

CHIEF HALE'S BOMB.

He Says the Water Works "Puffs" in His Annual Reports Were Furnished by the Company.

The hearing of testimony in the water works case was resumed yesterday. Fire Chief George C. Hale was put on the stand for the city. His testimony consumed the entire morning, when, at the request of the counsel for the water works company, the hearing was adjourned until to-morrow morning, when Chief Hale will be cross-examined by Mr. Karnes, of counsel for the company.

When the company took its testimony, considerable stress was laid on a number of reports of various city officers regarding the water works company. Among the reports introduced in evidence were a number of the annual reports of Chief Hale, which teemed with laudatory remarks of the efficiency of the water works system of this city, furnished by the National Water Works Company.

So flattering were the encomiums passed upon the superlative sufficiency of the system for all purposes that further procedure seemed superfluous, if the reports were to be taken as disinterested expert evidence. But when Chief Hale appeared upon the stand to testify for the city he declared, under oath, that the reports, so far as they referred to the water works company, had been written in the office of the company and were not to be taken as the personal opinions of the chief of the fire department. Chief Hale testified that when the time came to make out his annual reports he was in the habit of sending to the telephone company, the Pinkerton agency, the local branch of the signal service bureau and the water works company for statements as to the improvements made during the year in each of these departments and for such other information as the heads of the departments deemed of interest.

These reports were incorporated in the reports of the fire chief as they came to him, and were not intended by him to represent his personal or official opinions.

The chief, in his testimony yesterday, testified as to the tests which had been made of the system at the instigation of the council and declared that none of the tests were satisfactory, but that the system was shown to be insufficient at all the tests. He further cited a number of large fires where heavy losses were incurred by reason of the insufficiency of the water pressure, necessitating the purchase by the city of the fire steamers recently bought.