

Success of Long and Bitter Fight For a Larger Water Supply.

AN abundant water supply for Salt Lake City to meet the demands of the increased population for years to come has been the all-important idea and effort of Mayor Richard P. Morris and a majority of the city council during the entire administration covering the past two years. It was one of the promises made by Mayor Morris when he became chief executive, and every possible exertion has been made to keep that promise.

The water proposition, which has been started and is now under way, and which will be completed by July, 1905, whereby the city will secure one-half of the waters of Big Cottonwood creek, amounting to at least 16,000,000 gallons daily during its lowest period at a cost of less than \$350,000, may be pointed to with pride as the biggest individual acquisition ever secured for the city.

Not only will the city secure the water mentioned from Big Cottonwood

1904, Mayor Morris recommended to the city council that a special water committee be appointed to assist him and the city engineer and city attorney in devising some plan which would meet with the approval of the citizens and at the same time call for no great expenditure of money.

The recommendation was concurred in and President F. J. Hewlett and Councilmen F. S. Fernstrom, Rulon S. Wells, A. J. Davis and George D. Dean were appointed on the committee. The committee at once got down to work and secured the assistance of Judge F. S. Richards as special counsel and A. F. Doremus as consulting engineer.

Plan of Exchange.

It was evident to all the members of the committee that the best and surest plan for an increased supply was to secure the waters of Big and Little Cottonwood and Mill creeks. How to secure these rights without purchasing them, which would have been beyond the financial abilities of the city to do was a proposition which was considered carefully for several months. It was finally decided

mitted a statement of the entire plan which was prepared by it in conjunction with a committee of prominent citizens appointed by the Commercial club. It was asked that the statement be spread upon the minutes of the council and printed in pamphlet form for distribution among the taxpayers of the city. This of course met with the same bitter opposition in the council as had all the previous matters submitted by the special water committee. The recommendation of the joint committee was concurred in, however, and the money appropriated for printing the statement.

Bond Issue Authorized.

At the election held on Jan. 3, 1905, the water bonds were authorized by a vote of 1,207 for the bonds and 1,047 against them, and the sewer bonds were authorized by a vote of 1,268 for and \$90 against them.

On Jan. 16, 1905, President Hewlett introduced a resolution authorizing the recorder to advertise for bids for the purchase of the bonds. This also met with the usual opposition and was laid over for one week and finally adopted

of the councilmen be enjoined from voting for the franchise upon the ground that they would benefit by the profits derived from the franchise by the company. The injunction was filed late in the afternoon and only a few hours before the council meeting on Aug. 3 at which the franchise was to be brought up. A special hearing of the matter was held on that night by Judge Armstrong who denied the injunction. The councilmen then returned to the council chamber and voted on the franchise and it was passed and later the property and water rights were deeded to the city by the company.

Another Injunction Suit.

Before the deed was made and delivered to the city, however, another injunction suit was filed in the district court to enjoin the company from operating under the franchise granted and also to enjoin the city from accepting the deed. No final hearing has been had on this matter but there was no temporary injunction issued, the deed was delivered and recorded and is now in full operation and the suit will probably be dismissed.

Work Under Way.

The contracts for the construction of the Big Cottonwood conduit, for the sewer extensions have been let and active work on the same is now going on. Options have also been secured on half of the Big Cottonwood water and the bonus money has been paid. The conduit is to be of concrete and will be seven miles in length, running from Big Cottonwood to Parley's canyon where it will connect with the present city conduit and thus the waters will be conveyed into the city's system.

To Build Big Dam.

Steps have also been taken by the council to co-operate with the Utah Light & Railway company to build an immense dam at the intake to the new conduit in Big Cottonwood and it is also very likely that the city will join the Intermountain Power company in the construction of an immense storage reservoir in Big Cottonwood for the storage of the flood waters of the creek.

