

Prosecuting Attorney, resulting in small expense to the county.

My course in dealing with the class of disorderly offenders, has been, to avoid if possible, all unnecessary display of official power, and public scandal; expecting and believing, in so doing, to as far as possible save sorrow to true and sensitive hearts at home.

If it is said there is more gambling than usual; I have not seen it; that there is more drunkenness; I fail to see it; that there is more of the social evil than ever before—this last grievance I will leave with those who are better able to judge than I am. I have acted upon the principle that the mildest government, whether in the school, at the fireside, or in the walks of men, is the best. In other words, "that government is best which governs least."

Good and true men tell us that the above named evils had their origin, and existed in years long gone by; also more recently; even so late as during the official life of my immediate predecessor. But this last I am inclined to think was a mistake. For were we not collectively, and individually, at the end of his official term, all sober, all virtuous? Whiskey was at a discount. Fancy women had no abiding place! Many people think and talk, accordingly, that a Marshal's main, if not his only duty, is to be constantly on hand in all places and at all times of day or night, as a detective for delinquents and evil doers. This is an error. He has the overseeing and directing of all corporation improvements, to see that labor and materials are properly and judiciously applied, according to his judgment, for the good and best interests of the village; acting mainly, however, under the control of a committee. Also the collection of two thousand three hundred tax bills. Also to receive and carry out all orders from the Board of Health. This duty is not a slight and some may think not a very desirable one. If a Marshal sees to all these varied interests, in the capacity of a civil officer, and does them well, he has performed about all that he can possibly do. I have been allowed by the Board four policemen, but have never put on but two, under pay, except at the time of the National Horse Fair in Aug., and the State Agricultural Fair in Oct. As a matter of necessity, the increased number of policemen occasioned unusual expense. A large number of arrests were unavoidably made during these periods. The city of Jackson, a town no larger than our own, supports a paid police force of twelve men. Grand Rapids, a bare fraction ahead of Kalamazoo in point of size and population, keeps a paid and uniformed police force of twenty men; and no unusual amount of morality at that. I have referred to these two towns, merely to draw your attention to the difference in officering the three cities, in order that your honorable Board, and all persons interested, may institute comparisons between the beneficial as well as the financial results.

The Marshal having no selfish or pecuniary interest to serve in making unnecessary arrests, may be presumed in all cases to act impartially between the disorderly and the public. I have endeavored so to act.

Your Streets, Bridges, Culverts, and Sidewalks, at the beginning of my official term, were in a very dilapidated condition—in many instances positively dangerous. During the last year these have been put in most excellent repair under my direction and immediate attention, and at a large outlay of labor and material. These varied interests and improvements will go far to indicate how and where, your Marshal has spent his time and energies. In conclusion, allow me to say to all those who think the Marshal's position to be easy or enviable—please "put yourself in his place."

Respectfully submitted,  
CHAS. GIBBS,  
Marshal.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND WATER.

To the President and Trustees of the Village of Kalamazoo:

Your committee on Fire and Water in compliance with an order passed at the last regular meeting of your honorable Board, herewith submit a report of the work done under their direction during the current year:

One mile one hundred and forty feet of four inch street mains have been laid, at a total cost of four thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven dollars and ninety-two cents.

The extensions on east Lovel street to Portage street, and on Portage street to Lake street, including pipe hydrants, connections, branches, valves, lead, oakum, labor in trenching, laying, and backfilling, and including the traveling expenses of the superintendent, and all expenses in any way pertaining, to said extension, cost \$3,791.24.

The west Lovel street extension, everything complete, cost \$933.68. Total as above, \$4,724.92.

The south portion of the water works' lot has been filled to a point believed to be above high water mark; six thousand cubic yards of gravel having been used therefor. The work cost eight hundred and ninety-three dollars.

A new Coal House has been constructed during the year, at a cost of about three hundred dollars, including cost of piling for foundation; the old coal house having partly fallen down for want of proper foundation.

The floors of the engine room and boiler room were very much sunken and out of shape, from the same reason, lack of proper foundation. A new floor, wainscoting and other improvements were made in both rooms, which involved an expense of about two hundred and fifty dollars.

The pumps had also settled from their proper level, on account of which

one of them was broken and had to be replaced with a new one. After which both of the old ones, (one at a time,) were taken up and sent to Lockport for repairs; and were refitted and returned, and one of them reset, which with the new one is now in use, and the remaining one is kept on hand as a reserve, in case of accident to either of the pumps now in use. The pumps have worked very satisfactorily since being reset.

The boilers had also settled, one of them one foot and the other eighteen inches, from lack of proper foundation. They were raised to their proper position and secured there as well as possible under the circumstances. Several other improvements have been made in minor matters about the works.

The chief improvement of the year has been made with a view of obtaining a better supply of water; grave objections prevailing as to the quality of the existing supply. The old well was and is largely supplied from the Axtell creek, which, especially in hot weather, is very impure. A filter was constructed across the inlet from the creek to the well, early last Spring, in order to remove as much as possible the impurities from the water passing through it. This filter, together with the conductor leading to and from it, and which was placed under the filling of the lot, cost about two hundred and seventy-five dollars.

After making this improvement, a series of experiments was made, with a view of testing the practicability of obtaining a sufficient supply of pure and wholesome water by means of a well alone, thereby enabling us to do away with the creek entirely. These experiments resulted so satisfactorily that it was deemed advisable to undertake the construction of a well twenty-four feet in diameter, and extending twenty-five feet below the general level of the water in our private wells; the said well to receive its entire supply from the bottom. By this we would secure, as shown by Dr. Duffield's analysis, a quality of water, to use the Doctor's words, "vastly purer" than that now in use.

Your Committee reported the result of their experiments to your honorable Board, with an estimate of the cost of such a well, upon which your honorable Board passed a resolution directing the chairman of the Committee to go forward with the work, limiting the expense for the well, to ten thousand dollars. The work was commenced at once; and the curb for the well was completed and sunk to place, about the middle of December last.

If the pipe for connecting the new well with the pumping works, had come to hand as soon as stipulated, the connections would have been made and the well tested before the commencement of the present year; but as the said connections did not all arrive until February, the intense cold weather prevented the connection being made. It is now so far advanced however, that it will be ready for the test by the middle or end of the coming week.

Bills and accounts for five thousand dollars of the expense upon this work, have already been presented and paid by your Board, and the bills for the balance of the cost will be ready for submission, either at your next regular meeting, or early in the ensuing fiscal year. The cost of the work will be considerably below the estimate.

A lot of land, with house thereon, lying immediately north of and adjoining the Water Works' lot, was purchased of John Klosterman, at a cost of twelve hundred and fifty dollars. This lot was graded down to the level of the street, and the gravel thus obtained was used in filling the lot south of the Works.

The cost of running the pumping works for the year, has been for coal, coke and wood, which includes freights and teaming, thirty-eight hundred and eighty-three dollars. Salaries of Engineers, fourteen hundred and fifty-five dollars and fifty cents. Oil and lights and incidentals about one hundred and fifty dollars. Making in round numbers, five thousand and five hundred dollars for running expenses; proper for the year.

The poor quality of water furnished to private consumers, has had the effect to prevent such an extension of its use as would, under more favorable circumstances, have been demanded; and has made our receipts from this source much less than they should be. As near as can be now stated, the receipts from private consumers, for the year ending on May first next, will be about two thousand dollars.

A re-adjustment of rates, especially for street sprinklers, and provision for the more stringent enforcement of the rules against waste and the fraudulent use of water, is thought to be necessary, by your Committee.

It seems to your Committee that a well defined water fund should be established. With the exception of the Street and Bridge fund, and the Bond and Interest fund, no well defined funds exist. A well defined General fund and a well defined Water fund seem to be called for fully as much as the two funds first named; and the establishment of such funds clearly defining what shall be charged, and credited to them will simplify our accounts and prevent confusion.

It seems to your Committee there should be credited to the Water fund a certain specified sum each year for the use of the "fire hydrant" for the village. In all places where the "Holly System" is in use, and where the ownership and control of the companies, a compensation of fifty to eighty dollars per year, is paid for each and every fire hydrant by the respective cities.

Were we to adopt this plan, and set aside a like amount to the credit of the Water fund for use of our ninety-two fire hydrants, we should find that so far as locate running expenses are concerned, our Works had already reached a high basis. And we might further hope,

upon bringing the private consumption up to a proper paying basis, that an excess of receipts over expenditures would soon follow, which would allow of the establishment of a sinking fund, which would enable the Works, in time, to pay back to the General fund all moneys advanced from the General fund for the construction of the Works. Protection from fire is the especially strong point of the Holly system. An instance in this village during the year, may be cited where twenty thousand dollars worth of property was saved by a single fire hydrant, and this hydrant was eight hundred feet from the building saved. The Baptist Female Seminary is referred to. This building would have been destroyed but for a single hydrant above named.

Another question that needs early attention, relates to the boilers at the Water Works. At least one new boiler, and of a different construction, should be provided; and the remaining one, if kept should be overhauled and improved.

All purchases of fuel and of material of all kinds, has been made directly from the manufacturers and dealers; thereby securing the lowest possible price, except one order for seven fire hydrants, bought of the Holly Company, through Mr. Horace Phelps.

In the fire department, one new hose cart has been purchased during the year, of Bull Bros. of this place, at a cost of one hundred and fifty dollars; also one thousand feet of fire hose have been purchased of Messrs. Hallock & Wheeler, of Chicago, on six month time, payment for which will be due on the first of May next. The department was much in need of the fire, but would have worked through the year without it, had it not been for the alarm consequent upon the Chicago fire, and the exceedingly dry and dangerous condition of everything for almost the entire autumn. Six new hose pipes have been purchased during the year at a cost of fifty-four dollars. A quantity of fire belts also have been purchased, costing about fifty dollars. Two hundred dollars has been paid for rent of hoes for horse carts and horse barn. Keeping of horse, eighty dollars. Salaries of two watchmen, nine hundred and two dollars and fifty cents. Salary of Chief Engineer of the department, one hundred and fifty dollars. The old fire alarm has been replaced in the tower of the Baptist Church, at a cost of about one hundred and fifty dollars.

A wire connecting the same has been run to the whman's room in Corporation Hall; it will perhaps be proper just here to say, that the village is in very great need of a more efficient fire alarm than the one we now have. One of the fire engines sold by the preceding year to the city of Fort Scott, Kas., has been shipped to its destination and payment for the same, to-wit, four hundred and fifty dollars in cash, and one note for four hundred and fifty dollars, received. There has been received from Thos. O'Neil for rent of north room in Corporation Hall, for current year, seven hundred dollars; and a new lease for two years for the 15th of December last, at the rate of six hundred dollars per year, has been made to the same party.

One of bobbs has been sold for twenty dollars cash.

All which is respectfully submitted.

W. R. COATS,  
H. CARR,  
M. WATERBURY } Com.  
Kalamazoo, March 11 1872.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND WATER, MADE TO THE VILLAGE BOARD, MARCH 18, 1872.

To the President and Trustees of the Village of Kalamazoo:

So the presentation of the report made your Committee on Fire and Water on the 11th inst., the connection of the pumping machinery of the Water Works have been established with the new well, and the capacity of the well to supply water, has been subjected to a severe test.

The test was made as follows: Both pumps were fired up, and both pumps put in motion at an average rate of twenty-five revolutions per minute. The pump being calculated to deliver thirteen gallons per revolution, (or sixty-six gallons from the two pumps,) the amount of water discharged, per minute, is easily found by multiplying by 75, which gives 1950 gallons, the amount of water discharged a minute during the test—or 117,000 gallons per hour, or, at the enormous rate of 2,308,000 gallons of water per twenty-four hours. Calculated on the basis of such estimates) water discharged was ascertained to prove the full capacity of supplying (at the rate of 56,000 inhabitants. In fact, the test only demonstrated the pumping capacity of our present machinery, and was very far from demonstrating the full capacity of the well, for the reason, that the level of the well was lowered during the test, only 39 inches. If it be borne in mind, that the flow of water into the well has been demonstrated to be doubled, in arithmetical ratio, for each 15 inches of its level reduced, it will then be perceived, that had we machinery of a pumping capacity sufficient to reduce the level of the well 15 inches below the point reached in the test as made, the figures given above, large as they are, would be every 15 inches of remaining pumping space for fifteen more feet.

The members of the Board will remember, that the experiments, made last Summer, to determine the quantity of water which the then proposed well would furnish, resulted in establishing the fact, that the water discharged by a drive pipe of 1 1/2 inches in diameter, was doubled, in arithmetical ratio, for every fifteen inches of its length cut off below the level of the water plane. It is highly gratifying to

be able now to demonstrate, that, (after making the usual allowance for water friction in the strainer and small pipe used) the flow from the large tube of twenty four feet diameter, is in almost exact proportion to the flow from the small tube of 1 1/2 inches diameter. It is gratifying to be able to prove, by actual results, that the data on which we rested our expectations of quantity of water to be obtained, were accurate and reliable. Such a demonstration of the accuracy of our deductions is not only gratifying—it is important; because, it proves that wherever similar conditions of water stratum and soil can be found, the same rules, (the accuracy of which is now proven) may be unhesitatingly applied to other similar enterprises. We have the satisfaction of adding to the stock of useful knowledge, a new and most important fact.

Your Committee take occasion to call the attention of the Board to the important fact that during the test of the new well, and when it was reduced to the lowest level possible to reach with our machinery, the level so reached was two feet higher than the creek level at the Water Works, and four feet higher than the level of the river at the mouth of Portage creek; proving conclusively, that the head that furnishes the well capacity, is outside and independent of either stream.

Your Committee suggest, in conclusion, that a public test of the capacity of the well be given, on some day to be selected by the Board; and that a committee of citizens be appointed, and invited to subject the well to such tests as will, in their judgment, be conclusive of its reliability as a source of water supply for all the purposes of the village.

Respectfully submitted,  
W. R. COATS,  
A. M. WATERBURY,  
JAS. H. CARR.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, To the President and Trustees of the Village of Kalamazoo:

Your Committee on Health, in obedience to the instruction of the Board, respectfully beg leave to report as follows, concerning the public health and the measures taken, and deemed advisable to be taken, in time to come, for its preservation; your committee is happy to report that no sweeping and destructive epidemic has visited our village during the present corporate year, nor has there been observed any unusual amount of sickness and death. Sickness resulting from malarial causes, has been quite prevalent, perhaps more so than during some preceding seasons; but this cause of disease is scarcely within the domain of sanitary regulation, and it is confidently believed that it is becoming less and less potent as the country is opened and improved; and at no distant day, will cease to be conspicuous as a special cause of disease. Scarlet Fever has been, and is still prevalent among our people and attended with more or less of the usual fatal results; but under the skillful management of the very able and competent medical gentlemen, whom Kalamazoo is fortunate in reckoning among her citizens, this and other diseases have resulted in a small percentage of mortality.

A few cases of varioloid of a mild character, contracted elsewhere, have occurred, one of them causing some public alarm; but prompt measures were taken to have the patients properly isolated and cared for, and in no case has the disease been communicated to other persons. These cases have been treated in the private house where the disease was developed which as a general rule is the more humane and better way. No "pest-house" was opened and none needed; but measures were in readiness for prompt action, had the spread of the disease rendered action necessary.

The slaughter houses located on the bank of the Kalamazoo river have given more or less trouble from year to year, through the carelessness and indifference of their occupants. These institutions, though indispensable in any community, are none the less apt to become public nuisances as they are ordinarily managed and they are always so, unless kept scrupulously clean, and this result is obtained only when proper municipal regulations are rigorously enforced. These houses have given less trouble the present year than perhaps ever before. They have been subjected to close inspection, and your committee is happy to state that the butchers have shown a willingness to comply with all proper requirements. Still they are accustomed to feed to hogs, the animal waste, sometimes on the ground, and sometimes on loose floors and it becomes mingled with the earth and often lies exposed for days to the sweltering sun of summer. This ought not so to be. They should be required to feed only upon close floors and no animal matter should be permitted to remain exposed for twenty-four hours. Their removal from their present location is only a question of time, and really, ought to be made very soon; but what to do with them and where to place them is not so easy a matter to settle. Your committee are inclined to the opinion that the best course to pursue with them, would be to locate them at some convenient point, within the range of our water system, and require the butchers to convey in close carts all of the animal waste to some remote point where it could be safely fed out or otherwise disposed of. With a free use of water, proper drainage and no waste left about the building, slaughter houses need not be objectionable in any community. If this course should not be adopted, the next best and only course would be, to pass an ordinance, removing them beyond the limits of the corporation.

The question of sewerage is now perhaps the most important and greatest one before us, and must soon be taken hold of and settled by our people. A good sewer running down