

EXPERT TESTIMONY GIVEN.

Engineer Benzenberg Testifies in the Water Works Case.

He Says the Company Has Not a Complete System—His Estimate of the Value of the Works in Missouri.

The taking of testimony in the suit of the National Water Works Company against Kansas City was resumed yesterday morning before Henry M. Stonestreet, the special commissioner appointed by the federal court. G. H. Benzenberg, of Milwaukee, one of the three expert engineers employed by the city two years ago to investigate the plant already established and estimate the cost of a new one, was put on the stand at 11 o'clock and his examination occupied the entire time until the hearing was adjourned at 5:30 o'clock.

Mr. Benzenberg testified in substance that in his opinion the water works as at present constituted are insufficient to supply a city of this size, for the reason that the pipes are much too small. He also considered the settling basins extremely faulty in their construction, necessitating four times as much pumping as would be required under proper conditions. He did not believe that the present plant could supply the pressure called for by the franchise to be used for fire protection.

Kansas City, he said, had no complete system of water works, as required by the franchise, for the reason that the main portion of the plant was located in Kansas. He estimated the present value of the plant in Missouri, exclusive of real estate and buildings, at \$1,087,000.

Mr. Benzenberg made an exceedingly good witness for the city and, though closely cross-questioned by the opposing counsel, the value of his testimony could not be materially lessened.

Last Sunday Mr. Benzenberg, in company with Messrs. Charles Hermany, of Louisville, and M. L. Holman, of St. Louis, the other experts employed by the city two years ago, made a thorough inspection of the plant both in Kansas and Missouri, and as all three gentlemen are eminent in the engineering profession their testimony, it is expected, will have considerable weight.

The hearing will be resumed this morning in the office of L. C. Slavens in the New York Life building. Messrs. Hermany and Holman will probably be the only witnesses to be examined to-day.