

The Question of Water Works.

Last evening, before the meeting of the Village Trustees, appeared representatives of the several fire insurance companies doing business in this village, who presented communications from the companies, stating that unless something was done by the town for its better protection against fire the agencies would be withdrawn entirely. The communications were of the same nature as the one printed in the DAILY JOURNAL of the 15th inst., and all stated that Jamestown had best provide a better protection, or she might in future insure her own property. It was a very forcible way of putting the question, and one that would attract the attention of any man who owned property in Jamestown, and the Trustees very naturally fell in with their views and called a public meeting for Friday evening, Oct. 31, at Jones' Hall, to consult upon the question of at once establishing water works, of any kind that will afford a good fire protection.

This news will be welcomed by a majority of our business men, as well as mechanics and laboring men who depend upon the business of the town for a livelihood. The main thing needed by Jamestown for its prosperity is a system of water works that will be available in the extinguishing of fires, and also have a tendency to lower insurance. Our village is not the Jamestown of twelve years ago, when its business portion was swept away in a night by fire, although our facilities for extinguishing fires have been but little improved since that time. As the town has been built and enlarged, with very few exceptions the buildings have been constructed with a proper regard for protection against fire, in the absence of water for extinguishing one when once under headway. Especially is the case with our business houses, in every location, and private individuals, as well as the village officers, have cherished this idea of preventing fires rather than extinguishing them. Up to this time this has worked nothing but good, but our growth as a village has been so rapid that the time has now come when property must be protected by some other means, and water and a steam engine are about the best things for fighting fire that have been invented.

As a town we are not as badly fixed as many others in this County. Our buildings are properly constructed, and they are occupied by a class of people who do not court fires. We have almost without exception a class of men doing business, the town over, with whom insurance men delight to trade, and men whom they also say are not the ones who are apt to have fires, considered in the light of human probabilities. We have no low grogeries and shops where fires often start, in other towns and cities, how, nobody ever finds out, but contrariwise our business and the men who conduct it are substantial. Yet with all these advantages, if there is a fire in a neighborhood where water is scarce and buildings are in close proximity, the prayers of good citizens are of no avail. Good generalship and pluck often win the day and save a large amount of property, but more often a little water applied at the right time would be found of greater advantage, and in the future of our town we would have great reason to return thanks for "what water had done for us."

Now that an opportunity is given our citizens to talk about this question of water works again—and we did a great amount of talking a year or two since and accomplished nothing—let everybody say yes to a few thousand dollars of taxation and vote for a protection against fire. We *must* have it, or the man who owns a house in the suburbs will be compelled to insure his own property as well as the man who owns a block of stores on Main street. And one is as much interested in this matter as the other, for the man who sells goods can not live without the man in the suburbs, and if the block of stores was removed from Main street the house in the suburbs would soon be for rent or removed entirely to some other country.

Let everybody come out on Friday night of next week, that water works may give our town a good protection before winter sets in.