

# THE HASTINGS ART STUDIO



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## OUR WATER SUPPLY.

Alderman Dwyer and other old fogies in the City Council still contend that the city water supply is as it ever was. To this statement we take the most emphatic exception. The people do the same, or why is it that so many of them refuse to drink it except when disguised as tea or coffee, or possibly still further adulterated with spirits in order to kill the bacteria with which it is generally believed to be infested? Moreover, if its quality were good, would so many people supply themselves daily with water from the springs which are on the outskirts of the city or purchase fresh, pure water from those enterprising individuals who make it their business to peddle it from house to house. Something has to be done to meet the absolute necessities of the situation.

What shall it be? It is needless to look to Alderman Dwyer and some others for a reply. We may say in a few words that the present condition of things is due to the manner in which everything connected with the water service has been allowed to get out of repair. Long ago, the gentleman at that time in charge of the department protested in his annual report against the manner in which everything was being allowed to get out of repairs, the proceeds of the water rents being turned into the general revenue and expended on streets and drains. Now the public are realizing what was then anticipated, whereas had heed been given to the warnings, matters would never have come to the present pass. And as in connection with the water service so is it in almost every department of the city. We want more men and fewer sheep elected to the City Council. We have said sheep; but, in the opinion of some people, there are not a few of an altogether different breed, who masquerade in the soft curly clothing of the guileless animal.

Meantime, we notice that the city fathers contemplate appealing to the citizens to be empowered to expend \$35,000 on improvements to the water supply system, but before such a sum is—possibly—thrown away on Elk Lake, the corporation ought to secure the services of an engineer of reputation to advise them as to the best means of supplying the city with water. Without the advice of such an expert, it will be useless for them to apply to the ratepayers for authority to raise money to improve the water works. Will, we may ask, Elk Lake be able to supply the city requirements—say in fifty years? If not, then the proper thing to do is to begin over again.—*Commercial Journal.*

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