

The Water Question Again.

The want of water for the supply of this suffering city is acceded by every intelligent citizen, and all such feel very impatient that steps are not being taken to secure this much needed element. It is gratifying to notice that the subject is again moved in the Common Council. Ald. Stone, who seems to be alive to the importance of water and of agitation to procure it, some time since moved a committee of citizens to investigate and report on the water question. The committee made an extended investigation and reported. The conclusions arrived at by the committee were substantially as follows: That water may be obtained at Hemlock Lake at great cost. An iron main, the only one believed to be applicable, would cost alone over \$1,300,000. The entire cost of the work would not be much less than two millions.

As to Lake Ontario, another favorite source with many, the committee were unable to make a close estimate of the cost without incurring a much larger expense than they felt authorized to make. The cost of getting water from that source and distributing the same would be as great and probably somewhat greater than that of taking the Hemlock water.

The only source left that was available was the Genesee River. By the use of the Holley system of pumping and distribution this water could be taken above the city and distributed at the rate of four millions of gallons per day for an original cost of works of \$328,000, at an annual expenditure of less than \$20,000, and this would furnish, by means of hydrants, efficient means for suppressing fires, and probably upon the annual cost of the Fire Department more than this amount. A careful analysis of the water by competent chemists proved that the water of the river was comparatively free and better than the average of that used in towns and cities, and quite as desirable, in all respects, as that of Honeoye Creek at Smithtown, where the old Water Company has been endeavoring to obtain a supply in its abortive attempt to get water to this city.

The report was accented by the Council on the

attempt to get water to this city.

The report was accepted by the Council on the 30th of January last, since which time the water question has slept. Ald. Stone, who moved for this investigation, being, we regret to say, about to leave the Board, last night made a further move to keep the water question alive. He offered resolutions looking to the organization of a company to construct the Holley works and to take a supply of water from the river. He named in the resolution as corporators the gentlemen of the committee who made the report, not we suppose, that they desired to take such a position or that the alderman specially preferred them to any others who might be named, but rather to get something tangible before the Board for action. His resolution also provided to give the company, if organized, the necessary rights in the streets and the same sum for water for public use as had been offered year after year to the old company.

The resolution is now before the Council and the public. The subject is one of immense importance to this city. Let it have the serious consideration of all, and that immediately. Ald. Stone's action is not one moment too soon. Whatever is done must be under the sanction of the Legislature, and there is but a month of the session left. If that body adjourns without action on this question, the question of water lies over a whole year, and the hour for relief to our people comes a year later.

We believe it is for the true interest of Rochester that good and substantial water works, with iron mains, be constructed to Hemlock Lake, even at a cost of two millions of dollars, and for such we will go in heartily. But if this deadly incubus—fear of taxation—that sits upon the enterprise of this town, is to defeat the more expensive and better plan, we favor as a substitute the Holley works, with the river as a source of supply. That will afford us water to quench fires and power to apply it—lessen the cost of insurance—cleanse our sewers—water our gardens—supply our closets—quench the thirst of our animals and even of those persons who are not so delicate in stomach as to require the distilled dews of heaven to slake the thirst excited by the use of beverages of the vilest kinds.

Give us water—if not the best, the best that we can have!