

Cleveland Water Works, No. 5.

The attention of the Engineers of our city Water Works, has been called to the claims of the Indestructible Cement Pipes, and the report of Messrs. Stuart and Marsh to the Rochester Water Company, has been left with him for examination. The extracts from said report, copied in the preceding articles on this subject, furnish only a few of the many testimonials contained in that report, in which the whole subject is fully and ably discussed.

The inquiry naturally arises in the mind of the reader of these articles, why has not the Cement pipe been adopted in the Cleveland Water Works? Though unable to answer that question, the writer can state a few significant facts. Our City Water Works Engineer came from Cincinnati, the place of his former residence, to Cleveland. The contract for iron pipes is let to a Cincinnati firm, one member of which has spent considerable time, during the last year, in Cleveland, and has been on intimate terms with said Engineer.

The law providing for the organization of cities and incorporated villages, requires "that the Trustees of Water Works, before entering into any contract for work to be done, the estimated cost of which shall exceed one hundred dollars, shall cause at least two weeks notice to be given in one or more of the daily papers, published in said city, that proposals will be received by said Trustees for the performing of such work, which shall be specified in such notice, &c."

The law compels open competition for all jobs connected with the construction of Water Works, even down to a *hundred dollars*, in order that the work may be done at fair rates, and that none of the people's money be squandered.

If two weeks notice is required on jobs of one hundred dollars or more, on contracts amounting to one hundred thousand dollars or more, the notice should be not merely two weeks nor two months, but at least six months, and in all the daily papers of the city. There are but few business firms in the manufacture of cast iron in this city or in any western city, able, on short notice, to take a contract for a hundred thousand dollars of iron pipe, in addition to their ordinary business; hence the advertisement should be widely circulated throughout the country, and should give sufficient time to enable eastern iron manufacturers, having ample capital and every facility for doing work cheap, to put in bids.

Now what are the facts? Notice for proposals for 2000 tons of cast iron water pipe (amounting at the Engineer's estimate to \$120,000) was inserted on the fourth page of the *Plain Dealer*, bearing date May 23, 1854, limiting the time for submitting proposals to June 7th, *just two weeks*, being the shortest time allowed by law. Said notice was taken out of the paper after the 7th for two days, the 8th and 9th, and inserted on the 10th, with the following note immediately under it.

"NOTICE."

"The Trustees of Water Works have concluded to extend the time of bidding for the above work until the 1st of August, 1854.

By order of the Board.

F. R. SCOWDEN, Engineer."

Notwithstanding the above notice of extension of time for bids to August 1st, and in the face of it, the contract, which was nearly perfected prior to June 7th, was closed with James McCammon & Co., Cincinnati House, and the announcement was made in the *Plain Dealer* of June 19th, and the aforesaid notices for proposals and extension of time were discontinued.

It was about the time when the contract was closed, that the editor of the *Plain Dealer*, having freely offered his columns for the publication of anything adapted to enlighten the public mind on the subject, and having published two, of the four articles prepared on that subject, positively refused to publish the other two.

The notices for proposals should have been in the *four* daily papers of the city, especially in the official paper, conspicuously displayed for months, that parties at a distance might have an opportunity to bid for the job. Why it was not thus inserted is better known to those who caused its publication than to the writer.

The foregoing statements are made, not to show that the contract price for cast iron pipes is too high, nor that the firm getting the contract is not competent, and amply responsible for a faithful performance; for the reverse may be, and doubtless is true: but they do show, if not a reason for adopting cast iron, that there was some degree of haste in closing the contract.