

# NOT POWER ENOUGH.

The Obstacle That Now Confronts the Electric Light Plan.

ANOTHER ENGINE IS NECESSARY.

An Accident Would Leave the City in Complete Darkness.

A Report Showing What Other Cities Pay for Lighting the Streets by Electricity Under Contract With Private Corporations.

The board of public work, when it gets the expected bids for the electric light plant, will be confronted by the certainty that it must necessarily alter the plans to a considerable extent. In fact, it looks as if the entire plans under which the board has been working and on which the specifications have been prepared will have to be changed. The board has supposed, and the electrical experts have said in a "professional" capacity, that the engines now in use by the city, and which have been relied upon to furnish all the power for lighting and heating the city hall, running the incandescent electric light plant for the city hall and, in addition, the 154 arc lights to be used in lighting the city, will be amply sufficient to furnish the power which will be necessary.

City Hall Engineer McNally, who has been in the business for years, and who knows just what the engines he is running can do, declares emphatically that the fellows who have been figuring on getting all this set out of the engines do not know what they are talking about. In fact, though Mr. McNally did so express himself, he practically said that they were articulating through their headgear.

"I know what these engines will do," said Mr. McNally yesterday, "and I know that they are not sufficient to run the incandescent lamp plant for the city hall, heat the building and market house, and in addition run a 154 arc light electric plant, covering the whole city. It is not in the engines and cannot be got out of them. The utmost that can be expected is to give power for possibly 100 arc lights, and if they are scattered all over the city, some of them being a mile or two from the base of supplies, the engines could not give satisfaction with that many after lighting and heating the city hall and market house.

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"The gentlemen who are figuring on getting along with the power we have at present will find themselves very badly mistaken. Their theories are all right on paper, but they will not stand the test. I have made this subject a study for years; it is my business, and I do not believe that you can run arc lights with seven-tenths of a horse power each.

"The only thing that can be done is to get another engine. I think it would be foolish to have only engines enough to supply the power when all the power capable of being used is exerted. What is to be done if an accident occurs? The city would be in darkness. Another engine capable of furnishing power enough to run at least the arc plant ought to be purchased. It will cost from \$1,700 to \$1,900, but something will have to be done. If we have one engine to do the electric lighting and anything happens we can cut the other engine in and the city need not be left in darkness, but if we have to use every pound of our power all the time we will be exposed to constant danger. At the same time, using all the power we have, we are still nearly fifty arc lights short of the 154 estimated and making no allowance for future enlargements of the plant."

Secretary Langworthy, of the board of public works, yesterday received a letter from a city official of Atlanta, Ga., in which he replied to the queries of the board and gave the following information of the price being paid by different cities for electric lights (arc lights).

Atlanta pays \$100 each for 319 lights on a three years' contract; Albany, N. Y., pays \$156.66 for 600 lights on a five years' contract; Buffalo pays \$127.75 for 1,600 lights on a three years' contract; Charleston, S. C., pays \$100 for 105 lights of 1,400 candle power (all the others are 2,000 candle power) on one year contract; Dayton, O., pays \$125 for 150 lights on a one year contract; Cleveland pays \$88.68 for 235 lights on a nine months' contract; Denver pays \$150 for 440 lights on a five years' contract; Indianapolis pays \$85 for 750 lights on a ten years' contract; Louisville pays \$84 for 900 lights on a five years' contract; Minneapolis pays \$125 for 611 lights on moonlight schedule and \$150 on all night schedule on a five years' contract; Pittsburg pays \$96 for 1,460 light on a four years' contract; Rochester pays \$91.25 for 1,540 lights on a five years' contract; Sioux City pays \$100 for 114 lights on a five years' contract; Syracuse pays \$109.50 for 543 lights on a five years' contract; Kansas City pays \$119.50 for 130 lights on a one year contract.