

## The Water Service.

INSPECTOR GENERAL HUTCHINGS  
REPLIES TO MAYOR GOSLING.

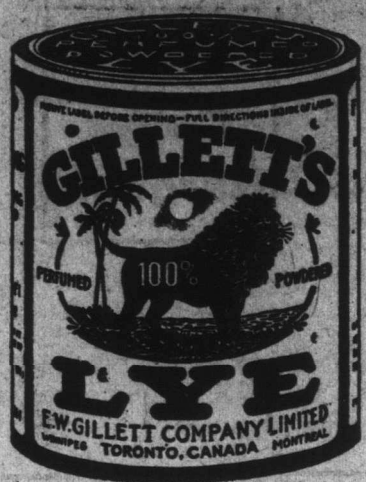
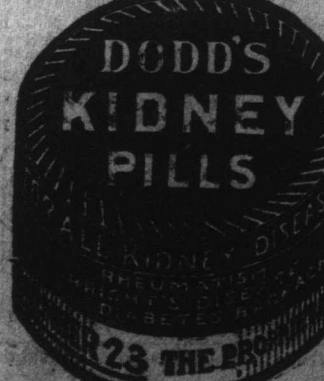
(COPY)

W. G. Gosling, Esq., Mayor.

Dear Sir,—Your communication of the 15th instant, came to hand on the morning of the 18th, and I have carefully perused its contents. You need not have apologized for the severe tone of your letter. Nothing different was expected by me. It is a long time since you replied to any one daring to express an opinion contrary to yours, in any other way. The most evident, and the most lamentable feature of your communication, is your want of knowledge of surrounding circumstances, and your readiness to accept the opinions of several of your officials who were not at scene of the fire until nearly an hour after the alarm came in; and your readiness to publish, without taking the trouble to confirm, the incorrect reports and rumours set on foot by some of the same individuals. Why didn't your Engineer or yourself confer with either Superintendent Dunn or myself and procure a correct statement of facts before rushing the Engineer's report into the public press. If you thought I would permit the Engineer to "slam" the firemen and not stop in to defend them, you were much mistaken. You sought the publicity so don't attempt to throw the onus upon me as an excuse for your "star" production.

The reports on the Palace fire referred to the shortage of water. Mr. Ryan's report attempts to throw the blame for conditions on the firemen's handling of the fire. The question is: Was the water supply sufficient to cope with the fire on the top flat of the building. It is not a question of did the firemen do this and the other thing? What the firemen did or did not do can be dismissed with a statement which cannot be contradicted; no matter how they acted or what appliances they used, sufficient water was not there, nor could it be got there within the first 20 minutes after the alarm; at the end of which time the two streams had to be taken to the flat below. I was present when this was done. The fire was coming down through the ceiling of the third flat at the front of the building. It was then that Mr. Dunn went to the Central Hall and phoned Mr. Ryan in the hope that the water supply could be increased, and the two streams referred to with the Campus and Cathedral yard streams added would successfully prevent the fire destroying the third flat and getting into the library; with the addition of the fifth stream the latter was accomplished, but by a very close shave.

You are incorrect as to the pressure at the different hydrants. The Garrison Hill, Campus and Cathedral Yard are practically alike. But why should it be necessary for the firemen to stop a moment to consider whether or not one hydrant could give a few pounds of pressure more than another? The presence of a hydrant is an invitation to "couple on," and should be a guarantee that a stream from it is capable of reaching any fire in its immediate neighbourhood. You are also misleading as to the distances of hydrants the measurements given by you are from the hydrants to the nearest outside points of the Palace. Why didn't you give the measurement of the length of hose required to go in the building up to the seat of the fire on the top flat? The fire at that point could be fought no other way and the length of hose required was six lengths of 50 feet or 300 feet from each of the hydrants. They would all take the same with vide in favour of the Garrison Hill connection, because it was a straight run into the Palace front door and up through the main hallways. The same might be said of the Barrack's Yard stream, excepting it took 100 feet additional hose. Either one of these streams could be brought to the point of the fire's origin in half the time it would take to bring a stream from either the Campus or the Cathedral Yard hydrant, both the latter would have to be brought by ladder or hoisted up by ropes to the top of the annex, a height of 25 feet or more before they could even be brought into the building. The stream from the Cathedral Yard hydrant was laid for 3rd story fighting. It never was played on the top flat; it could barely reach the rear eave. It was played in on the third story through the East windows and did good work. The flow of this nozzle was better than the others due to the fact that it took less hose to reach the point it was playing from, and it had less elevation. All Mr. Ryan's talk, Mr. Nairn's



lengths of hose twists here and twists there, are only so much carping criticism from men inexperienced in fire talk and your own about extra fighting. I defy either of you to find a fire in any part of the world, being fought without similar hose conditions existing.

