

The distribution system consists of 185 miles of pipe, with 1,200 hydrants.

A Softening Plant has been installed, but is at present not being used.

Fire Service Water Works System.—In the year 1905, the City of Winnipeg was subject to very excessive fire insurance charges, due largely to the fact that the development of the Water Works system had not kept pace with the extraordinary growth of the City. As a means of relief, and to place the City in the highest class of fire risks, the City Council, backed by the Board of Trade, had a thorough investigation made of fire fighting Water Works.

Committees of the Council with the City Engineer made several visits to the principal Cities in the United States and Canada where special systems were in use, and after a careful consideration, determined that the gas engine pumping plant offered, for the conditions of Winnipeg, the most economical and satisfactory solution of the problem of fire protection.

It was essential, from the Fire Underwriters' point of view, that any plant adopted should be provided with two independent sources of power. Electricity would have been an ideal power, if the above condition could have been fulfilled. Steam was, on account of the heavy standby losses, out of the question. It may be explained that the pumping station of the Domestic Water Works System is about two miles from the business centre of the City, and from the bank of the Red River, from which the water for fire protection was to be obtained. Had it been