

making the Company accept at once, unconditionally, the terms of his report, although it gave them less than \$4000 a year for what they had asked \$6000 a year and could only be got before this report to reduce to \$5600 a year.

What is the secret of a man of such standing and experience, who had rendered such signal service to the City for a moderate fee, being passed by for a much inferior man? The one has been engaged in, I believe, nearly every important arbitration as to water works purchases in Ontario and been consulted in more valuation of water works and superintended building of more such works than any other man, and the other has no recognized standing as an expert of the kind needed.

Was the pliable man got and the expert shunned lest the works would be condemned and the sacred 8% Water Company suffer?

The City Council should, if acting, have moved independently of the Board of Trade Council, got the report of the ablest expert, on present value of the works, what they need to improve them and what new works would cost, and submitted to the Company an offer in accordance with such report. Then if the Company should refuse it or arbitration, go ahead and build new work, if time opportune, and you say so.

Do you believe the Company that came down \$1600 a year or thirty per cent on their demands when faced with such a report would hold out for an exorbitant price if faced thus? Thirty per cent off present demands probably would be near right.

Where are you going to get the water? Wouldn't it be worth while to think of it before you place in the hands of these men the power to plunge you into untold debt? Since last by-law voted on, taxes have risen from at least twenty-two mills to twenty-four mills and bid fair to go higher.

The Company after a long struggle must now pay on value of works assessed for this year at \$50,000 with pending appeal that may raise it to \$75,000 and if held to their Jones-Preston valuation might be put at \$100,000.

Every ratepayer must help by his direct taxes to supply this loss of revenue of \$1,200, \$1,800 or \$2,400, as the case may be, on our 24 mills on the dollar rate. Yet you are told you won't lose a cent if not consuming water.

It may be nothing to the non-taxable free water fellows who tell you this. Nay more, your property as in some places may be taxed for water whether you take it or not. Windsor is one of these and hence cheap water. And you won't get free water for fire purposes or street or sewer uses either.

The places owning such plants charge themselves or their water commissioners do so, *hydrant rental*.

In the case of Berlin that is now (over and above special rates

for streets, parks, &c.).....	\$ 5,615 00
St. Thomas now.....	5,314 00
Brantford in 1898 (last report not available).....	12,611 00