One of your criticisms by innuendoes, may prove a "boomerang." You published a report of the firemen shoveling out an old wooden hydrant in the Palace Yard, that is untrue. They didn't have to, nor did they want to. The hydrant referred to was exposed, with not six inches of snow around it. But the firemen with the assistance of some of the Christian Brothers did have to shovel out the Campus hydrant, which should have been done by the City Council employees. When you suggest the possibility of using the Chemical and the Steam Engine, you further demonstrate your incompetency to express an opinion on the subject of this fire. The firemen didn't require to leave the Fire Hall to see the fire was beyond the Chemical fighting stage; and the Steam Engine couldn't produce sufficient pressure for fully 20 minutes to throw an effective stream at the top flat. In the Palace fire, as in all fires the first 15 minutes are the ones that count. The fire had been burning sometime before discovered, and within 20 minutes was down to the flat below, where a stream from the Steam Engine would be of less service than the two streams put on. When you speak of putting a stream of water from the Campus hydrant over the College, you withhold the fact, that the test you refer to was at a time when the hydrant was under a summer pressure of over 85 lbs., not a frosty winter night pressure of 50 lbs. An 85 lb. hydrant pressure through one length of hose (50 feet) with a seven-eighths nozzle, will give a stream of over 70 feet while a 50 lb. pressure would give only about 45 feet. Neither of the streams used at the Palace, operated outside the building could more than reach the eave.

In Mr. Ryan's report he stated the friction loss on 300 feet of hose, is 22 lbs. In your letter you state "The loss per 100 feet on single line of hose is 8.3 lbs." In other words the loss on 300 feet is 24.9 lbs. I did not estimate the elevation pressure loss at 23 1/2 lbs. on 53 feet 6-inches elevation which I added to Mr. Ryan's 22 lbs., leaving a running pressure at the nozzle of 4 1/2 lbs. From the following telegraph message you will observe, that my elevation loss 23 1/2 was practically confirmed, while both yourself and Mr. Ryan are entirely at sea in your friction less estimates. Evidently your authorities do not refer to rubber-lined hose. These messages passed between Mr. Fred Sheppard, B. Sc., M.E. and myself. Mr. Sheppard is the Technical Editor of a standard magazine "Fire and Water Engineering." He is also the author of a valuable up-to-date work called "Practical Hydraulics for Firemen," and is unquestionably one of the outstanding authorities on this subject on this side of the Atlantic.

March 12th, 1921.  
Technical Editor, Fire & Water Engineering, New York.

Please write quickly answer to following. What would be the running pressure at nozzle of stream taken from a hydrant of fifty pounds pressure. No pump used. Length of hose three hundred feet brought inside and up to fourth floor of building. Nozzle at elevation of fifty three feet, six above hydrant level. Size of nozzle seven-eighths hose two and a half inch rubber lined. Please give also loss of pressure by friction and loss by elevation separately.

(Sgd.) INSPECTOR GENERAL.

March 15th, 1921.  
Inspector General Constabulary.

Assuming hose to be new, nozzle pressure equals eighteen point six pounds. Loss of pressure due to elevation (back pressure) equals twenty three pounds. Loss of pressure due to frictions equals eight point four pounds.

(Sgd.) FRED SHEPPARD.

March 15th, 1921.  
Mr. Fred Sheppard,

Technical Editor, Fire & Water Engineering.

Thanks for reply. Please inform me what would be the difference in loss if hose between three and six years old, also what would be the losses if nozzle one inch instead of seven-eighths. Would extremely frosty weather further increase friction loss. What length of streams would eight-

teen point six give with seven-eighths and one inch nozzles.

(Sgd.) INSPECTOR GENERAL.

March 16th, 1921.  
Inspector General Constabulary.

Personal.

Hose 2 to 6 years old may have friction 15 to 30 per cent. greater than new hose. If one inch nozzle used friction loss equals 10 point 8 pounds. Cold weather not likely to increase friction loss appreciably. Effective reach with one inch nozzle at 18 point 6 pounds about 19 feet with seven eighth inch nozzle twenty feet.

