

intensely cold and a violent gale was blowing from the Northwest. The danger from fire in the City on such a night was great and the result, with no water but such as was held in the Leinster street reservoir, was fearful to contemplate, and there was the additional danger of the soft ice or "finail" in the Gate House and culvert becoming solidified and cutting off the supply for an indefinite period. Prompt action was imperatively necessary at every risk and cost.

Early in the evening I notified the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department of the failure of the supply and in concert with him arranged to hold the water in the Leinster street reservoir for the protection of the "Black House" summit and a radius of say 1200 to 1500 feet therefrom. The stop cocks to meet this emergency were adjusted while search was being made for the cause of the stoppage. And here I may repeat what I have said on other occasions, that the water held in the reservoir is only valuable as a *supplemental* supply, in its own vicinity, and would not have been adequate to fill the empty pipes and furnish any continuous supply for fire purposes had such been required on the night in question; the requirements of the city have so far outgrown (during the last 43 years) its greatest capacity.

The necessary tools and appliances were collected at once and conveyances found for the men. By midnight the work of cleaning had commenced, and by 2 A. M. the inflow from the culvert had perceptibly increased. This gave encouragement to the men and the work of clearing was prosecuted with renewed vigor. The inflow continued to increase, and by 8 A. M. the greater part of the Gate House ice was gone and the freezing cold water which appeared to fill the culvert and Gate House well, had been displaced by warmer currents from under the ice covered parts of the reservoir.

Our City has been supplied with Lake and River water for fully *forty three* years (13 from Lily Lake and 30 from Little River,) and this is the first instance, during the whole of that time, of trouble arising from "*anchor ice*." The probable physical circumstances or causes which led to the interruption will