

## CHIEF HALE'S RETORT.

**He Replies to the Last Card of Superintendent Jones on Water Pressure.**

George C. Hale, chief of the fire department, has issued the following card in reply to Superintendent Jones:

To the Public:

By card No. 3 in Sunday's papers Major Jones appears to be sweating away in true Quixotic style, trying to bind up the bursts of his water mains by applying water bandages to them instead of a few more needed shutoffs and check valves in the 30-inch main.

A little less swinging of wind mill arms and other mid-air acrobatic frenzy and a homely coming down to digging of ditches and laying of stronger pipe would be relieving assurance of proper and reliable fire pressure. Still inspired by insinuations he reiterates as follows:

"It is a question of whether Mr. Hale is or is not lending himself and his position unfairly to help manufacture sentiment and testimony against the National Waterworks company in a suit recently brought by the city."

I deny this and denounce it as false. My sole motive for laying the dangers of the weak water mains and low degree of water pressure given before the proper city authorities was founded solely upon my conviction that the fire protection as furnished by the water company was a menace to our city and I felt it my duty to do so. As far as the suit pending between the water company and the city is concerned, I have paid no attention whatever to it. Neither have I been advised with or consulted by any of the city officials, attorneys or others.

Speaking of the Jaccard fire Major Jones says there was twenty-five lines of hose laid and in his soft manner tries to lead the people to believe that this means twenty-five streams of water.

Now, the fact is there were only twenty lines of hose laid, and these lines were so coupled as to only throw twelve streams of water, there being four lines of hose leading into the water tower, which threw but one stream. Then there were two Siamese pipes which were supplied by three lines of hose each, this making six lines from which only two streams were thrown. Then there was one more Siamese stream supplied by two lines of hose. There were twelve lines of hose used in forming four streams of water, thereby absolutely giving the water company a decided advantage. Then there were eight lines of hose throwing eight single streams.

Now then, the fact is that the gallons of water thrown per minute by all these streams with the pressure (such as it was) comes below the necessary quantity of water per minute which is required to be thrown by their contract with the city. And this attempt of the major to lead people to believe that lines of hose laid should each be counted as a stream of water, and consequently that there were twenty-five streams of water thrown on the Jaccard fire, whereas there were only twelve streams, is in keeping with other assertions of his which the light of day will bleach but perhaps not cause him a blush.

The major further says that the fire steamers

were put to work long after the fire was under control. Now, the major confesses that he was "only informed," as he was not at the Jaccard fire. I say that had it not been for these steam fire engines the spread of the fire could not have been controlled, and I was at the fire.

The major in child like innocence asks this simple question:

"If this manipulation of engines was not done for the purpose of making sentiment and testimony, pray what was it done for?"

Major, it was done to put out the fire, as it could not be put out by the protection supplied by your mains. We tried them and found that out.

The major must have humanely chloroformed his memory as to my connection with and knowledge of the menace of the weakness of these water mains. Perhaps he could awake his recollection from its slumber by referring to the report on the condition of these waterworks made April 6, 1881, by those eminent civil engineers, Henry Flod of St. Louis, Moses Lane of Milwaukee and Thomas J. Whitman of St. Louis. This committee was appointed by the city to investigate the efficiency of the waterworks. Their report was duly printed and perhaps is in the major's possession. If so, on page twenty-four he will find this:

"Taking into account all the statements, viz. those of Mr. Hale of the fire department, etc.

On page twenty-three he will find where streams could not be thrown beyond the third story window, and during the fire part of the time no water at all was furnished. This was at the big fire in West Kansas. I was there. He will also find on page nineteen, in reply to the city's questions as to whether the works can throw streams as provided by section 8, the answer is given that any attempt to throw streams required would be attended with much danger of the bursting of mains, etc. On page twenty-three he will find where some additional steam fire engines should be procured. And on page twenty-five to this direct question:

"Will the present system of works, with such extensions as the company may make, be sufficient when the city attains a population of 100,000, and be able to furnish adequate fire protection at all points, or will such system suit a much larger city?"

The answer is:

"It is our opinion that it will not."

GEO. C. HALE, Chief.