

Water Works.

A gentleman who has examined the reports referred to below furnishes the accompanying facts, figures, estimates and reflections upon the advantages of the "Holly System" of water works. No city within our knowledge needs an abundant supply of water to make it comfortably habitable in the hot summer months more than Columbus does. Aside from questions of economy, in matters of insurance, &c., and simply upon the score of health and the increased pleasure of living, we are in favor of a liberal system of "water works"—a system that will supply water unmeasured at the corners of all our streets, and at short intervals along our business thoroughfares, that the great dust nuisance of the summer months may be abated at any moment, or altogether prevented. We have wanted water works for years, and have often asked attention to the subject, and hope now, as we understand the matter will soon be brought before the City Council, that steps will be inaugurated to secure them. We know nothing personally of the "Holly System;" but if it is as good as the old reservoir system, and costs less, let us have it, but do not let a desire for economy in starting the works result in a littleness of supply. We want water. Let us have it in abundance—enough for all purposes—for fire, for domestic uses, and for street sprinkling. We know of nothing that would add so largely and so generally to the comfort of our citizens, or that they would be more willing to be taxed for.—But read the communication of our correspondent:

WATER WORKS—THE HOLLY SYSTEM—INTERESTING FACTS AND FIGURES—CITY FATHERS, ATTENTION.

As a protection against fire and sickness water works are indispensable—as an investment they are highly remunerative. We have examined the report of the annual expenses of the splendid system in operation at Binghamton, New York, and find the

Labor at works.....	\$3,120 00
Superintendent and clerk.....	1,600 00
Coal per annum	1,733 75
Oil, waste and packing per annum.....	146 25

Making the total cost of running the works per annum \$6,600 00

The report, dated Feb. 3, 1870, states that the works have been in constant operation since December, 1864, without one dollar of repairs, the only change being the increased smoothness in the performance of the machinery. The system used is known as the "Holly System." It does away with the old and expensive plan of reservoirs and their consequent dead ends, puddles, slime and tadpoles. The "Holly System" pumps against pressure, supplying the pipes with clear, crystal water directly from spacious wells, and with an automation arrangement by which when a fire Lydrant is opened increased power is immediately applied, and every hydrant surpasses a steam fire engine in efficiency, without the cost of horses, fuel and engineers. In Peoria, Dayton, Binghamton and other places where the "Holly System" is in operation, the Fire Department has been reduced to a few hose companies, and the only fear of property-holders is, that in the event of fire they will be drowned out in a minute, instead of having a good old-fashioned time in which to burn out, and this without the medium of fire engines. The Binghamton report further states that \$30,000 more will be expended the current year for fire pipes, as the cost of three-inch pipes, which last always, is less than the cost of hose, which last but a few years. Major John P. Edwards, of Atlanta, visited our city a few days since in the interest of the Holly Company. He estimates that our city can be supplied for domestic purposes, and with fire protection to the entire town, at a cost of about \$80,000. No money will be asked in payment until the works have been tested. One feature of the contract will be a guarantee that twelve solid streams of water can be thrown from the fire hydrants at once to the height of 150 feet. To secure this desirable improvement the city would have to issue but \$100,000 in bonds, for water bonds, secured by the water works property, always sell from fifteen to twenty cents higher than the ordinary bonds.—Binghamton reports a reduction of 25 per cent. in the price of insurance since the introduction of the Holly system. Other places go as high as 50 per cent. At 25 per cent. Columbus would save \$25,000—more than three times the amount of interest on the cost. *But this interest will not be saddled upon our tax payers.*

Binghamton reports the revenue from water works one year, and the works just opened, at \$11,350; expenses for same time \$6,600. In this amount is included, for wages of engineer and firemen, as labor, \$3,120; coal \$1,733 75—a total of \$4,853 75, which will be saved our city, as we will use water power; and this amount taken from \$6,600 leaves \$1,746 25. Adding \$600 for wages to a man to attend the pumps, and the whole expense per annum is represented by the sum of \$2,406 25 per annum. Deduct this from the revenue and the remainder will show a net footing of \$8,943 75, with which to meet our interest; and if the saving which the works will bring in our Fire Department could be added to the surplus after paying interest, it would create a sinking fund sufficient to meet the bonds upon maturity. Every one will appreciate that the revenue will increase yearly. The Holly works at Auburn, New York, have operated five years, and pay a dividend of 15 per cent. per annum. Another fact is important. Of the \$80,000 at least \$60,000 will be expended for labor during the dull months now approaching, every dollar of which will go directly back into the hands of our merchants.

Alderman Salisbury, Chairman of Fire Committee, and Ex-Mayor McIlhenny have given the question of a water supply close and studied investigation, and our community will owe them a debt if they are instrumental in securing for us this great deficiency. The introduction of water works will stimulate the business of plumbing, thereby adding to our population and general advancement. We understand that Covington, Kentucky, a city of 50,000 inhabitants, has just completed the Holly system, and intend to have a grand test on the 23d inst. We

hopes our Council will be reappointed, and
that good to our community, may result
from their investigations.