

MORE WATER FOR SALT LAKE CITY.

Committee's Address in Relation To the Proposed Bond Issue.

GREAT BENEFIT TO ACCRUE.

Means a Larger, Better, Healthier and More Prosperous Community—No Increased Taxation.

Whereas, The Committee of Citizens appointed by the Mayor, in conjunction with the Special Committee on Water Supply of this Council, have formulated an address to the taxpayers of this city for their consideration, prior to the Biennial election to be held on January 3rd, prox., therefore be it

Resolved, That the said address to the taxpayers be made a part of this resolution and adopted by this council as the plan for the proposed water increase; and be it further,

Resolved, That the Mayor be authorized to have the said address, together with this resolution, published in the press of this city and that the Mayor be further authorized to have the said address and copy thereof in plain, in every home and business houses in this city.

TO THE PROPERTY TAXPAYERS OF SALT LAKE CITY:

The City Council having ordered a special election to be held on January 3rd, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters, the proposition of the issuance of \$1,000,000.00, four per cent bonds, with which to obtain money to secure permanent and reliable water supply and to make necessary sewer extensions, it is deemed advisable that this address be given in the widest possible publicity among the people to be affected. The advantages thus will accrue to Salt Lake City and by favorable action upon the momentous question involved, are so manifold and so manifest, and the objections so few and so groundless, that there can be no doubt as to the wisdom of the issue when the taxpayers shall have passed upon the same at the polls.

The success of the plan means a Greater Salt Lake, a larger and richer city—the permanent growth and progress of our city for many years; one that now threatens to halt its expansion altogether unless it shall be satisfactorily disposed of. This is the time and the place.

It remains only for the taxpayers to ratify them. That done, the future of Salt Lake City will be assured. Naturally, every citizen will want to know just what is to be done, where the improvements are, and what the cost will be. On all of these points he will be given only accurate information based upon official records and obtained from the most conservative sources.

Under the law the city has the right to borrow for water, artificial light and sewer improvements, up to \$1,000,000. The proposition that the city council has submitted to be voted on is the issuance of \$1,000,000.00 in bonds, of which sum \$600,000.00, in bonds, will be utilized in securing permanent water supply, several times the volume of what we now have, and \$400,000.00 will be used for the southern and western part of the city, an improvement that would be worse than useless unless more water is secured to make it effectual.

By way of information the taxpayer will probably ask specifically how the interest is to be raised on this issue of bonds, and what it means in terms of taxation. This question will doubtless be more pleasing than he imagined. It may be stated first of all, that no increase of taxation is contemplated. An examination of the records of the city council, a statement covering a long period of years, proves conclusively that the revenues in that branch of the municipality alone are more than ample to pay the annual interest on the water works bonds.

Besides, these revenues are constantly increasing at a rate exceeding 5 per cent each year; and that, too, in the face of an inadequate water supply, which is the greatest curse of the city. The figures which follow entirely justify the conclusion that with a numerical augmentation of people, an increase in wealth and property improvement, and consequently greater taxpaying capacity, that there will be still greater revenue from this department.

For several years past there has been applied a flat average of over \$40,000 per month in water bills, however, redemption of scrip, increase of waterworks stores and reserve fund, every cent of which has been derived from the department itself, while the interest on the proposed bonds, will leave a margin of \$21,000. The water revenues beginning with the year 1900, are as follows:

1900	\$7,508.65
1901	102,810.42
1902	108,262.75
1903	112,885.90

And the records of 1903 disclose the interesting fact that there will be a proportionate increase in the same department this year. Surely, such a showing as this should inspire the taxpayer with full confidence in the ability of the waterworks department to meet its obligations.

The highly desirable condition will be made possible by the provision that requires a prompt expenditure of \$100,000 to make all necessary improvements heretofore undertaken and carried out in piecemeal fashion.

CITY WATER SUPPLY.

Providing water for a city that is situated in the driest part of the most arid region in a work train with difficulty known to other cities. Many problems must be solved for which there is no precedent for a guide. Originality, therefore, becomes necessary in dealing with many matters that are unfamiliar, from the question of providing an increase in the water supply of this city. Due allowance should be made for this by the taxpayers who are called upon to meet this important question, a question which involves the growth and greatness of the city.

