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THE THIRTY-FIFTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

OF THE

CITY OF CONCORD,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31, 1887.

**Together with other Annual Reports and Papers relating
to the Affairs of the City.**



Concord, N. H.:

REPUBLICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION, 22 NORTH MAIN STREET.

1887.

ADDRESS
OF
JOHN KIMBALL,

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS,
AT THE BANQUET, JAN. 20, 1888, CELEBRATING THE
INTRODUCTION OF WATER INTO PENACOOK.

It is now fifty-seven years since I made my home in this village. It is always pleasant for me to come here, because I am sure of a cordial welcome. I am not, however, entitled to more consideration than my associates and others who have earnestly labored for the benefits you now enjoy in the introduction of pure water from Penacook lake.

There are three principal systems of supplying water to towns and cities: The reservoir or gravity system, the stand pipe, and the Holly system. The reservoir is the best, but in those places where sufficient bodies of water are so located that the water will not flow to the town by its own weight, raising it by means of pumps driven by steam or water power becomes a necessity, and the stand pipe, or the Holly system, is usually adopted. Our city is highly favored in having within its borders a lake which is one hundred and twenty feet higher than Main street, and more than fifty feet above the square in front of this building.

It is fifteen years the 14th of this month since the water from Long Pond was admitted into the pipes which conducted it to the main streets of the city. We meet this evening to refer to some of the early benefactors who spent their time and money to supply the town with water, and briefly review the rise and progress of the Concord Water-Works during that time.

The supply of water for Concord previous to 1873 was obtained principally from springs near the base of "sand hill."

In the southern part of the town wells were used ; some of them are now in use. As early as July 2, 1829, William Low, Jacob B. Moore, Stephen Brown, Joseph Low, and their associates, were constituted a corporation, with a capital of \$2,000, called the "Concord Aqueduct Association," empowered to take water from the springs before mentioned and deliver it to customers, and charge such price as they deemed expedient. It is not now known that this association ever did any business. This act on the part of leading citizens of the town nearly sixty years ago shows that the people had the same interest and desire for a bountiful supply of pure running water that we have now.

Mr. Amariah Pierce supplied water through an aqueduct made of logs to the distillery, which was located near the iron store in Depot square, and to other customers. The logs were of white pine, about twelve feet long and six to eight inches in diameter. The auger used to bore the hole through the logs was the pod auger. It required considerable skill to start the auger at the end of the log and bore the hole through it for twelve feet and come out in the centre at the extreme end. Mr. Pierce was successful in his efforts, and some of his logs have been found in a sound condition within a few years.

Mr. Nathan Call succeeded Mr. Pierce, and being desirous of extending his works, and needing more capital, he obtained a charter, July 7, 1849, incorporating himself and others as the "Torrent Aqueduct Association," with a capital of \$20,000. Mr. Call will be remembered as an energetic man, and while the Association was in his charge the enterprise was a success. After his death the business was conducted by his son until the stock owned by his heirs was sold to James R. Hill, who carried it on for several years, when he sold his interest to Nathaniel White.

Henry M. Robinson had commenced to supply water from what is now White's park and other springs. After his decease Mr. White purchased the rights of the heirs, and thus became the owner of nearly all the water property in the main part of the city. Mr. White increased the capacity of his works by adding more springs, but the demand for water being more than he could supply, he sought to increase the amount by pumping it from Merrimack river, but on account of the expense the

plan was not successful. We are largely indebted to Mr. White for the efforts he made to supply the city with water for about ten years previous to 1873.

After the great fire of 1851, when a large number of buildings on the east side of Main street were destroyed, there was an increased anxiety among the people in regard to the limited supply of water, so much so that the city council appointed Joseph B. Walker, John Abbott, and Benjamin Grover a committee "to inquire as to the feasibility and cost of abundantly supplying the compact part of the city with water for fire and other purposes." This committee made a report December 16, 1859. They say they have endeavored to ascertain,—

"First. The wants of this part of the city in respect to water.

"Second. The best means of securing a full supply of it."

Under the first head they say "our population is supplied in part from wells and the several aqueduct associations before named." Under the second head they give five different sources of supply, viz., Merrimack river, Horse Shoe pond, Ash brook, Little pond, and Long pond, giving the last the preference. "Long pond is distant three and one half miles from the state-house, and has an area of 265 acres, and is in some places seventy-five feet deep. Its water is soft, pure, perfectly transparent, and abundant in quantity." They estimated the cost of the introduction and distribution at \$172,475.35, and say, "The most serious objection that presents itself to the immediate accomplishment of this project is the cost of its execution." The city council and the people seemed to agree with the committee, as nothing more was done for eleven years. The War of the Rebellion had begun and ended. The population and wealth of the city had increased. The people had become accustomed to a high rate of taxation, and the demand for an abundant supply of water was imperative.

July 30, 1870, the city council appointed Lyman D. Stevens, Josiah Minot, and fifteen others, known as the committee of seventeen, to report to the city council the proper course to be taken "to secure the early introduction of an adequate supply of pure, fresh water, from Long pond." October 29, 1870, this committee reported that "measures be taken, on behalf of

the city, to obtain the necessary legislation at the next session of the legislature, and in the meantime plans and details be prepared ready for the work when the proper time came for commencing it." Their recommendation was referred to a special committee consisting of Josiah Minot, B. A. Kimball, J. M. Hill, and D. A. Warde. August 10, 1871, the special committee reported that they had procured from the legislature the necessary act "for the purpose of introducing into and distributing through the more compact parts of said city an adequate supply of water for extinguishing fires and for the use of its citizens, and for other proper purposes."

