

Address of President May—Election of a Trustee and Village Officers.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held at Corporation Hall Monday evening, April 20th, a full Board were present. Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

A petition was presented by Keyser and others for a sidewalk. Referred to New Board.

Trustee Giddings submitted accounts for payment of trustees and others, and the clerk was instructed to draw the proper orders therefor:

Table listing trustee accounts: Trustee Allen, Trustee Williams, Frank Little, Trustee Dayton, Trustee Dudgeon, Trustee Baker, Trustee Henderson, Trustee Waterbury, J. D. Sumner, Trustee Giddings.

Trustee Dudgeon, from the Committee on Fire and Water, made the following report, which was adopted:

To the President and Trustees:

Your Committee on Fire and Water would present at the close of the year full report of all matters connected with the Water Works and Fire Department, but being aware that you, Mr. President, have carefully and more ably prepared a full report of the working of the Board during the year, your committee will confine their report to a few suggestions which they deem necessary. The Works are, we think in good order and capable of doing good work, and in charge of a capable and trustworthy engineer, Mr. James Fox. We would urgently recommend to this Board the necessity of placing a sufficient number of water gates at the principal points, so as to concentrate the power at a given point if necessary, and, in case of a break at any point, it could be repaired without depriving but a small portion of the consumers of the use of the water. It is the opinion of your committee that nearly all of the hydrants now in use, except those placed during the past year, are liable to accident, which would render them useless in case of fire. Who is responsible for this we cannot say: The Chairman is now corresponding with the Holly Company, and would recommend the immediate examination of the hydrants, but not until the gates recommended are placed. We also recommend the moving of the house occupied by Mr. Fox to the north corner of the lot, as its present location is too near the works, and the house is so damp as to already endanger the health of the family.

Trustee Dayton, from the Committee on Finance made the following report, which, on motion, was accepted and adopted:

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Committee on Finance ask leave to report that they have examined the treasurer's accounts and compared the vouchers returned to them and find them correct; also have examined and found the treasurer has paid \$5,000 in water bonds and \$6,000 in coupons on bonds unpaid, which we now have in our hands, all of which are respectfully submitted.

C. S. DAYTON, Jno. DUDGON, Committee.

The bonds of Clapham & McDonalds, W. H. Johnson, C. S. d'Arcambal, and J. J. Babcock, druggists, were presented, and on motion were approved by the Board.

Marshal Brownell reported that he had received, since his last report, \$36.75 for street dirt and pound fees, and had paid the same to the treasurer.

The clerk read the following communication:

To the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Kalamazoo:

GENTLEMEN:—I hereby decline to accept the office of Trustee to which I was elected at the recent charter election of said village, and request that you appoint some one to fill the vacancy. Yours, &c., JOEL J. PERRIN.

Kalamazoo, April 20, 1874.

Whereupon Trustee Dudgeon offered the following:

WHEREAS, Joel J. Perrin has declined to accept the office of trustee of this village to which he was elected at the late charter election, therefore,

Resolved, That the declination of Joel J. Perrin be accepted, and the office to which he was elected be, and the same is declared vacant.

Resolved, That the Board do now proceed to elect a trustee by ballot, to fill the vacancy caused by the declination of said Perrin.

And the same was unanimously adopted.

The result of the ballot to fill said vacancy was as follows: John Parker received eight votes and was declared elected.

The Treasurer read his annual report, which was adopted.

President May read the following address to the Board:

GENTLEMEN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Before we part, and this Board terminates its legal existence, I beg leave to submit to you a brief statement of the business transacted by you during the past year, and a few statistics relating to the past and present financial condition of the village. When this Board was organized one year ago, two questions of great importance were pressing for immediate consideration, viz: Sewerage, and the condition of our Holly Water-Works.

