

## Electric Light Plant and Water Works

In many cities and villages the question of municipal ownership of public utilities is a mooted one, there being many warm advocates in favor of such ownership, as well as a strong opposition. The success or failure of municipal ownership depends so much upon the character of the men chosen as village officials and upon their capability to properly exercise an oversight of the management of public service plants, that we here seem to lay hold of the secret of the matter. In theory the question of municipal ownership is wholly correct, but when put in practice in many small cities and villages it proves a dismal failure from more than one standpoint. As a general rule this condition of affairs may be attributed to the fact that the proper men are in charge of public affairs.

With right officials in charge municipal ownership is demonstrated to be both practical and profitable, which is clearly shown in the late management of the village of water and lighting plants, and with this fact in view it is reasonable to assume that Gaylord is at present time at least blessed with the right sort of village officials. In order to be successful there must be right understanding. In Mr. L. L. Fitch, who has general supervision of the plants, the village seems to have secured a careful and competent man.

The water works and electric lighting plants are run in conjunction, the machinery being in the same power house and attended by the same operatives; but so far as possible separate accounts are kept and a proper division made of the attendant expense, as well as of the receipts from the two plants.

The power house is located in the southeastern part of town and is a neat and commodious structure.

The village water works was first established in 1888 at a first cost of \$8,000. Extensions and improvements have been made from time to time until now the value of the plants fixed at \$20,000. The water supplied obtained from a large well located (in?) the power house. This well is a mammoth one and yields an ample supply of water of undoubted purity. The boiler and engine horse power in use at the joint plant totals 405. The amount of water pumped daily is 5,400 barrels, several miles of water mains being in use to reach consuming customers. The electric lighting plant was first installed in 1897, and there are now fully 2,000 incandescent lights in use and the streets of the village are remarkably well lighted by 24 large arc lights.