They also submitted the form of an ordinance, which was adopted December 30, 1871, placing the management and direction of the water-works of the city in a board of water commissioners, consisting of six citizens and the mayor, for the time being. This ordinance was strenuously opposed in both branches of the city council, but after a lengthened discussion it was passed by the necessary vote to secure its adoption. It is not improper to say here that the wise forethought and good judgment of Messrs. Joseph T. Clough, Franklin A. Abbott, and Franklin J. Emerson, members of the city council of 1871, have been fully confirmed by the history of the works during the past fifteen years.

January, 1872, the mayor and aldermen appointed J. M. Hill, B. A. Kimball, J. Minot, D. A. Warde, B. S. Warren, and E. L. Knowlton, commissioners. James A. Weston, then governor, was appointed engineer, and C. C. Lund assistant engineer. The right to draw one million gallons daily from the pond was obtained from the owners of the water-power, for which was paid \$60,000. The stock of Torrent Aqueduct Association, and the water rights owned by Nathaniel White, were purchased by the city for \$20,000; also \$21,344.61 was paid for other water rights and land damages.

Contracts were immediately made with the American Gas & Water Pipe Company of New Jersey to construct, in all respects complete for operation, the main line from Long pond to the northerly end of State street, and all the pipes for the distribution of water therefrom throughout the main portion of the city, together with the setting of gates, hydrants, and other

appendages, for \$143,882.74. The cost of the works up to December 31, 1874, was \$351,293.45.

Water was admitted into the pipes from the pond January 14, 1873, being only eight months from the time the contractors commenced work, and since that time pipes have been laid and water has been distributed to nearly every family and building within the compact part of the city. The burdens upon the people have been large, and taxes have been increased, but the blessings secured by possessing an abundant supply of pure water outweigh all the burdens, even were they much larger than they now are.

After an experience of eight years it was found that the demand for water had so increased that the fourteen-inch main pipe was not sufficient to furnish a continuous supply to the higher points of the precinct. Contracts were immediately made for a second and larger main pipe, of eighteen inches diameter, to be laid from the dam to the junction of State and Rumford streets. This was finished in the fall of 1882, at a cost of \$44,900. This brings us down to January 1, 1883, five years ago.

The commissioners close their report for 1882 in the following rose-colored language :

“ Our city has now been supplied with water from Long pond for ten years. The water supplied has been pure and generally abundant. Takers have increased ; rates have been reduced ; large improvements have been made in the works ; and the income is ample to pay interest charges on the bonded debt, and all expense for care and maintenance. As our population increases, the demands upon the water-works will increase, but the stores in reserve are ample for generations to come. Its blessings literally flow to us continually and abundantly, and at a reasonable rate.”

The history of the water-works for the next four years was to record an unusual gain in the number of families supplied ; the erection of more fire hydrants, an increase in the receipts for the use of water, and generally in the fulfilment of the anticipations of the water commissioners as expressed in all their reports. But their labors were not complete. There was remaining a portion of the city, which could be reached by water-pipes, that was not supplied. The desire for an abundant supply of

water enjoyed by the people of the main village had become contagious. The citizens of West Concord came to the city council and asked to be admitted to the water precinct. This petition was followed by another from this village of Penacook, and still another from that part of the city now known as "St. Paul's School." These three petitions were referred to the water board, with the request of the council that the water board advise them as to the proper disposition to be made of the petitions.

After a careful consideration of the subject embraced in the petitions, the water board returned them to the city council with the following endorsement: "*Voted unanimously*, That the board of water commissioners recommend that the prayers of the petitioners be granted." It should be placed to the credit of the city council that in considering these petitions and the recommendation of their water board all sectional and partisan feelings were laid aside. Its members seemed to vie with each other in their efforts to bury past differences, and proceeded to accomplish the work before them in the best possible manner.

The ordinance empowering the water board to proceed with the work, and to place the large amount required to pay for it at their disposal, passed both boards of the city council by a unanimous vote. Contracts were made with Messrs. Goodhue & Birnie, of Springfield, Mass. (the same party who laid the second main pipe in 1882), to lay all the water pipe necessary, and before December 1, last, the objects so earnestly desired were successfully accomplished.

The following statistics from the books at the water commissioners' office, January 1, 1888, are here given for general information :

The whole amount expended on account of construction is	\$481,224.38
Amount paid for interest on the debt of the water-works is	321,200.64
Amount paid for care and maintenance,	35,848.15
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Total,	\$838,273.17
Amount collected from water consumers, and water for hydrants, to date is	\$350,798.31
The present debt of the city on account of the water-works is	\$445,000.00
It will take about \$5,000 more to complete and perfect the works, which will increase the debt to	\$450,000.00

It is proper to mention here that those citizens, twenty-four in all, who have served the city as members of the water board, have not asked or received compensation for their services or expenses. Of the twenty-four members of the board, five have died, viz., David A. Warde, Edward L. Knowlton, Abel B. Holt, James R. Hill, and John Abbott. This is not the time, and I am not the man, to pronounce their eulogy, but those of us who were associated with them and knew them best have a pleasant recollection of the earnestness and devotion manifested by them in all measures which tended to the improvement and prosperity of the city and its people.

I have briefly reviewed the history of the Concord Water-Works for the last fifteen years. We meet here to-night in response to your invitation to join with you in celebrating an event important to all the people in this city, but more particularly to those who have their homes and places of business in this prosperous village. I will leave it to you to express your sentiments on this subject, and, in behalf of those for whom I speak, again assure you that in the matter of the introduction of water, and all other things which tend to build up and improve our city, you will find us ready at all times to endeavor to provide liberally for the best good of all the people within this beautiful city.