SEWERAGE: The business portion of the village, and especially our larger hotels, absolutely demanded that some outlet to the river, for sewerage purposes, should be speedily devised. The public health as well as the public convenience, alike demanded immediate attention to that subject. Many plans, both for temporary and permanent relief, were discussed and carefully considered. The Arcadia was generally thought to be the natural channel for such purposes; but this stream was owned by private parties, and in the eastern part of the village, a race for many years had diverted the water from the original bed of the stream, and upon which race was a large manufacturing establishment

dependent upon it for water. The supposed expense attending the purchase of the stream and race from each riparian owner by the corporation, or to procure the condemnation of the same under the charter, made it desirable to look to some other and less expensive plan. While the Board was seriously contemplating the propriety of entering into a contract for sewer pipe, to be used on Water street, Messrs. Allen and Richardson came before the Board, and volunteered to procure the right to use the Arcadia and race from abutting owners, (except the rights of Mr. Gates), and in a short time they secured the release of nearly all the owners, from Cooley street to the river.

In view of this action, negotiations were entered into with Mr. Gates, which resulted in the purchase of his interest in the stream and race at the sum of \$3,000. The estimated cost of sewer pipe and putting the same down on Water street was over \$7,000. After purchasing the interest of Mr. Gates, the race was abandoned and the old bed of the Arcadia from the river to Cooley street, was deepened and straightened at an expense of \$552.98.

With a trifling yearly expense the Arcadia will answer all the purposes of a main sewer for years to come.

WATER-WORKS.

The complaints from the tax-payers were loud and long, that our system of water-works had not met the representations of their founders; that they were burdensome, expensive, and of little use when most needed—in short they were pretty generally considered a failure. Whether wise, or otherwise, they were located at a much lower level than most of the village. Their management had not been such as to inspire confidence in their success.

Without stopping to inquire into the mistakes of the past, if any there were, it was left to this Board to see if the past could not be remedied, and the works be brought into a position of usefulness, if not of profit.

The location, buildings and machinery were facts which we had to adopt. We did not care to run the hazard of any expensive experiments. We must use such materials as we had on hand to the best advantage, and if possible, work out the problem, and make the institution a success.

After much deliberation and careful study it was deemed wise to adopt the piston pump, to be attached to the machinery at the works. A contract, accordingly was entered into with the Holly Manufacturing Company to attach the pumps, for which the village was to pay \$3,000, and an old boiler, for which we had no use. Nothing, however, was to be paid until the pumps, after a thorough trial, should give entire satisfaction.

Under this contract, in which the village could lose nothing, the work was commenced, and on the fourth day of October, 1873, the connections were made, and a test had. As was anticipated, the new pumps were a success, and have continued to give satisfaction, both for ordinary and fire purposes. When the contract was made it was not supposed that these pumps could be used to advantage for fire purposes—but for such purposes, that connection could be easily made to the rotary pumps. In this, however, we were mistaken, and the rotary pumps have been seldom used for any purpose since the piston pumps were attached; and it has been seldom necessary to use but one of the piston pumps to supply all the water needed by any demand made on the works. It is believed that our "Holly Water-Works" are now as near perfect as it is possible to make them in their present location and while run by steam-power.

While the works themselves are in good condition, and capable of furnishing, on short notice, all the water necessary for any emergency, it must be borne in mind, that defective hydrants, or their unskilled use are not chargeable to the works, or the system. Recent experience has developed the fact that many of our hydrants, either from defective construction, or by action of the elements have disappointed us when most needed. They gave out, not because there was not water and force enough, but because there was too much, and the result was, necessarily, that with broken hydrants, no available force was obtained. With better hydrants, greater care in their use, and a sufficient number of water-gates, no such misfortune need be apprehended in the future.

These works were commenced in 1869, at an estimated cost of \$75,000. Since then the new well has been constructed at a cost of \$10,000.

The entire cost of the works to date, including interest, mains, hydrants, labor and running expenses, as appears from the Treasurer's books, is \$188,949.88.

We have now ten and three-quarter miles of water pipe, varying in diameter from one to twelve inches. During the past year two miles and eleven hundred and eighty-six feet of pipe was laid at the cost of \$12,000.

We have now in use one hundred and two fire hydrants. The number of water consumers are three hundred and eighty-five, and the amount collected from water rates during the year was \$5,875.58. The annual cost of running the works will not vary much from \$10,000.

The Treasurer's books show the following disbursements on account of the water fund, viz:

Table of disbursements: For 1869, \$50819 20; 1870, 28002 80; 1871, 10081 18; 1873, 18087 57; 1873, 28860 04.