(Sgd.) FRED SHEPPARD.

With pressure at the hydrant at 50 lbs. add a loss of 23 pounds for 53 1/2 feet elevation, and 8.4 pound loss for friction, the stream from a seven-eighths nozzle would reach 20 feet; but there is a further friction loss of at least 1.6 lbs. 20 per cent. for hose between 3 and 6 years old, and an additional elevation loss of 2 lbs. due to omitted elevation of 4 feet from the floor to the point of the nozzle, which leaves according to Mr. Sheppard, a stream that would reach about 18 ft. barely power enough to reach across an ordinary room. You say the loss on St. James lines is 2.3 lbs. per 100 feet, and that by doubling the first hose line to a Siamese connection, the friction would be cut down and we could have attained necessary nozzle pressure on the top flat. Mr. Sheppard says the friction loss so saved is 3.2 pounds on the whole line, or about 2 1/2 feet longer stream. Wouldn't two streams 15 feet long be infinitely better than one 21 ft., 6 inch hose, and give almost twice as much water.

March 16th, 1921.  
Fred Sheppard, Esq., B.Sc.

Technical Editor, Fire & Water Engineering.

Referring again to my message of March 12th. If two streams taken from same hydrant of fifty pounds pressure run side by side for two hundred and fifty feet then Siamese connection made to fifty feet single line reaching to elevation mentioned in former message, would pressure and flow be more than single line. If any difference what would be the elevation loss and friction loss of this lay out.

(Sgd.) INSPECTOR GENERAL.

March 19th, 1921.  
Inspector General Constabulary.

Loss of nozzle pressure due to elevation of nozzle remains constant for any particular elevation irrespective of number of lines feeding it or diameter of hose. Gain nozzle pressure through using two two hundred and fifty foot lines into one 50 foot line all two and one half inch hose is three point two pounds for seven-eighths inch nozzle, or, nozzle pressure is twenty one point eight pounds. For one inch tip gain is four point five pounds or nozzle pressure equal twenty point seven pounds.

(Sgd.) FRED SHEPPARD.

In reply to my question "If the main referred to, could not carry two streams without serious reduction in pressure, why has the Council placed 6 hydrants within a radius of 400 feet all taken from it," you reply, "The hydrants in the Campus and Cathedral Yard were put there to protect that very important and valuable group of buildings." I know that, and rightly so, in fact there should be more hydrants there. But why answer my question in this way? What contemptible suggestion are you trying to make. What "red herring" are you trying to draw across the track? Why beg the question? Tell the public straight. If as Mr. Ryan says, a second stream cannot be taken from the same 6 inch main without one materially affecting the other, why have 6 or 4 or even 2 hydrants within 100 or 200 feet of one another? You have asked the Minister of Justice, for the appointment of a Commission, to enquire into the manner in which this fire was handled by the firemen. Why enquire into the actions of the firemen only? Why not enquire into the insufficiency of the water supply? Why not enquire into the refusal of the Engineer to accede to our request? which was contrary to the section of the Fire Department Act, which makes it incumbent upon him to obey our orders or be subject to fine. If you will ask for an enquiry on all three points, then I will join

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you. Don't you think, Mr. Mayor, it is time you climbed down off your high horse? That you considered what is required is combined effort to give public protection? Every one, except yourself and some of your associates and officials, is satisfied that the Firemen did the best possible under the existing conditions. You and your Engineer in particular are not, because you have like everything to have, to realize your water supply is not, what you thought it was, and can't accomplish what you claim.

Now that this has been demonstrated beyond doubt, I want to make a suggestion. Let your Water Department and the Fire Department get together; procure the advice of the Government Engineer, Mr. Hall; and avail of the valuable experience of Mr. Frank Bradshaw, and devise a remedy for the situation; and further, consider such questions as the removal of hydrants from inadequate mains, the proper supervision of the hydrants, a proper system of notification by the Water Department to the Fire Department of hydrant additions and removals, the opening up of streets dangerous to fire apparatus, and many other kindred subjects. Such a Conference Mr. Mayor, will do more to protect the citizens property and reduce insurance, than miles of any argument you can use to persuade Insurance Companies, that present conditions are adequate protection, and justify reduction. Get away from this newspaper discussion, and think my suggestion over.

Yours very truly,  
CHAS. H. HUTCHINGS,  
Inspector General Constabulary.  
March 21, 1921.



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