

pressure on the lower levels and notwithstanding frequent cleaning of mains, which has been going on now for about eight years, the conditions were so unfavorable at the beginning of the present year that the Fire Underwriters took the bull by the horns and increased the fire insurance rates practically 40 per cent. on all commercial risks, 25 per cent. of which remains operative until a sufficient fire pressure is obtainable.

This action, which is much in the nature of a "hold up" had the desired effect. The Council which has been dodging the main issue of the water question for nearly a quarter of a century were compelled to act. In the meantime they had neglected to obtain the water rights of the Mispec. These were in the market for years and were finally purchased by the St. John Sulphite company for \$1,500. Of course, this was but one right, yet the city bid \$115,000 to get it the other day—now that the Sulphite company is bankrupt.

Instead of accepting the report of Mr. Murdoch which thoroughly covers the ground the Council engaged Messrs Snow & Barbour of Boston to report on the proposed extension. Mr. Barbour practically endorses all that was said by preceding engineers and gives the Council much valuable information which fortunately is to be acted on.

But in the years intervening between 1882 and 1904 the city has spent upwards of \$100,000 tinkering with the water supply. Half as much more would have carried the works to Lake Lattimer and built an intermediate reservoir 115 feet higher than at Little River which would have accomplished all that the present large expenditure will accomplish. The difference in spending the money in this way is that