

JOHN C. FR. SALOMON.

JUNE 10, 1854.—Laid upon the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. J. G. DAVIS, from the Committee for the District of Columbia, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee for the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the memorial of John C. Fr. Salomon, describing a project devised by himself for supplying Washington with water, and asking for a charter for an incorporated company, with a capital of \$1,000,000, for the purpose of constructing water-works upon the plan set forth in his memorial and the accompanying papers, respectfully report :

That in their opinion it is inexpedient to grant the request of the memorialist, for the following reasons :

An appropriation of five thousand dollars was made at the session of 1851 and '52, to enable the President to cause surveys, plans, and estimates to be made to determine the best means of affording to Washington and Georgetown an unfailing and abundant supply of good and wholesome water. The late President, Mr. Fillmore, caused surveys to be made of all the sources from which it was supposed that the supply could be advantageously drawn, and a report and map showing the results of these surveys, plans, and estimates, was prepared under his direction. The report and estimates were published at the last session and laid before Congress. This report set forth the modes of supply—one from Rock creek, at an estimated cost of \$1,258,863; one from the Little Falls, at a cost of \$1,622,215; and one from the Great Falls, by a conduit of brick, proposing to supply 36,015,400 gallons daily, at a cost of \$1,921,244, and suggesting that a conduit of two feet greater diameter would furnish a supply of 67,596,400 gallons.

The advantages and disadvantages of the several projects are very fully set forth in that report, which has been in the hands of every member of Congress, and it is not necessary to recapitulate them here.

After this report was printed and laid upon their tables, Congress appropriated \$100,000 to commence the work, and by express provision of law committed the decision between the various plans to the President; the money being appropriated to bring the water into Washington upon such plan as the President might adopt.

President Pierce, with full knowledge in the premises, has fulfilled the duty thus imposed upon him by Congress, and has decided to direct the construction of an aqueduct from the Great Falls. He says in his

annual message at the commencement of the present session of Congress:

“Under the acts of Congress of August 31, 1852, and of March 3, 1853, designed to secure for the cities of Washington and Georgetown an abundant supply of good and wholesome water, it became my duty to examine the report and plans of the engineer who had charge of the surveys under the act first named. The best, if not the only plan calculated to secure permanently the object sought, was that which contemplates taking the water from the Great Falls of the Potomac, and consequently I gave it my approval.”

The President having thus, in discharge of the duties imposed upon him by Congress, made his decision, and adopted the plan as above set forth, and caused the said appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars to be expended in prosecuting the same, and no proposition of any kind having been referred to your committee, looking to or suggesting an abandonment of the plan adopted by the President, or any change, alteration, or modification thereof, they do not feel authorized to assume the responsibility of recommending an abandonment of the plan adopted by the President, and the substitution of the one proposed by Professor Salomon.

Your committee, therefore, report that it is inexpedient to grant the prayer of the memorialist, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the same.