

WATER WORKS MACHINERY.

The City to be Sued for Infringement of Patent By the Holly Manufacturing Company.

The Water Works Board is in receipt of a letter from the attorneys of the Holly manufacturing company, of Lockport New York, which is given below in full:

CINCINNATI, O., March 18, 1882.

To the City of Logansport Ind.:—You are employing in the water works of your city a system of works, pumping directly into the mains which is an infringement upon reissued letters patent No. 5182 granted to Birdsill Holly, and now owned by the Holly Manufacturing Company of Lockport New York.

We are instructed to notify you that unless a settlement is made for past infringement and arrangements made for future use of the invention covered by patent, and now used by you, we are directed to bring suit against you in the United States court for an injunction and damages. Very respectfully,

STEM & PECK,
Attorneys for Holly Mfg. Co.

While the above letter states that the suit is to be brought on the ground that the city is infringing on the company's patent in "pumping directly into the mains" it is not believed that this is to be the real point in the suit. A gentleman who is as conversant as any other Logansporter as to the true inwardness of the matter, informs us that no company can claim a patent on this system, because it is as old as the hills. Our informant believes that the alleged infringement consists in the use at the engine house of a relief valve. The use of this valve is to afford relief to the mains when, during fires, and while the machinery is running at a high speed, the water is suddenly shut off by the firemen. The device works on the same principle as the relief valves recently placed on hose used in the fire department. Our authority says that the Holly manufacturing company, ever since their failure to secure the contract to build our water works, have been threatening to sue the city for using improvements on their patents.

But in case it is proven that the city is using the infringement charged, Logansport is probably safe from loss. The city has a guarantee from the builders of the works, and they are regarded as entirely responsible. The guarantee is as follows:

"The said Cope & Maxwell manufacturing company is to guarantee the city of Logansport against all loss or damages of every kind of character, on account of any improvement or any later patent on any machinery herein specified, or application of power arising in any way out of the use of the same."

The Clerk of the Water Works Board has sent a copy of the above letter to the company building the works, and has called their attention to the matter. An answer is eagerly looked for, as it will give the Board some idea as to what course must be pursued. The letter in question was delivered to the Board by a representative of the Holly company. He had been in the city some time and under the ostensible object of taking sketches, had loafed around the pump house for several days.