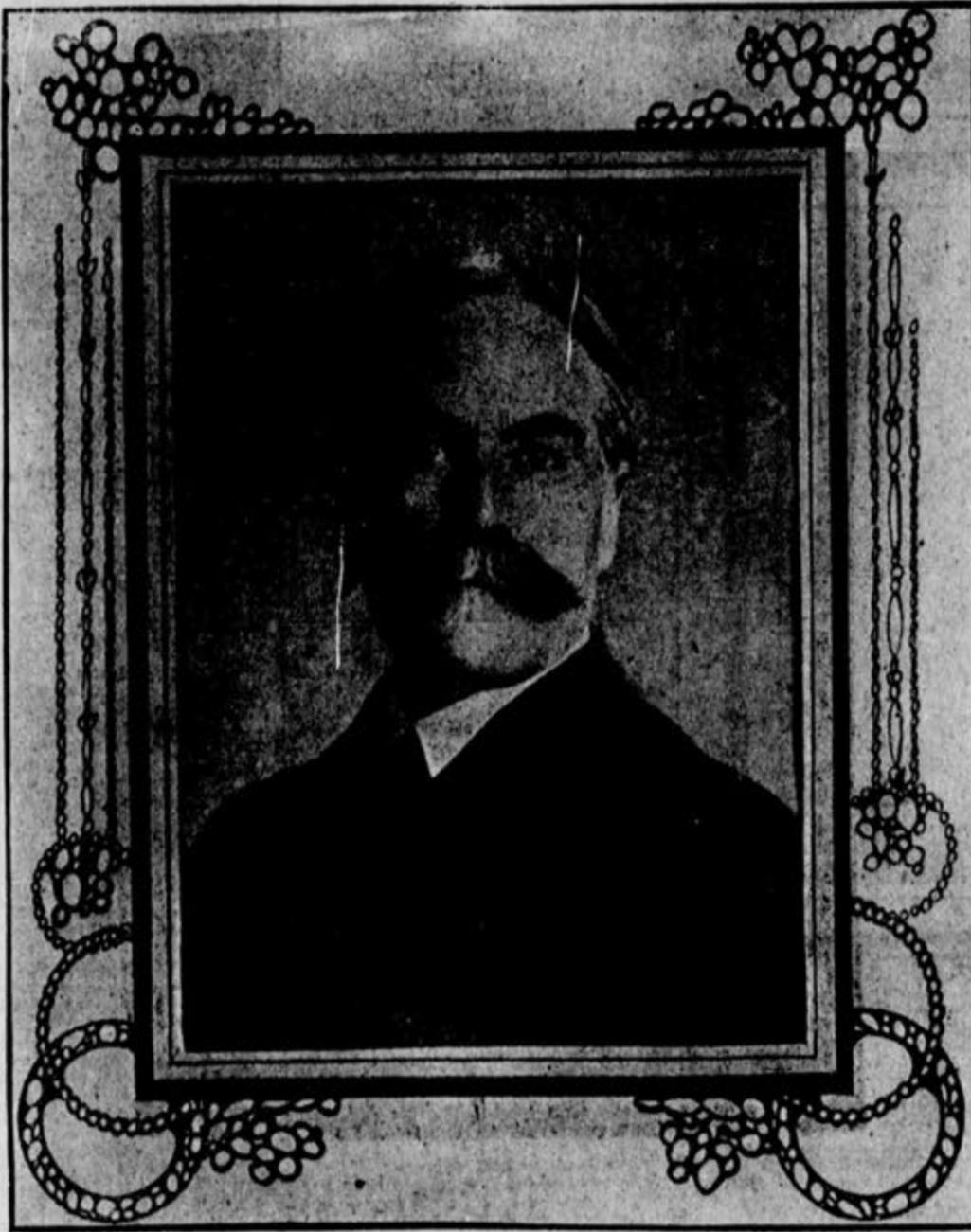
Canal for Creek Water.

Contracts of exchange have been entered into by the city with the farmers who own one-half of the water of Big Cottonwood whereby the city agrees to furnish them with an equal amount of irrigating water from the city canal which secures its supply from Utah lake, in exchange for the Cottonwood water. In addition to the exchange of waters the city pays the farmers a bonus of \$10 per acre for the land actually under cultivation by them.

In this manner the water is secured at a very nominal cost and it could not have been secured at all otherwise for the reason that the cost would have been too great, it being estimated that the water rights of the farmers would have cost at least \$10,000,000.

Will be Finished July 15.

