

### The Filter a Peril.

There lies in this filter question a deadly peril to this city. It lies coiled up in that new law like a serpent, unseen and undreamed of by most of our people. Take this law by sections, briefly.

Section 1. Authorizes incorporated cities, towns and villages to "acquire water works for supplying water for public use and domestic use of its inhabitants by building or purchasing a water work system, or enlarging or extending an existing system." That is what our city council claims their filter-bed ordinance would do, though good legal authorities say a filter is neither enlarging nor extending an existing system. In payment of enlargement or extension the city may issue special certificates or water bonds for the "building, purchase or extension."

Section 2 Provides that the city shall pass a special ordinance for "acquiring or enlarging the water works" and then if twenty per cent of the voters of said city petition for it, a special election shall be held so the people can vote on it. If voted down, that is the end of it for six months. It also provides that the water rates can not be reduced till the bonds are all paid.

Section 3 provides for creating a "water fund" out of the income of the water works, which can be used for nothing else but paying off the bonds, interest and necessary operating expenses.

Section 4, and here is where the danger begins; provides that the city may mortgage its entire water plant, filter bed, pumping station, water mains and laterals, stand pipe—and everything, in fact, to "fully secure the payment of said water certificate."

Section 5 (the danger increases) provides that if "default shall be made in payment of water certificates" or bonds, "for the space of ninety days", then the mortgagee or trustee of such certificates or bonds may foreclose and the use of the water works be sold (for a term of not exceeding fifty years) to the lowest bidder who will pay off the balance of the bonds and interest?

Now look at that a moment. Give

en an incompetent or corrupt city administration, how easy for the officials, mayor, attorney, aldermen, being in "league" with some sharp, shrewd and unscrupulous schemer, to let that interest and payment of bonds default a few months. Of course this sharp bond holder would not make any fuss, for he wants them to default. At the end of the ninety days he steps in and forecloses; the city officials do not object, of course, they are on the "inside" of the scheme, for a "consideration." Some "straw" bidder representing the unscrupulous bond holder bids off the water works say for forty years, then what follows?

Why this unscrupulous schemer runs the water works, at "reasonable rates", fixed by the court, that is the only shadow of protection the people have, for "all there is in them for 40 years. That is to say, an incompetent or corrupt city council and this unscrupulous scheme can rob this city of its water works for 40 years, and clean up for themselves a net profit, by the end of that time, at least of from \$150,000 to \$250,000 clean cash, as the city will largely increase in population during that time. Of course this unscrupulous schemer (and there are plenty of them), could afford to buy up a few weak, cheap, marketable aldermen, even at a thousand or two dollars apiece. But worse still the water rates, during all these 40 years, can not be reduced.

Section 6 provides that the city can not itself nor allow any one else to construct a rival system of water works. Perhaps a man might be allowed to pump water from his own well or cistern, but that is all: they might make Judge Fullerton pull down his wind mill which pumps his water from the lake.

Now that is this wonderful law, and one more fully to bind hand and foot, sell out or rob a city of its valuable property, could hardly be devised and no wonder constitutional lawyers say it can not stand because it is unconstitutional. Every vote for the filter is a vote to put Highland Park in the line of that peril.

Butterick's Patterns for sale at Miss Erskine's.

### Vindicated.

For the last two or three months the NEWS-LETTER has been advocating certain measures and men for the best good of the public. The paper has been bold fearless and honest. Last Tuesday the people went to the polls and recorded their verdict and with this result: every measure and every man advocated by this paper was sustained by the public. We ask and could have no truer, more satisfactory and encouraging vindication than last Tuesday's election. The NEWS-LETTER takes this opportunity to sincerely thank the intelligent, public spirited, honest citizens of the Park for their loyal support and approval. We note with pleasure that in those sections of the city where the paper is most largely read, there the support of the men and measures it has advocated is largest and most intelligent. We are grateful not only for the number who rallied to the support of the good cause, but more for their character, for their intelligence and public spirit. Aye, we are a bit proud of our friends themselves, as well as their work; for they are the bone and sinew, the strong bulwarks against incoming tides of evil, and towers of strength for our city. Gentlemen, we thank you, and feel for you as for brothers true in a common cause.

"The holy seed shall be the substance thereof," says the word of God. They are the saviors, perpetuators, and strength of city, state and nation. Sodom perished, though it had thousands of smart bad men, but ten righteous men would have saved it. Again, we thank the tens, scores, and hundreds of good and true men for this manly approval and support. If such things make us a "back number" and "men of no influence," we are content. "Rally round the flag, boys, rally round the flag."

Schneider & Cook have a new watchmaker who has worked in the finest places in Chicago and Cincinnati. All their work is turned out with the usual guarantee of one year.

School don't keep this week, and the teachers are off on brief vacations.