

kee Academy, which, in early times, stood on the ground at present occupied by the Seventh Ward engine-house. He completed his education at the Wisconsin State University, and on returning from there chose farming as an occupation, upon a farm just south of the city. After the beginning of the War of the Rebellion, he enlisted in Company B Twenty-fourth Wisconsin Vol. Inf., which left the State for the front on the 5th of September, 1862. He participated in several battles and skirmishes with the regiment, and at the battle of Stone River, Tenn., he was wounded, losing his right leg. Upon his return home, Mr. Williams was employed in the office of the Provost Marshal of the First District of Wisconsin. Soon after the close of the war, he received the government appointment of United States Inspector of Internal Revenue for the First District of Wisconsin, and served in this office for seven years. He has been six years in the Milwaukee Board of Education, as School Commissioner, and is at present connected with the City Water Department, as Assessor of city water rates.

GUSTAV SCHARFF, Deputy Collector of Water Rates, is a native of Germany, born in Rhenish Prussia, February 22, 1832. He emigrated to America in 1854, and lived in New York until 1857. He then came to Milwaukee and engaged in mercantile business. In 1878 he became connected with the Water Department, and holds the office of Deputy Collector. In 1863 Mr. Scharff was united in marriage to Miss Agnes Simon, a native of Hesse Darmstadt, Germany. They have three children, Nicholas, Gustav and Clara.

JOHN HOLBROOK, Machinist of the Water Department, was born in the Town of Seymour, New Haven County, Connecticut, March 9, 1829; learned his trade in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Coming to Chicago in 1852, he became connected with the Chicago & Rock Island Railway Company two years, as engineer. In the Spring of 1855 he came to Milwaukee, and engaged with the Milwaukee & La Crosse Company, as engineer. The company, at that time, had only nine engines, and fifty-four miles of track. Continuing with the road, under its different managements until 1866, he then went East to his old home, but after a year's absence he returned to Milwaukee and resumed work with the railroad company. Thus he continued until 1869, when he engaged with the Milwaukee & Northern. He remained with this company up to November, 1878, when he assumed his present position as Engineer of the Water Department. His residence is No. 788 Second street.

CHAS. J. TRAPSCHUH, Superintendent of Distribution, came with his parents to this city in 1848, when he was only two years of age. He grew up and attended school in Milwaukee. During the war he enlisted in the Twenty-sixth Reg. Wis. Vol. Inf., and served until the close of hostilities. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Gettysburg, and was confined at "Belle Island." After the war he returned to Milwaukee, and for two years held the office of Deputy Sheriff. In May, 1878, he was appointed Superintendent of Distribution in the Water Department and since then has held that position.

OSCAR A. BROWN, was born in the Town of Pine Grove, Warren County, Pa., July 18, 1841. He came to Milwaukee in 1854, and was Inspector of the first water pipes ever laid in the city. He has been connected with the Water Department of the city for a number of years, and holds the position of Inspector and Assessor. He has also been inspector of the manufacture of water pipes, with which he is thoroughly acquainted.

THOS. McMILLAN, Chief Engineer of the Water Works, is a native of Scotland; was born April 20, 1847; learned his trade of mechanic's engineer in Glasgow, on the Clyde. He held the position of assistant chief engineer on the Royal Mail steamers between Liverpool and Canada for four years; came to Milwaukee in 1872, and the following year became connected with manufacturing the machinery for the Water Works. In 1874 was appointed Chief Engineer of the Works, and since then has occupied that position.

#### WORK OF THE BOARD IN 1880.

An idea of the extent of the work which is thrown into the Board of Public Works for disposal may be obtained by a glance at the figures representing its costs for the year 1880: Opening, widening and extending streets and alleys, \$2,013.95; condemnation of Second Ward Square, \$24,464; street and alley improvements, \$103,911.59; sprinkling, \$19,505.89; work on sewers, \$29,171.56; cleaning snow from sidewalks, \$358.87; house drains and water service pipes, \$3,030.92; repairing sidewalks, \$5,829.72. Total, \$188,286.50.

Having thus brought out the prominent features of the two great systems of public works, and shown the safety thrown around the city's health, and the natural advantages of Milwaukee, it is in order to indicate more in detail the points possessed by the Cream City which peculiarly fit it as a home for poor and rich.