These estimates include the interest paid on water bonds, and for water pipe and hydrants and labor in laying the same.

There should be at least two miles of pipe laid each year, until every part of the village is supplied.

The number of water consumers is too small, and there is no good reason why the number should not be increased. The public health will soon demand a more general use of the best and purest water to be found anywhere in the State. It is believed that the day is not distant when the Water Works will be self-sustaining.

Great credit is due the Committee on Fire and Water for the skill and energy which have marked all their efforts to make our water system a success.

STREETS.

Kalamazoo is noted for, and is proud of, its wide and beautiful streets. There is no place in the West which equals it in the extent of its "drives." It necessarily costs money to keep our streets and bridges in good order. The plan on which the village is located being nearly level, with but a slight descent towards the river, makes it difficult to keep many of the streets in good condition in the Spring and Fall months. It is thought, that with but little expense, a system of surface drainage will tend much towards remedying the evil. So far as this system has been extended the past season, it has worked well. The practice of carting gravel upon the streets, as a rule, is to be deprecated. The streets are naturally high enough, and can be much better improved by well defined gutters to give the water an opportunity to escape, than by piling upon them dirt and gravel. Whenever gravel is to be used in any considerable quantity, the surface dirt should be removed and a bed be made for the gravel.

The amounts expended on streets and bridges in 1871 was \$12,669.31; in 1873, \$8,175 00; and in 1874, \$5,886.87. Of this last sum \$552.98 was expended on the Arcadia for labor and lumber.

We have sixty-five miles of streets, and eighty-six miles of plank sidewalk within the corporation. There are sixteen bridges over the Arcadia—eleven over the Portage, and four over the Kalamazoo River within the village limits. During the past year there have been built eight new bridges, and three have been replaced.

During the year there has been expended for labor on streets, \$4556.16; for labor on the Arcadia, \$360 00; and for labor on crossings and sidewalks, \$900.00. There has been paid for lumber, \$921.21; making a total for labor and materials expended by the Committee on Streets and Bridges the sum of \$5836.37.

Our Nicholson pavement is fast going to decay, and the question, what is to be done with it is a serious one. Shall it be repaired, and if so, at whose expense? are questions which I care not now to consider.

POLICE.

Our paid police has been too small, and too much has been expected of the Marshal and one or two assistants. No other

place of the size of this has been paid no little attention to its police department. While our population, for good order and sobriety will compare most favorably with any of our sister villages and cities, yet, as a rule, crime keeps pace with the population of any place. Our active police force of to-day is the same that it was ten years ago—and the expense attending it is merely nominal.

is furnished the village by a private company. The corporation pays at the rate of \$3.00 per thousand feet. The number of lamp posts in 1873 were 83 and in 1874 84. The amount paid for gas in 1871 was \$1,733.30; in 1872, \$1,623.10; and in 1873 \$1,414.02; each year commencing on the first day of April.

FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The bonded indebtedness of the village remaining unpaid is the sum of \$35,000. May 10th, 1868, the sum of \$35,000 was raised by loan, and bonds issued, payable in five equal annual payments, with annual interest at ten per cent.

June 24, 1869, the further sum of \$35,000 was raised by loan, and bonds issued Aug. 1, 1869, payable in five equal annual payments, commencing Aug. 1, 1873, with annual interest at ten per cent.

June 18, 1870, the further sum of \$35,000 was raised by loan, and bonds issued July 1, 1870, payable in five equal annual payments, commencing July 1, 1870, with annual interest at ten per cent.

These bonds were issued on account of our system of water works.

In addition to the bonded indebtedness of the village there should be added sundry items, left to us to settle and audit from former Boards, viz: Holly Manufacturing Company claimed \$1,594.87, which was settled at \$1,800.00. The claim of T. P. Sheldon for damages and costs growing out of an appropriation of land for Lake street was settled at \$400.

The present Board has paid old orders to the amount of \$1,244.65.

There will be due this year to the Holly Manufacturing Company, for the piston pumps now in use, \$3,000; also the sum of \$1,800 above referred to, and to T. P. Sheldon the sum of \$400 for damages &c., as above.