The present water supply of the city is derived from four wells, two from Parley's Creek, one from the Jordan River, and one from the Lake. Sources and the quantity of water that each supplies daily, during the season of minimum flow, are as follows:

Parley's Creek	4,202.74 gallons
For Mill Creek	6,651.21 gallons
For Big Cottonwood	11,833.58 gallons
For Little Cottonwood	10,262.75 gallons
For the 21 per cent bonus	9,898.69 gallons

Total daily supply 33,564.84 gallons

Of this total daily quantity only the creek water, (9,898.69 gallons), is suitable for drinking. The remainder, (42,666.15 gallons), which comes from the Utah Lake Reservoir, is suited only for irrigation and kitchen uses. The creek water comes into the city from the mountains through three separate and substantial conduits.

The distribution system comprises four districts or zones, known as the Jordan and the upper, the Thirteenth Street and the Capitol Hill districts, respectively. The lower and the upper districts are each supplied from the combined waters of Parley's, Emigration, and City Creeks. The Thirteenth Street and the Capitol Hill districts, are both supplied from City Creek exclusively.

The Jordan Reservoir water is brought into the city through an open channel known as the Jordan and Salt Lake City Canal. The water from this canal is used for irrigation partly by the farmers in the large area of Parley's Creek and partly through the system of irrigation ditches which ramify the city.

The Creek water comes from the tanks and is distributed by gravity, thus insuring the lowest possible cost for carriage and distribution.

The reservoir water originally ran out of the Lake into Jordan River and through the canal to the city by gravity.

but during the last three seasons it has been necessary to pump the water from the Lake into the river channel on account of the water in the reservoir having fallen to a point below the level of the river bed.

So far as quantity is considered, the city's present water supply is sufficient for many years to come. The greater portion of the water, however, is not of the quality required for drinking, and the need is therefore of more water of the required quality.

On account of the dryness of the climate and the consequent need for a liberal amount of water in lawns and street watering, it has been estimated that a daily supply of 30 gallons per capita is not an excessive requirement and should be made the basis for determining the city's needs.

On this basis, the daily supply of the city's present supply of potable water, (9,898.69 gallons), is only about half enough to properly supply the present population. For this reason, it is recommended that words can readily do the need for early and united effort to supply this deficiency and at the same time provide in a reasonable degree for the future growth and needs of the city.

In considering any plan for relief from the conditions that confront us, the taxpayers should keep in mind the facts that, wherever we go the water supply has always been appreciated, often and cannot be taken by the city without just compensation, that the sum of money which it is proposed to expend for increasing the water supply is only \$80,000, and that the cost of carrying this sum, which this sum can be materially increased.

If water is purchased, the price of the water must include the value of the land, which is a compensation which the water is now being used to take. To take the water from the land implies its degradation and the practical destruction of all improvements that are upon it.

It is recommended that the obligation to provide the price of the water taken, would not be removed nor could the loss of time and increased costs due to such procedure be avoided.

On the other hand, if water might be purchased through either purchase or condemnation there must be provided a sum sufficient for the construction and maintenance in which to carry the required water from the source of the city, and it is absolutely impossible to accomplish both the purchase and the carriage of the needed water with the sum of \$80,000.

It is proposed to purchase the water from the nearest stream, which is the nearby mountains on the east are the several streams known as Mill Creek, Big Cottonwood and Little Cottonwood, respectively. The water from each of these streams is of excellent quality and is so situated that it can be brought into the city by gravity through works which will cost infinitely less than those needed to bring in an equivalent amount from the other streams. But the water from these streams has already been appropriated and is used by a large number of individuals to irrigate a considerable area of high valued land that is adjacent to the city. The water must then be acquired before its use by the city can be made possible.

From careful and repeated measurements it has been ascertained that the amount of water which those sources afford, in seasons of lowest flow, is as follows:

Mill Creek	6,651.21 gallons
Big Cottonwood	17,882.78 gallons
Little Cottonwood	7,827.867 gallons

Total daily supply 32,342.867 gallons

It is proposed to acquire the water from the nearest stream, as it makes available for the city use during times of lowest flow, the following daily supply of potable water:

Potable supply	10,000.874 gallons
Increased supply	32,342.867 gallons

Total daily supply 42,342.867 gallons

At the estimated rate of 30 gallons daily per capita this would provide ample for the city's needs, at least double our present population, and would be a good example of a fortunate condition as well as provide in a reasonable measure for the future. That it is practicable for the city to acquire this additional quantity of potable water from the nearest stream is evident to the city at a cost, in money, not to exceed \$80,000, available for water supply purposes, as shown by the following statement of facts:

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