

AN EXPERT CROSS-EXAMINED.

He Based His Estimate of the Value of the Water Work Plant on Its Earnings.

Professor Charles B. Brush, of New York, the expert hydraulic engineer brought to Kansas City by the National Water Works Company to testify in the suit instituted by Kansas City against the water works company, occupied a chair in the office of Karnes, Holmes & Krauthoff for six hours yesterday while undergoing a heavy fire of cross-questioning delivered by John C. Gage and L. C. Slavens, attorneys for the city.

In his direct examination on Friday, Professor Brush had given weighty testimony to the effect that the present system of water work was adequate to meet the demands made upon it and was capable of complying with all the requirements of the contract between the city and the water works. Under the cross-questioning of the city's attorneys, however, Professor Brush's testimony was, it is claimed by those attorneys, materially weakened in certain particulars.

Professor Brush admitted that, in making a valuation of the water works plant, now in existence, he had made no estimate of the actual cost of the plant, but had based his estimate on the present earning capacity of the plant, and presuming that that earning capacity would continue indefinitely, coupled with his general experience in the construction of water systems. He said that he considered the plant absolutely essential to Kansas City, and when asked what bearing the termination of the present contract would have, replied that the future would take care of itself.

In his direct examination Professor Brush had declared that it would take months of careful examination and calculation to arrive at even an approximate estimate of the cost of the plant, and in his cross-examination yesterday he admitted that he had not given the months of time or the careful examination and calculation.

Under Attorney Gage's questioning he was compelled to admit that he had jumped at the conclusion that the Kansas City plant of the National Water Works Company was worth \$4,000,000, though he contended that his figures would prove approximately correct, as he had based his calculation on the earning power of the plant and his extended experience with the construction of water systems.

The examination of Professor Brush was completed at 5 o'clock last night and an hour later he left for the East. To-morrow the taking of testimony will be resumed. Peter Milne, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and P. H. Ledlie, of St. Louis, both expert hydraulic engineers, will give testimony in behalf of the water works company.