

## *Water Works.*

Although the late fire is another proof how desirable and important some efficient system of water works would be to our place, we presume it is not possible to carry out and project such as the town really needs or would be sufficient for the purposes designed. Whenever that time comes, we shall advocate liberal and judicious expenses for such purposes. The location of this fire, with the exception of one building, south of Second street, was in such close proximity to the race that a supply of water was furnished to one engine from Derby's Holly pump. There was also a fair supply of water in the lower Main St. reservoir, but had the fire extended across Second St. or east or west upon the south side of that street, and had there been a strong wind, it could not well have been prevented, the water in the reservoirs would have been but a drop in the bucket.

It is remarkable that while it is conceded that seven-eighths of our place is practically defenceless from fire, save as the rains of Heaven, or the small stores of water contained in private cisterns may prevent, no disposition is manifested to provide reservoirs for public use in case of fire. There are numerous locations in town where reservoirs could be built and supplied with pure spring water, or with water from public building roofs which now runs to waste, with a very moderate expense compared with the benefit to be derived. Nine-tenths of our citizens admit these facts, and will reply when questioned that they are in favor of public reservoirs, but after all no public action is taken. Some however who were prominent in favoring the Reservoir and Pipe System and others who were equally prominent in advocating the Holly System, now settle back upon their dignity, and refuse to interest themselves in the matter, saying they propose to rely upon insurance, but this is unwise; nine-tenths of the fires which occur even when well insured are a great loss, not only in property consumed which insurance policies do not cover, but in loss of time and derangement of business. A half a loaf is better than no bread, and since our people are so decidedly of the opinion that no extensive and costly system of water works can be adopted, let us secure a few large and judiciously scattered public reservoirs, so that the means of extinguishing fires by hand engines &c., which we do possess, can be made available. Every church building, school building, and some of the large barns furnish sufficient roofing to supply a large cistern, with water to be used exclusively for fire purposes.

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