

THE WATER RATES.

A Reduction Recommended by the Special Committee.

Ald. Stephens has prepared the draft of a report which he intends submitting at the next meeting of the Special Committee on Water Rates for its approval. In it he aims at the following conclusions:—In view of the fact that water is a prime necessary of life and an important factor in promoting the health of citizens, your committee are of opinion that the time has arrived for a revision of the tariff in the direction of relieving the taxpayers as much as possible from any temptations to economize in the free use of an article of absolute necessity for their comfort and welfare. We therefore recommend that the present tariff be revised, and the following tariff substituted:—

On rentals up to and inclusive of \$100 per annum the proposed new rate will be \$4, whereas the present rate is \$5 to \$10.75. Rentals of \$200, new rate \$10, present rate \$11 to \$17.75. Rentals of \$300, new rate \$15, present rate \$18.50 to \$25 to \$50. Rentals of \$400, new rate \$20, present rate \$26 to \$32.75. Rentals up to and including \$600, new rate \$30, present rate \$34.25 to \$47.75. Rentals up to and including \$800, new rate \$40, present rate \$50.75 to \$62.75. Rentals up to and including \$1,000, new rate \$60, present rate \$66.50 to \$77.75. Rentals up to and including \$2,000, new rate \$120, present rate \$85 to \$152.75.

The above calculation is based upon the statistics of 1888.

According to this tariff, the reduction in revenue would be \$137,651. The surplus of 1889 was \$131,447, the revenue of 1888 having been \$375,300 from the rate on dwellings. By assessing the cost of pipe laying in new streets according to frontage, the cost of a pipe not exceeding eight inches, and by assessing vacant lots a moderate water rate, the deficiency would be largely made up.

Water rates should be collected quarterly in advance.

The present system of assessing each tenant in an office building for a water closet should be abandoned, and only the actual number of closets charged for. In office buildings the water closets should be charged to the proprietor. Water closets in dwellings of an annual rental of \$200 or under would be free. Water closets in dwellings of over \$200 rental should be charged at the rate of \$4 for only one water closet in each dwelling, any additional water closet to be free of charge.

The real grievance with regard to the charge in water rates has been more on the higher rentals, say from \$100 up to \$300, than on the lower rentals. The rates below \$150 are comparatively low, and the tariff was originally compiled to make this low rate the least possible.

Ald. Stephens proposes to submit, on his own responsibility, a motion to put the water tax upon real estate according to frontage.

SOUND ADVICE.

A Free Church Minister's Address to the Railway Strikers.

The Rev. John Robertson, of the McCrie-Roxburgh Church, Edinburgh, lately addressed the men on strike in the hall of the Waverley Temperance Hotel, Perth. There was a large attendance. After devotional exercises Mr. Robertson said that as a servant of Jesus Christ he appeared among them on God's holy day. He was delighted to be asked to come and address them. When God came to this earth, before He could appear as a true Redeemer, He had to serve His apprenticeship and put in His time as a bona fide workman, and when the Lord appeared on earth for His life work He held up His hands with the trade mark of the hard calluses of honest toil upon them. Those who despised workmen and their movement desired to despise Jesus Christ. He believed that the Lord would have been where he (Mr. Robertson) was that day. For who would refuse their request for shorter hours? More than ten hours at their anxious, dangerous work dulled their mind and faculties, and when mistakes happened the men were pulled up and all the blame put on them. Above all men in the country that ought to have strength and freedom from that fatigue that dulled the mind, railway men ought to have it. Labor as well as capital had its rights. In this country there had been too much of the gospel that was no gospel, that all the rights were to privilege, that all the possibility of combination was to be on the side of capital. What was the difference between the honest union of working railway servants and a railway board of directors? He did not see what made it. Why did the railway companies, through their managers—in that cock-a-doodle-doo that they were sad to find in the telegrams from managers all over the country—refuse to recognize the men's legitimate union? If he had been a workman and had gone to the manager

with his grievance, he would have been afraid of being spotted and on the very first pretext being sent adrift. (Hear, hear.) The day had come when the unionism of labor was to be recognized, and labor had as much right to combine as capital. They could not put back the hands of the clock. He advised them to keep together. The sympathies of Christ's people were all on their side. The time had come, and it rested with the men to be united and firm in their reasonable demand that their union should be recognized. After congratulating the men on strike on the manner in which they had conducted themselves during the past week, he said that they had the sympathy of every one whose sympathy was worth having, and hoped that that for the last time in Scotland would be the battleground of the question whether workmen were to be recognized as in a union, with a power and force justly equivalent to the union and the corporation of capital. He prayed God that those at headquarters would come down off their high horse. The stand-offishness of the railway companies was nauseous in the public nostrils. Parliament recognized their union as a legitimate corporation, and why should the railway companies not do so? Let them keep on, and he believed the struggle was very nearly at an end. In his opinion the men were in the right, and the right would win.

Women's Rubbers at S. H. Parker's, Wool lined, for 49 cents.

Men's Wool lined Rubbers at S. H. Parker's for 60 cents.

LABOR A MAN'S OWN PROPERTY.

I will turn now to the rights of labor. I am not going to be communistic, and I have no will to be revolutionary. Adam Smith says: "The property which every man has in his own labor, as it is the original foundation of all other property, so it is the most sacred and inviolable." The patrimony of a poor man lies in the strength and dexterity of his hands, and to hinder him from employing this strength and dexterity in what manner he thinks proper, without injury to his neighbor, is a plain violation of this most sacred property. It is altogether and entirely personal. The strength and skill that are in a man are as much his own as his lifeblood; and that skill and strength which he has as his personal property no man may control. He has this property in him. Lawyers say a man's will is ambulatory, that is, it travels with him all over the world. So the workman carries this property with him as ready money. He can buy with it, he can sell it. He can exchange it. He may set a price on it. And this ready money which he carries with him he may carry to every market all over the world, and what is more he will not be impeded by any foreign currency. No coins, no difficult calculations, decimal or otherwise, obstruct his exchange with other nations of the world. And further, in one sense it is inexhaustible, except that we have all limits and dimensions, and our strength and skill are bounded by what we are. But there it is, perennial, going on always through his life till old age diminishes it; then what remains in him is to be honored.—Cardinal Manning.

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