

that fires and the inefficient means for their extinction cost over \$31,000 on an average yearly, and as the town increased in size the liability in losses by fire would have also increased.

Now no scheme could have been devised for supplying water for the rapid extinction of fires when they occurred, and which at the same time would diminish the devastating effects by one-half, *and which would not cost in the first instance more than one-half of the annual loss by fire, and which to be kept in efficient working operation won't exceed the hundred and twenty-fifth part of the previous annual loss by fire*, other than such a scheme as Mr. Waterous has invented. The scheme devised and submitted to the consideration of the Town Council by C. H. Waterous, Esq., has secured the approval of some of the first Engineers in this country as well as in the State of New York.

The system of water works introduced, so modified as to be almost entirely new, is the same as that which has proved so eminently successful in Lockport, Ogdensburg, and other cities in the United States.

In 1860 Mr. Waterous made a proposition to the Council, the same in substance as that which they accepted last year, but at that time the Council were not in a position to receive and act upon it, and therefore the matter was abandoned. Mr. Waterous, however, with the enterprise which has always characterised him, repeated the proposition again, when it was more favourably received, and prominent gentlemen formed a joint stock company with a capital of \$20,000, in shares of \$20 each, for the purpose of carrying out Mr. Waterous' views, and with the understanding that the corporation should guarantee eight per cent. per annum on the amount up to \$18,500.

Waterous' system of Fire Protection and Water Supply has been patented, and is one of his own invention. It is substantially the same, with improvements, as the "Holly System," which is being extensively introduced into the cities and towns of the United States. Mr. Waterous' system dates its inception to the year 1860, whereas, the "Holly System" was not introduced until 1863.

If we may place any reliance on the opinions of such Engineers as Kivas Tully, Esq., Chief Engineer of the Ontario Government, and others well qualified to pronounce judgment on such works, our system is not surpassed, if equalled, when we consider its comparative inexpensiveness and proved efficiency, by any other now in existence.

Since the works have been in successful operation there has scarcely been a fire in Brantford, and those which have occurred have been almost immediately extinguished. *The result is that the insurance companies have reduced their rates of premium from 20 to 30 per cent., and the bad reputation which*