

per annum is a trifle less than 27½ cents a light per night—for every night in the year. We now pay between 75 and 80 cents a light per night for only a portion of the time; if I remember rightly for 24 or 26 nights in each month.

Should the Council see fit to take over the entire electric lighting of the city from the present Company by purchase, the consumers would be benefited in a like ratio and would get light at considerably less than half of what it costs them at present. I throw this out as an idea worthy of the consideration of our City Fathers who would then have full control of the overhead electric wires and could put them underground when it suited them without having to fight the companies in the courts, as would otherwise be the case.

My estimate of the value of the present Water Works and franchise includes a sum of \$195,000 required to extend the mains to 25 miles, should the works be purchased by the City.

The revenue estimated from 1500 horse power to be leased at \$20 each per annum is exceedingly low, as the cost of steam power now used in Winnipeg ranges from \$60 to \$300 each horse power. Thus no one now using steam would hesitate a moment to take advantage of the cheaper motive power offered by the City. Let the opponents of the City undertaking the work ponder on the difference I have herein shown and figure it out. It reads something like this:

Difference in street lighting say 200 lights at 27½ instead of 75 cents per night, one year	\$34,675.00
Difference in water service, say 4000 consumers at \$20 instead of \$35	60,000.00
Present cost of flushing sewers	3,000.00
Improvement in future flushing under City control, value at least	10,000.00

Total.....\$107,675.00

Out of 665 places of which I hold reports, I find that 290 own and have their own water works, under the management and control of the following civic boards.

- 100 under boards of water commissioners;
- 35 under council committees;
- 7 under public works departments;
- 24 under town or city council direct;
- 4 under city department of water;
- 1 under street improvement committee;
- 2 under fire committee of city council;
- 1 under prudential committee of town;

- 1 under city executive board;
- 1 under department of city works;
- 14 under board of water works committee;
- 11 under city or town committee;
- 23 under water works trustees;
- 13 under town or city water board;
- 4 under borough;
- 5 under fire water commissioners;
- 4 under village water commissioners;
- 1 under fire committee and superintendent;
- 2 under board of aldermen;
- 1 under commission;
- 3 under fire district;
- 9 under city or town direct;
- 1 under committee of water supply;
- 1 under board of public affairs;
- 12 under town or city trustees;
- 1 owned by city, operated by gas company.

Singularly I find that a firm of Moffat et al, own and operate no less than 19 water works with a bonded debt thereon of \$1,793,000.00, on which the interest is quoted at 6% per annum and upwards. I also find what is much more to the point that in quite a number of cities when the water works are owned by and under direct control of the civic authorities, the rate of interest is very much less than where owned by private companies.

NAME OF PLACE.	Populat'n.	Bonded Debt	Rate of Interest.
Altoona, Pa.	29,546	\$259,000	4 per cent.
Allentown, Pa.	25,000	110,000	4 to 6 p. c.
Brookline, Mass.	9,700	661,000	3 to 7 p. c.
Buffalo, N. Y.	250,000	100,000	4½ p. c.
Ballston, Spa.	5,000	50,000	4 per cent.
Brandon, Vermont.	3,256	35,000	4 per cent.
Chambersburg.	9,000	45,000	4½ p. c.
Charlotte, Mich.	4,000	40,000	3½ p. c.
Clinton, Mass.	10,000	250,000	4 per cent.
Cobleskill, N. Y.	1,800	65,000	3½ p. c.
Dover, Del.	4,000	20,000	4½ p. c.
Dayton, Ohio.	60,000	602,000	4 and 6 p.

I could fill a page of your paper with just such evidence, that where the object is water supply or works, towns of even 1800 inhabitants can obtain all the money they want at 3% or a trifle over. The inhabitants of the little town of Cobleskill, N. Y., appears willing that a debt of over \$36 for every man, woman and child within the Municipality should be incurred rather than trust to any private company. They deserve credit for it. In examining the reports from which I quote, I fail to find a single instance where a private company is rated at less 5% (and only one at that rate) and from that up to 8 per cent interest on their works. This fact speaks volumes in favor of the city operating its own works and power. More anon. I

WINNIPEG.