

handle these large currents and high voltages, and Toronto can well afford to wait the lapse of the few years now standing between her and Niagara power.

It will be noted that the mayor of Toronto puts the matter of a municipal plant on a commercial basis. So did Mayor Wurster, of Brooklyn, the question of city water works:

"The mayor was then asked if he believed it would be more advisable to buy the water supply for the city outright than to secure it by leasing of water privileges. In reply he said: 'It is purely a matter of business. If it can be shown that the city can buy water cheaper than the cost of pumping it then it would be profitable to buy it, for under such agreement the seller would have to deliver the water to the city. It is a purely business matter, the same as if a man in one line of business requires certain material in conducting that business. If he could buy it from a man who has a plant for manufacturing it, at a less cost than it would be for him to manufacture it himself, he would not be much of a business man if he did not avail himself of the opportunity to buy the material.'"

The commercial test is certainly as good as could be applied. There are others, but such plants must be judged by their fruits, and we must confess our inability to find other fruit, as a general thing, than deficit, or failure, or inefficiency, or obsolete apparatus, or all shortcomings mixed up together. Mr. Dodge, in our current issue, makes out a case for the Philadelphia gas works. All we will say, in comment, is that alarming figures were presented to the public before the lease of the works was made, and that

amongst other items, it was shown that one man in private gas works elsewhere was expected to do comfortably the work done by eight municipal workmen in Philadelphia. In 1883 a committee of the leading citizens presented a memorial to the Pennsylvania Legislature saying: "Philadelphia is now recognized as the worst-paved and worst-cleaned city in the civilized world. \* \* \* Inefficiency, waste, badly paved and filthy streets, unwholesome and offensive water, and slovenly and costly management have been the rule for years past throughout the city government." The little statement following Mr. Dodge's article shows that pretty much the same complaint—not by us however—is made to-day. It is the same everywhere, with a steadily downward pressure, no matter how good some administrations and some individual officers may prove. Just lately, the Lighting Commission in a western city has been standing up bravely against the desire of aldermen for more lights in their respective districts. Does anybody doubt that sooner or later, those lights or others equally needless will be strung up? The opportunity to bribe constituents in this fashion is a great temptation, and helps explain why municipal enterprises are so often costly and disastrous.—The Electrical Engineer, New York.

It is being urged upon the Minister of Militia, that the Government should carry out its original plan and enlarge the Toronto Armouries so as to provide quarters for local cavalry and artillery corps. Should the Government, as seems probable, decide to take action in this direction, there will be a number of valuable contracts opened.

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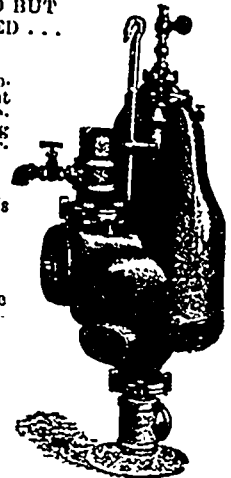
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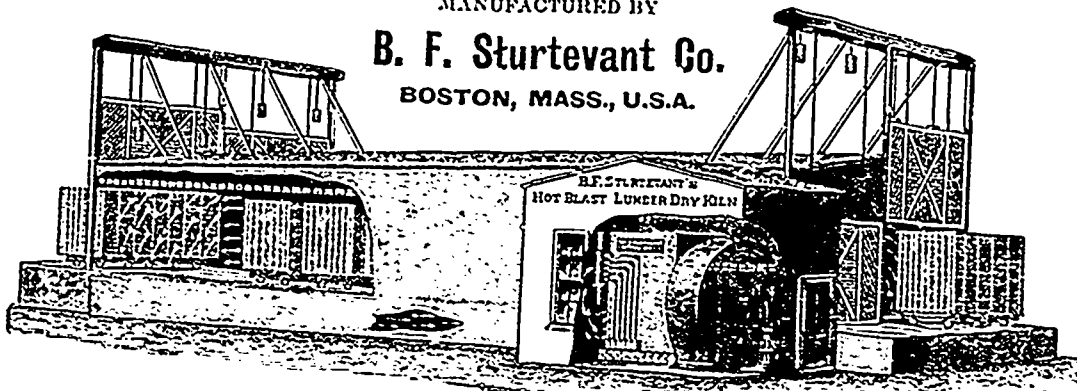
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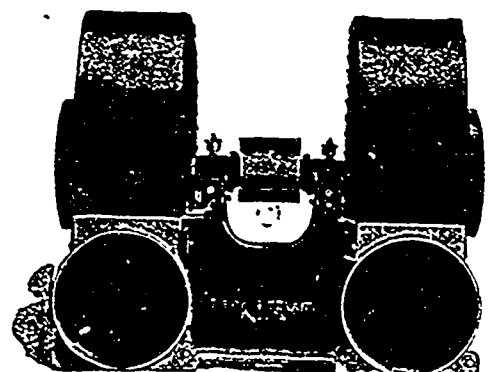
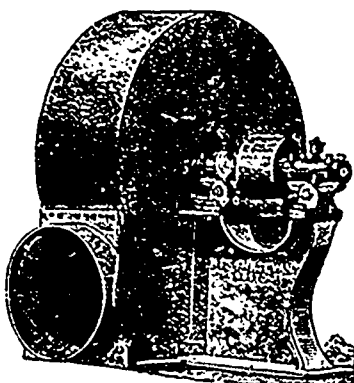
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