cold, with occasional showers, and a high wind. The day was enlivened by some good music, furnished by a brass band from South Bend. The firemen presented a very fine appearance, in their march through the streets, with their gay uniforms, and well-kept hose carriages—three in number, one of them with four wheels.

The hotels were filled to overflowing; and, for the better accommodation of strangers, tables were spread and an excellent repast served in the Court House, by the ladies of the churches.

The press was largely represented. Among them we remember to have met were Messrs. Maples of the *Chicago Tribune*, Chase of the *Elkhart Review*, Montgomery of the *Mishawaka Enterprise*, Major of the *La Porte Herald*, and Wadsworth of the *La Porte Argus*.

We visited the two offices, and found them very conveniently arranged. More especially the *Herald* office, which we consider one of the best arranged in the State. Indeed they publish a large number one newspaper, one every way worthy of the liberal support of the people of La Porte.

The city is handsomely laid out, with wide streets; but they are as yet unimproved. They are not favored (as we are) with stone and gravel of which to construct streets, and will probably have to resort to the Nicholson pavement. They have a few good business blocks, and several other really fine ones in process of erection. The number of fine residences is probably equal to that of any town of its size in Northern Indiana; but one noticeable feature about most of them is that they are surrounded with spacious grounds, tastefully laid out with fruit and ornamental trees. The streets are nearly all lined with well grown shade trees.