

A BLOW AT PHILADELPHIA.

Councils yesterday rushed through a resolution calculated to inflict the most serious injury on the business interests of our city. We allude to the act authorizing the Chief Engineer of the Water Department to place water-meters in all our large manufacturing establishments and hotels. These contrivances are for the ostensible purpose of measuring the exact amount of water used. Our already-over-taxed manufactures are to pay for these machines, and their cost is considerable. All the makes of water-meters thus far tested have proved worthless; the best of them soon become clogged with the sediment deposited by the water, and none of them register accurately. And wherever they have been tried they have been voted unmitigated nuisances. A few of them are in use in New York, and those afflicted with them are using all means within their reach to get rid of them.

Of course, the water meter business means a fat job for some of the favorites of the Water Department. The city is not to pay for them, urged the friends of the measure. No! But those who make our city are. And they certainly have left some rights which even the all-powerful Water Department must respect. The bill was rushed through both Chambers in most unseemly haste; its importance was not understood or ignored by the members. It now behooves the Mayor to step in between the meter jobbers and our most useful citizens. A measure of this importance can certainly not escape a veto from the Mayor. A great manufacturing centre, our city leads free water above all things, and any attempt to tax it is a direct blow at Philadelphia's prosperity. It should rather be

the aim of our municipal legislators to have the water supply as encumbered as is the air we breathe. What the atmosphere is to the human respiratory organs, water is to our factories. The meters will, therefore, interfere seriously with their usefulness. Will Mayor Fox permit the stifling process inaugurated in Council to be consummated? We hope and believe that he will ward off this blow at Philadelphia's prosperity.