Since the contracts for the construction work have been let everything has progressed very smoothly and the completion of the work by July of next year is secured. Up to Dec. 15 at least 65 per cent of the excavating for the big conduit had been completed and more than a mile of concrete had been laid. Five out of the seven earth tunnels to be run in the course of the conduit are completed and the other two will be done in about a week. The rock tunnel is about half way through. During the cold weather the concrete work will progress very slowly but all of the tunnels and excavating will be completed this winter ready for very rapid work on the concrete next spring. It is assured therefore that in July, 1905, the citizens of this city will be supplied with Big Cottonwood water and an ample water supply for a city of 200,000 inhabitants will be a fact.



MAYOR RICHARD P. MORRIS.

Father of Salt Lake's New Water and Sewer Systems Now Under Construction.

creek, which is of the purest quality, but the plans also provide for securing at least 2,000,000 gallons daily from Mill creek as soon as the present litigation concerning the rights to said waters is determined, and also for part of the waters of Little Cottonwood. This will give the city a water supply greater than the total supply now received from all sources. In addition to that mentioned there may be other water secured before the plans are completed. In fact this is contemplated.

No More Water Famines.

The matter of an increased water supply was taken up during the first month of the present administration's career and, notwithstanding the great obstacles which have been thrown in the way of its progress, not only by private citizens but also by members of the council, the work has been carried forward with a great determination which overcame all difficulties, and which will result in the plans devised being carried out to a completion early next year, so that there will be no more water famines in this city for years to come.

Mayor Names Committee.

On Jan. 18, 1904, Councilman A. J. Davis introduced a resolution in the council authorizing the finance and waterworks committees to commence the consideration of some plan whereby the water supply of the city could be substantially increased. This resolution was adopted. It became apparent, however, that it would need the attention of a special committee to take the matter in hand so, on April 4,

that an exchange of irrigating water from the city's canal with the farmers who secured their supply of water from the streams mentioned was the only feasible plan, and the committee then proceeded to secure options from as many of the farmers as possible, and it succeeded in thus tying up one-half of the flow of Big Cottonwood and a part of Mill creek and Little Cottonwood.

Bond Issue Fought.

The question of securing sufficient money with which to carry the plan into execution was no small matter, and it was determined to ask the citizens of the city to vote on a bond issue of \$1,000,000, of which amount \$350,000 was to be used in the water scheme and \$150,000 for providing a sewerage system for the southern part of the city. Accordingly the committee reported to the council on Nov. 17, 1904, recommending that a special bond election be held on Dec. 20. The report, which also contained a lengthy account of the work of the committee and of the plan proposed for the intended water and sewer improvements, was opposed most bitterly by some of the councilmen, and every possible attempt was made to defeat it. The fight resulted in the report being laid over until Nov. 21, upon which date it was adopted after the date of the election had been changed to Jan. 3, 1905. The ordinance providing for the special election was passed on the same night after considerable opposition by the members who fought the report of the committee.

Statements Submitted.

On Dec. 12, 1904, the committee sub-

mitted a statement of the entire plan which was prepared by it in conjunction with a committee of prominent citizens appointed by the Commercial club. It was asked that the statement be spread upon the minutes of the council and printed in pamphlet form for distribution among the taxpayers of the city. This of course met with the same bitter opposition in the council as had all the previous matters submitted by the special water committee. The recommendation of the joint committee was concurred in, however, and the money appropriated for printing the statement.

Before the bonds were accepted by the company, however, it asked that their validity be established by the supreme court of the state. Accordingly on June 7 a petition was filed in the probate court by the State of Utah ex rel George E. Ellerbeck, asking that Mayor Morris, City Recorder Critchlow and City Treasurer Fisher Harris be prohibited from issuing the bonds. The case was brought for a test and the validity of the bonds was gone into in detail. The supreme court on June 24 denied the petition for a writ of prohibition and established the validity of the bonds. The money for the bonds was then soon paid over to the city.

The plans provided for securing from the Utah Light & Railway company its water and power rights in Big Cottonwood canyon together with sufficient land for the proposed dam and intake at the point of diversion into the city's conduit. These rights and lands were valued at \$100,000, but the company agreed to exchange the same to the city for a consolidation and extension of its franchises in the city.

Knockers Fought Hard.

About this time the franchise matter was brought up in the council and caused the most prolonged and bitter controversy that has occurred in the council chamber for years. The opposition was such that the matter was taken into court by a citizen who asked that three