

File No. 11224 Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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certain private drains constructed by them on the property lying between McElderry street, Philadelphia Road, Lakewood avenue and an alley east of Patuxent street, should be taken over by the Commission and incorporated into the general system of sanitary sewers, it being understood that Messrs. Novak and Hirt would convey the sewers, together with the beds of the streets and alleys, to the City by any form of conveyance suggested by the Sewerage Commission.

This matter has been held in abeyance since the proposition was made because the long period of dry weather during the Summer and Fall of 1909 prevented a determination of the amount of ground water entering these sewers. Gaugings were made during the dry weather, at a time when the amount of ground water entering the drain was necessarily small, and gaugings have recently been made after the winter rains, when the ground was saturated with water. A comparison of these gaugings shows that the amount of ground water entering the drains is small, and that so far as workmanship is concerned, they can properly be incorporated into the general system of sanitary sewers.

Most of these drains are in the alleys, and their length is greater than would be required to drain the same houses, if drains were laid in the streets in accordance with plans for this district as originally adopted by the Sewerage Commission. In view of the action taken by the Legislature at the session just ended, with reference to the building of sanitary sewers in alleys and the taking over of existing private drains, and also in view of the fact that the Sewerage Commission would not in any case build sewers in this district until the new loan becomes available; it would seem that the Sewerage Commission must take over these drains at some future time, at a price not exceeding 50% of the cost of building similar sewers in the same location.

I would recommend that Messrs. Novak and Hirt be informed that when the Sewerage Commission is ready to provide sewer connections for the district in which the above mentioned drains are located, the drains already constructed by Messrs. Novak and Hirt will be taken over by the Sewerage Commission under the terms of the Enabling Act passed by the recent session of the Legislature, it being understood that no storm water or ground water will be allowed to enter the drains. It will be necessary, when these drains are taken over, for the Sewerage