

## CAN WE HAVE PURE WATER IN ST. PAUL.—

This is an important question to the fifty thousand prospective inhabitants of this city; but it is one very readily solved, and that, too, in a manner very satisfactorily. Captain Arnold Syberg, Civil Engineer, the gentleman who superintended the introduction of spring water into the Fuller House, has been employed for some weeks in an examination of the ground, and in taking levels, between the city and Lakes Como and Phalan, to ascertain their feasibility and comparative advantages for supplying the city with water. The level of Lake Phalan is found to be sixty feet higher than the foot of the Capitol steps, and one hundred and sixty-seven feet above the level of the Mississippi river; and water from this lake would spread over all the lower part of the city, and all the upper town, except the bluffs. Two lines were run from Lake Phalan, one of which, the straight line, would require a small tunnel to be excavated, and has a serious objection, as to cost. The other line will require pipes to be laid down, for a length of three miles, to the reservoir, which would be probably built near De Soto street.

The deepest cut by this line would be sixteen and a half feet; and, considering five feet depth for pipes, is only eleven and a half feet more than on ground of a proper level. The practicability of obtaining a full supply of water from this lake, for fifty thousand inhabitants, is thus fully demonstrated.

An examination of Lake Como reveals the fact that its level is 29 feet higher than that of Phalan's Lake. Como is 196 feet above the level of the Mississippi river, and will force water 89 feet higher than the Capitol steps. This additional height over Phalan's Lake will extend the water to various portions of the bluff. There were two lines run from this lake to the city, one of which, the straightest, runs through marsh, and would require the additional cost of masonry to enclose the pipes, and has other objections. The other line will require pipes to be laid for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles; the deepest cut on this line will be 32 feet, but the average cutting will be about equal to that of Phalan's Lake. The Reservoir would be located probably in the vicinity of Summit Avenue.

We are informed by Capt. Syberg, to whom we are indebted for the above figures, that it is altogether feasible to obtain an abundant supply of water from either of the two lakes. The difference in the cost of laying pipes from either lake would be so slight, as to be probably more than overcome by the advantage of ground in constructing reservoirs.

The present surveys of Capt. Syberg are merely preliminary, and we are not aware that the Water Company will select either of the lakes at this time. Before the plans can be laid, there will be several questions to be settled, as to how deep the frost penetrates, the nature of the grounds for reservoirs, &c. As to the quality of water to be had from either lake, we presume there is very little difference of opinion. The water of both lakes is very clear and pure, and such that any city may be proud of having in use for its citizens.

The Water Company, for whom the present examinations were made, we learn, purpose to have all their plans and arrangements made so as to have their works completed during next year. In the meantime our citizens can only say, "Heaven speed the work," and wait patiently.