Our indebtedness mainly arises on the construction and repairs of the water works.

While the taxes appear to be large, we must remember that we cannot have a complete water system, build bridges, pay for and construct sewers, and improve our streets without money.

We have an area of territory, two and one-half miles square, with a population of at least 11,000—and constantly increasing—and an assessed valuation, in 1873, of \$3,688,704, which is only about one-fourth of the actual valuation. While our taxes are large to what they were fifteen or twenty years ago, they are, however, much less than any other village or city in the State, in proportion to population. Two per cent. on the assessed valuation was levied the past year, which, with what was received from water rates, licenses and other sources, makes the amount expended during the year about \$83,000.

In the city of Battle Creek, with a population of about 6,000, and an assessed valuation in 1873 of \$980,000, the tax rated was \$50,178.85, being over five per cent.

In the city of Adrian, with a population of about 9,000, and an assessed valuation in 1873, of \$1,774,007, the tax rated was \$32,500, being about two per cent.

In the city of Jackson, with a population of \$12,000, and an assessed valuation in 1873 of \$3,035,100, the tax rated was \$108,308.70, being a little less than four per cent.

In the city of Grand Rapids, with a population of at least 18,000, and an assessed valuation in 1873 of \$4,000,100, the tax rated was \$120,000, being about three per cent.

The bonded indebtedness of Battle Creek is, \$180,000; Adrian, 47,000; Jackson, 283,000; Grand Rapids, 875,000; Kalamazoo, 55,000.

In the above cities, except Jackson, they have no system of water works complete, and in operation. In Jackson they have the Holly system, with an annual cost for running expenses of \$10,000.

From this brief comparison it will be seen at a glance that the annual cost of running our "Big Village" is considerably less than any of our "Little Sisters" in proportion to wealth and population.

CONCLUSION.

It is with pleasure that I bear witness to the care, zeal industry and ability which each member of the Board has manifested, and excelled in reducing expenditure to the lowest possible sum. If zeal and capacity in the discharge of public duties ever enlist public gratitude, then the fidelity with which you have discharged your trust, should entitle you to the thanks of every tax-payer within the corporation. That no mistakes have been made is not pretended—that no fault has been found with your action is not improbable. Individual selfishness not unfrequently opposes itself to the observance of law, and runs counter to the best and purest intentions. This must be expected. No Board has ever been exempt from it—nor shall any be, until the millennium shall dawn upon the world with a consciousness that we have tried to do our whole duty, the acts of the Board of 1873 are commended to the favorable consideration of the tax-payers, whose servants we were. DWIGHT MAY.

On motion of Trustee Dayton, the message of the President was ordered to be printed.

The old members then retired. The President was sworn in by the Clerk, and Messrs. Sherwood, Wagner, Dayton and Parker, Trustees, were sworn in and installed by the President.

On motion of Trustee Dudgeon, the Board proceeded to ballot for clerk; nine votes were given; and they were all for Frank Little, who was then declared elected. Wm. Shakespeare was unanimously elected treasurer.

Trustee Dudgeon proposed that the Board proceed to ballot for marshal; but before that was done, he said he understood there was a petition upon the subject, to be presented. Trustee Sherwood then arose and said:

"I have a petition signed by a large number of the citizens of the village, which I have been requested to present to the Board for their consideration. It asks for the appointment of Wm. Green, as Marshal. It contains the names of 182 individuals and firms, who represent large interests in our village. Mr. Green has served the village in that capacity two successive terms heretofore, and this petition is a strong endorsement of that gentleman, in his official character; and who ever may be selected to the position, by this board, one thing is certain, that this petition is an admonition to him, that he will be expected and required to discharge faithfully whatever duty may devolve upon him. In accordance with the request, I now present the petition."

Trustee Dudgeon said there were some ladies present, representing the Women's Temperance Society of Kalamazoo, whom, he understood, desired to present their views on the subject of a selection of marshal, and asked a suspension of business that they might be heard; which was granted.

Mrs. Hanscomb, President of the Society, then read the following paper:

To the President and Honorable Board of Trustees of the Village of Kalamazoo: