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## REPORT

ALCON THE POLY

# WATER COMMISSIONERS

TO THE

COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY,

AND

THE REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE WATER-WORKS

AND

ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF OF STEAM POWER,

FOR THE YEAR 1886.

ALBANY:
THE ARGUS COMPANY, PRINTERS,
1887.

## REPORT OF THE WATER COMMISSIONERS.

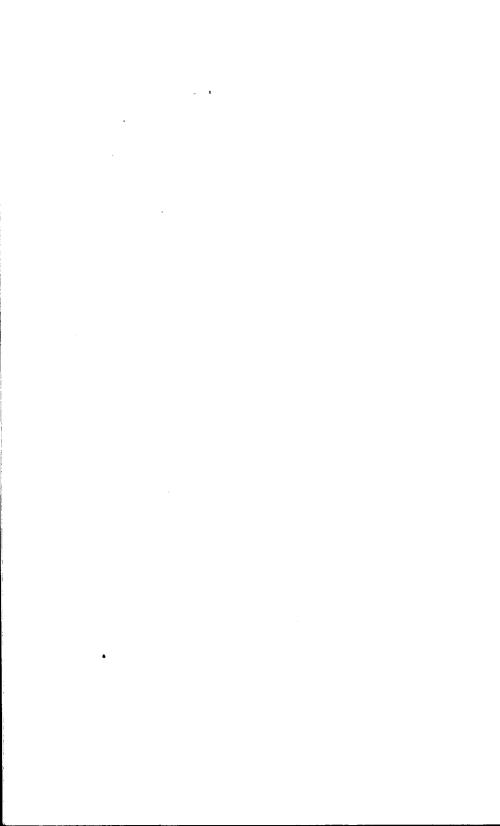
Water Commissioners' Office, Albany, February 5, 1887.

To the Honorable the Common Council of the City of Albany:

The annual reports of George W. Carpenter, Superintendent, and John H. Mars, Engineer of the Pumping Department of the City Water-Works, have been received and approved by the Board, and are herewith submitted.

The report of the Superintendent, besides being a full exhibit of the details of the water-works system, contains many valuable statistics of interest to the public.

Tivoli Lake, although at present under the ban, and condemned, as it were, is, in the absence of any other supply, indispensable; it furnishes over a quarter of the city's supply, and the pumping engines are unable to pump the balance. The contemplated improvements and provision for the renovation of this lake, and its drainage, were stopped by the Driven Well Law, of 1885. The question of entirely abandoning a gravity supply of four or five million of gallons daily, which competent and disinterested authorities claim can be purified, is a grave one, of interest to the taxpayer, and should not be lightly passed upon.



In any case, or with any water supply, or with any new reservoir or lake, constructed to take the place of this, provision must be made for the storage of water from Patroon's Creek; otherwise, the lower service, east of Pearl street, will be exposed to a deficiency of head, in case of fires, a scanty service, and water famines.

It will also be noticed, the city has not increased its water supply proportionately with increase of population.

The waste of water, and its remedy, is a problem affecting greatly the water supply, and worrying the water boards of all cities.

Waste should enter into the calculation of quantity needed, as much as legitimate use. Water meters in tenement houses, and rigid economy in the use of water, affect the public health, to which an abundance, and unlimited supply and a frequent flushing of drains is essential.

The report of the Engineer gives detailed statements of the eleventh annual report of the river pumping engines, supplying Bleecker Reservoir, and the ninth annual report of the high service pumping engines.

The number of days of continuous service of the engines, the improved boilers now in use at the lower works, and the saving of coal by the use of the filters of the Albany Steam Trap Company, will command especial attention.

The increase of pumping at the Prospect Hill Reservoir, since the commencement of the upper service, in 1878, is about 113 per cent.

As in last year's report, attention is now called to the fact that the consumption of water during the winter has exceeded the combined Tivoli Lake and pumping supply, and there is seldom over a week's reserve supply for the city in Rensselaer Lake, in case of accident to the pumping engines.

A statement of receipts and disbursements of the Water Commission, of the Water Debt Sinking Fund, and of an investment of the same, is hereto appended.

#### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS,

From November 1, 1885, to November 1, 1886.

Balance on hand Novem	_			
Receipts, Nov. 1, 1885, 1				
Disbursements, Nov. 1,	•		\$163,760	_
Balance on hand, Novem	nber 1, 1886	•	60,503	81
		\$224,263 84	\$224,263	84
	RECEIPTS.			
General water rents			.\$120,420	04
Special rates			. 52,697	37
Sale of old material, ren	t of houses, etc		. 1,113	86
Interest on deposits			719	63
			\$174,950	90
D	ISBURSEMEN'	TS.		
Office expenses, includir	g Superintenden	t, clerks, etc	\$6,338	23
Bleecker reservoir, keep	er, and running e	xpenses	1,342	93
Tivoli lake,	"		745	τ5
Rensselaer lake,	"		963	75
Maezlandt Kill, incident	al repairs		317	34
Stable and storehouse, h	ay, straw, etc		869	95
Conduit repairs	•			25
Refunded water rents				63
Insurance and taxes			486	43

Printing and advertising	584	34
Regular employes	7,971	55
Incidental expenses, inspectors, watchmen, etc	5,859	07
Pipe, hydrants, stop-cocks, etc	3,406	80
Repairs, pipe, hydrants, stop-cocks, etc	1,601	06
Laying pipe, labor, lead, packing, etc	5,041	03
Supplemental reservoir, coal, employes, etc	9,487	35
New pumping engine, coal, employes, etc	37,477	43
Drafts of Special Water Commission	5,696	74
Interest on water debt	65,230	00
Annual contribution to sinking fund	10,000	00
-	\$163,760	03

#### WATER DEBT SINKING FUND.

Cash on hand, November 1, 1885	\$32,988	84
Annual contribution	10,000	00
Interest on deposits	694	53
Interest on investments	300	00
Cash on deposit, November 1, 1886	\$43,983	37

#### INVESTMENT.

Water bonds, 6%, due 1893, Nos. 2 to 6, inclusive.......\$5,000 00

As recommended in the reports of the Water Commissioners, for many years, another and more powerful engine is necessary for the water supply, the old engine to be kept in reserve, or as an additional supply to the new engine, which supply will be necessary before many years, and at the present rate of increase, a service of twenty million gallons daily will be necessary.

A late statement to the Common Council, in reference to a new water law, follows; the law is not yet settled upon.

#### To the Honorable the Water Committee of the Common Council, City of Albany:

Gentlemen.—I have no wish to shirk any responsibility for advocating and being instrumental in having passed and signed by the Governor, the law of May 12, 1884. It was avowedly asked for and passed to enable the Water Commissioners to act independently of the Common Council, which had in 1880, 1881 and 1882, ignored, persistently, the recommendation of the Commissioners to duplicate the pumping works, and lay additional mains to render the service effectual in several sections of the city. It was also proposed in the use of the appropriation of \$400,000 to deepen Tivoli Lake and protect it from drainage and impurities, caused by the negligence of the Common Council for years in disregarding the warning and suggestions of City Surveyor Bingham, laid before them in 1873.

In September of that year, he notified that body that there was an immediate necessity for a sewer to protect the water in Tivoli Lake from contamination, and that no street drains could be laid in First, Second, Lumber, Colonie, Quail or Ontario streets, until such sewer was constructed.

Notwithstanding this, several of the above streets have been graded, and water mains laid therein, by direction of the Common Council, without any regard to Mr. Bingham's recommendations.

On February 3, 1873, Alderman Moore endeavored to pass a resolution in the Common Council for an inquiry into the matter, and an estimate of the cost of said proposed sewer, but on motion of Alderman Brumaghim, even this was laid on the table.

On the the 20th of June, 1881, the Common Council directed the Street Commissioner to lay a suitable drain to protect the Tivoli Lake Reservoir from the drainage of Second, and other streets.

Notwithstanding the objections of the Water Commissioner, the Second street drain was laid, but no suitable drain or sewer, to receive the drainage and protect the reservoir.

The law passed May 12, 1885, provides that the proposed driven well water supply is to be handed over to the old Board of Water Commissioners, when completed. This bill should not become a law, without a provision in it for increased pumping facilities to dispose of the new water supply, or another law should be passed

for that purpose. A law similar to the one of 1884, then recommended by the old Board of Water Commissioners, and which was superseded by the law of 1885, should be re-enacted.

The city of Albany is now dependent upon one old-fashioned engine, not of the most improved construction. It is an engine peculiarly liable to accident, being forced to work twenty-four hours daily, seven days in the week, and even when urged beyond its capacity, is unable, in certain conditions of the weather, to retain the water in the reservoirs at its proper level.

The law of 1884 was in effect repealed, when the new Water Commission was appointed, yet it is as much needed for the pumping of the new supply, as it would have been for the old. The new supply, to be effective, must provide for fifteen million gallons (15,000,000) a day. The existing supply is little more than ten million (10,000,000) and insufficient for even present demand, and yet the parties responsible for the law of 1885, only provide for the duplication of any parts of the old engine liable to break, a provision useless and impracticable, as is evident to any intelligent person, such contingency in properly cared machinery, being an unknown quantity.

The attention of the public, the board of underwriters, and of manufacturers, is particularly called to this condition of affairs. In the event of an accident to the present pumping engine, an inadequate engine at the best, for the work required of it, from one to two weeks water supply is all that can be depended on. An early discovery of a flaw in one of the connecting rods, almost a year ago, probably saved the engine from being converted into scrap iron, and the city from a water famine.

The amount of money asked for by the new Water Commission, in the proposed confirmatory law of 1886, will not insure a complete and efficient service. and the public should not be deceived in the matter. That Commission, even if successful in finding a sufficient supply of water, and such supply is lasting and potable, make no provision in the law for enlarging the pumping service, or for preventing the water from becoming stagnant where they deliver it. I will add they had knowledge of these facts before their bill was introduced.

As the law of 1885, creating the new Water Commission, suspended indefinitely, the improvement of the property purchased, and the construction of an engine then being built by order of the old Water Commission, by authority of the law of 1884, and as the

new Water Commission appear to consider their duty under the law of 1885 ended, if they deliver a supply of water to the old Commissioners, unless some further action is taken, how will the interests of the public be subserved? and on whom will be the responsibility for trouble in the future?

It is unnecessary and not intended now, to express any opinion as to the relative merits of any waters, or the judiciousness of any experiments. The question is simply one of additional pumping facilities, equally necessary for any supply of water, whether taken from the river, or elsewhere.

In view of the danger of a water famine, liable to occur at any time, and the vast injury to be apprehended, not only to the public health, but to manufacturing and business interests, and the risk also to property resulting from a scarcity of water, it is surely proper to try to arouse public attention and to make an effort to have adequate legislation.

A law is herewith submitted, enabling the Water Commissioners, under the law of 1884, to proceed with the improvements contemplated under that law. This can be incorporated in the law proposed by the new Water Commissioners, if deemed best by the Common Council.

The Water Commissioners respectfully recommend what is deemed for the interest and safety of the city, and ask such action by the Common Council, in its recommendations to the Legislature, as will result in unanimous and concerted action with the two Water Commissions; all acting only for the interests of the city may well work together. Yet the Legislature should be petitioned on the subject by the Board of Common Council. The Water Commissioners, being at all times an advisory board, when the results of experience or information is wanted, should not be placed in the position of being at variance with the authorities of the city, where all should only have one interest.

An estimate is herewith submitted. The engine was contracted for and property purchased for houses and coal sheds, before the law of 1885 was passed, and are claims against the city.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

#### ROBERT LENOX BANKS,

President Board of Water Commissioners.

Whether the experiment of the Driven Well System, authorized by the law of 1885, be a successful one, or not; and if it is as successful both in quantity and quality, as can be claimed for it, an unnecessary provision in that law restrains the Water Commissioners from taking any steps under the law of 1884; after an engine had been contracted for and land purchased for the perfection of the plant for a duplication of the pumping works,

Said provision of the law of 1885, has subjected and now subjects the city to fearful risks of water famine, and imperils the public health and the peoples' property in case of fire.

In this matter the public have a right to demand concerted and potent action, on the part of the city authorities and the Water Commissions, an absence of all sentiment and prejudice, and a reasonable agreement as to proper legislation.

> ROBERT LENOX BANKS, President. JOHN M. KIMBALL, MICHAEL DELEHANTY,

ROBERT BRYCE.

EDWARD A. MAHER.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Water Commissioners' Office, Albany, February 5, 1887.

To the Board of Water Commissioners:

Gentlemen.—My report for the year 1886 is herewith submitted to your Board. It gives the extension of the pipe system, the hydrants and stop-cocks added to the works, the repairs made to the different lakes and reservoirs, and their condition upon the 31st December, 1886.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE W. CARPENTER,
Superintendent.

## RENSSELAER LAKE.

This lake has continued to furnish a supply to Bleecker Reservoir, when the engine was necessarily stopped for repairs and for cleaning the boilers, and also when the river water was too turbid for use. The water has been of excellent quality, no unpleasant odor or taste having been discovered in it. A barbed wire fence has been put along Washington avenue, to take the place of a board one, too much decayed to afford protection to the property. The lake itself and the lands adjoining, owned by the city, are in good condition; the keeper discharges his duties well and faithfully.

Weekly reports are made on every Saturday, of the daily height of the water in the lake, and of the amount, if any, sent through the conduit to Bleecker Reservoir. These returns, with the returns from the other reservoirs and with the time run daily by the engine, are tabulated in the office. An examination and comparison of these tables will show the sure and gradual increase in the city's consummation, and will give approximately the quantity used.

To provide against contingencies that may occur at any time, the policy has been pursued of impounding as great a quantity as possible in this lake. On October seventh, there remained in it only about three days' supply; any break in the engine at this time, requiring a week to repair, would have left the city west of Pearl street without a supply; or, if the water in the river had become roily, consumers would have been obliged to take it in that condition.

A large portion of the wood hereafter required for the engines may, as needed, be cut and teamed to the land attached to Prospect Hill Reservoir. By careful selection of the trees to be removed, this can be done without injury or reducing the value of the land; indeed, it

will be a benefit. It is necessary to keep the premises (between five hundred and six hundred acres) well fenced and carefully watched, to save the wood from being appropriated by those who eke out an existence by what they can steal.

#### FLOW-LINE IN RENSSELAER LAKE IN 1886.

	Date.	Ft.	In.
On the	thirty-first January	9	$11\frac{1}{2}$
"	twenty-eighth February	8	81/2
" •	thirty-first March	8	5
"	thirtieth April	13	$6\frac{1}{2}$
	thirty-first May	14	7
"	thirtieth June	10	0
"	thirty-first July	I 2	I
"	thirty-first August	9	10
"	thirtieth September	10	7
"	thirty-first October	10	7
• 6	thirtieth November	9	4
"	thirty-first December	I 2	$9\frac{1}{2}$

For years after the construction of the works, this lake supplied that portion of the city lying west of Pearl street, and at the same time kept all the mills in Tivoli street in operation. For a long period all the water has entered into the city consumption, and even with this, supplemented by the engine, there is danger of a failure in the supply.

#### EXHIBIT

## Of moneys paid in 1886, for keeper's salary, for repairs, cleaning shores, etc.

Keeper's salary	\$300 00
Fence posts	110 00
Materials and repairs to fence	264 00
Repairs to house, etc	84 49
Wall paper	16 25

# BLEECKER AND PROSPECT HILL RESERVOIRS.

The protection rails along the walk upon the top of the embankment have been repaired in a substantial manner; new rails will be required in a few years. The pavement in Ontario street has also been repaired.

The pavement in Clinton avenue is in a bad condition. If block pavement is not laid in this avenue next year, it will be necessary to take up and repave large portions of it. The pavement on the opposite side of the avenue ought to be repaired by the owners at the same time.

Except in the cold season, one of the helpers is obliged to watch the reservoir banks to prevent fishing, which, if permitted, would be followed by swimming. A night patrol is also frequently necessary; this labor, too, is performed by one of the regular helpers. As the reservoir and garden are open for inspection on Sundays, the keeper and a helper are always on duty at such times.

Arrangements might easily be made, and at very little expense, to lay out graveled walks through the ground attached to Bleecker Reservoir. A park of this kind, although small in its dimensions, would be appreciated by the residents in this section of the city, and certainly visited and enjoyed by them.

A six-inch pipe has been laid to replace the old drain from the keeper's house and engine building at Prospect Hill Reservoir. As this drain is necessarily deep and through quicksand, the expense of the work was large. Both the reservoirs are kept in good condition by the keeper, Mr. Richard Ryan.

#### FLOW-LINE IN BLEECKER RESERVOIR IN 1886.

1	Date.	Ft.	In.
On the	thirty-first January	13	$2\frac{1}{2}$
"	twenty-eighth February	I 2	I
"	thirty-first March	13	8
"	thirtieth April	13	111/4
"	thirty-first May	13	11
"	thirtieth June	13	11
"	thirty-first July	14	03/4
"	thirty-first August	I 2	10 1/2
"	thirtieth September	13	9
"	thirty-first October	13	4
"	thirtieth November	14	o ½
"	thirty-first December	12	5

Every foot of head in this reservoir is necessary for the service pipes. Careful inspection is therefore required to keep the water at or near the *maximum* flow-line.

#### **EXHIBIT**

Of moneys paid in 1886, for keeper's salary, helpers and mowers, upon both Bleecker and Prospect Hill reservoirs, and for materials and work.

Keeper's salary	\$300	00
Helpers and mowers	799	82
Repairs to drain	28	50
Carpenter work	212	55
Hardware	19	87
Tools	1	50
Repairs to pavement	60	38
Materials	13	79
	\$1,436	41

FLOW-LINE IN PROSPECT HILL RESERVOIR IN	1886.	
Date.	Ft.	ln.
On the thirty-first January	14	I
" twenty-eighth February	14	$4\frac{1}{2}$
" thirty-first March	13	03/4
" thirtieth April	13	2
" · thirty-first May	13	5
" thirtieth June	13	$6\frac{1}{2}$
" thirty-first July	12	11
" thirty-first August	13	4
" thirtieth September	13	2
" thirty-first October	13	9
" thirtieth November	U	,
" thirty-first December	13	3
	13	$9\frac{1}{2}$

High flow-line in this reservoir is fifteen feet; when full, it contains seven million three hundred and twelve thousand two hundred and three United States gallons.

## TIVOLI LAKE.

The Patroon's Creek, east of Rensselaer Lake, with all its tributaries, has repeatedly failed to keep the lower lake full, where it must be kept to give a serviceable head upon the house pipes, dependent upon this source of supply. To meet this deficiency in the flow of the creek, recourse is had to the water stored in Rensselaer Lake.

The quantity furnished by the streams has undoubtedly diminished: this, added to the annual increase of the number of consumers proves this quantity too small for the lower service. This deficiency will grow larger, for it must be remembered that every additional consumer is liable to become an additional waster. If the present lakes are abandoned, as has been recommended, and another lake to take their place is constructed west of

West Albany, provision ought to be made for a large one, in which to store the water of the creek in floods: without this, the lower service, east of Pearl street, will remain without a full supply, and exposed to water famines.

With a large reservoir, a much greater quantity might be distributed in, and east of Pearl street, and the complaints that now exist of too small a head upon the pipes be removed.

Other cities have increased their water supplies as they have increased in population and in manufacturing establishments. It is not strange, therefore, that the creek that once furnished motive power to the factories along Tivoli street, and, at the same time supplied abundance to consumers, has failed to give the quantity now required.

These lakes and the adjacent ground have been properly cared for by the keeper, and every precaution taken to keep impurities from reaching the water. The stone protection wall along the canal, leading from the upper lake has been taken down and rebuilt; necessary repairs have also been made to the house and the fences.

### FLOW-LINE IN TIVOLI LAKE IN 1886.

Date.	Ft.	In.			
On the thirty-first January			at hig	h flo	w-line.
" twenty-eighth February	0	3	below	high	flow-line.
" thirty-first March	0	I	"	"	"
" thirtieth April			at	"	"
" thirty-first May			"	"	• •
" thirtieth June	0	3	below	"	"
" thirty-first July			at	46	"

	Date.		In.		
On th	e thirty-first August	2	o below	high	flow-line.
	thirtieth September			"	
	thirty-first October			"	"
"				"	"
"	thirty-first December			"	•

#### EXHIBIT.

Showing the moneys paid in 1886, for keeper's salary, repairs, teaming, etc.

Keeper's salary	\$300	00
Repairs	. 13	50
Carpenter work	11	50
Repairs to canal wall	88	22
Labor and materials	I 2 I	16
Mowers	157	89
Hardware	5	70
Lumber	2	88
Team	13	50
- -	\$714	35

## MAEZLANDT KILL.

Thorough and needed repairs have been made upon this supply. The frame conduits have been cleaned, the reservoir building repaired, and the waste conduit opened and made serviceable. This is a valuable adjunct to the works, giving a supply to North Albany west of the old Troy road, to the horse railroad stables, and to a large number of consumers in Broadway, south to Clinton avenue, and in Pearl street, south to Columbia street. The water being very cold is considered a great luxury; those who use it are unwilling to change to the new supply. With its good qualities, it is what is classed a "hard water."

It sometimes fails during long droughts, when the deficiency is drawn from Bleecker Reservoir. The time is not distant, when the whole of Maezlandt Kill supply must be confined to consumers north of the Patroon's Creek and west of Broadway. When this becomes necessary, it can readily be done, without any expense or inconvenience to the owners.

## CONDUIT.

There have been expended on the conduit, for repairs to well chamber in Washington avenue and for clearing the land enclosed by the fences, \$88:25; carpenter work \$47.75, and clearing the land \$40.50.

## INSPECTORS.

#### MAEZLANDT KILL.

An Inspector is engaged to watch this source of supply: this is necessary to protect the works and maintain a head upon the mains in West Albany. The adjoining lands are a resort for the vicious and depraved, who, in addition to destroying the fences, purloining the locks and injuring the buildings, frequently shut down the gates or open the waste-pipe, and thus cut off the water from the city main. A constant daily inspection is therefore maintained, to save the property and secure the supply from interruption.

#### WEST ALBANY.

For years an Inspector has been kept at West Albany: his duties are to daily examine the main creek, Sand Creek and the shops, dwellings and yards, so as to detect and have removed all impurities that might otherwise reach and defile the water. If anything special requires additional help, he at once reports to the Superintendent. Great care is taken to protect the streams in passing through West Albany.

## SERVICE PIPES AND FIXTURES.

Were it not for unnecessary wastes of water, Albany would have an abundant supply for a population much larger than it now has. This evil is experienced in all water supplies, but as yet, no effectual remedy to prevent it has been devised.

Two Inspectors are engaged to detect wastes, whether caused by broken fixtures or by sheer carelessness; one is detailed to section south, and one to section north of State street. They report weekly (as do all the Inspectors), when notices, requiring all necessary repairs to be made without delay, are at once sent to the occupants. If a second examination finds the wastes still continuing, the water is turned off. From the reports, very few broken pipes remain in the out-door fixtures.

## FIRE HYDRANTS.

The fire hydrants are inspected daily throughout the winter; it is only by this constant supervision that they

are kept in a serviceable condition for fires. Each Inspector must keep his own hydrants ready for use.

## MAINS LAID IN 1886.

STREET.	FROM	то	4-inch.	6-inch.	Hydrant pipe.
Elberon place Sloan street Warren street Orange street Lark street First street Quail street Warren street Tivoli street Alexander street Hudson avenue Elberon place Hawk street.	Lake avenue Second avenue Delaware avenue Lexington avenue Washington avenue Judson street Western avenue Philip street Broadway Lark street End of old main Lake avenue End of main Canal street	West	275 911 1,434	420  2,833 228 225 2,590 718 420 250 200 203	18   9 50  78 24 15
	·		3,409	8,087	

 $I_{1000}^{531}$  miles of six-inch and  $\frac{6456}{10000}$  miles of four-inch main.

In First street, between Swan and Lark streets, the four-inch main has been replaced by a six-inch main; length of main, one thousand three hundred and fifty-four feet.

## LEAKS AND BREAKS IN 1886.

DATE.	DIAMETER. Inches.	LOCATION.	LEAKS.	BREAKS
January 2	4	Hudson avenue, west of Broadway		Break
January 14	T.	Knox street, north of Clinton avenue	Leak.	•
January 28		Livingston avenue, east of Watervliet avenue	Leak.	
February 1		Jefferson street, west of Eagle street		Break
February 10		Orange street, west of Hawk street		Break
February 15		Cherry street, at Green street		Break
March 4		Corner of William street and Hudson avenue	Leak.	
March 16		Eagle street, north of Hudson avenue		
March 18		Warren street, east of Elizabeth street		Break
March 19	i -	Clinton avenue, west of Lark street	Leak.	
March 30		Clinton avenue, west of Robin street	Leak.	i i
March 29	_	Clinton avenue, near Robin street	Leak.	
April 3	_	Eagle street, south of Howard street	Leak.	
April 6		Van Zandt street, east of Philip street		Break
April 7		Intersection of Hawk street and Madison avenue		Break
April 9		Warren street, near Grand street		Break
April 10		Colonie street, east of Broadway		
April 12		Opposite Chapel street	Leak.	
April 12		Jefferson street, west of Eagle street		Break
April 16	_	William street		Break
April 16		Clinton avenue, at Pearl street		
April 16		Clinton avenue, west of Robin street	Leak.	
April 16	1	Clinton avenue, opposite No. 512	Leak.	
April 20		Jefferson street, west of Eagle street		Break
April 22		State street, at Peart street	Leak.	

Ν

May 1	4	Eagle street at Lancaster street		Brook	
May 2		Third street, east of Lark street.	Leak	Dieak.	
May 10		Park avenue, west of Eagle street.	Leak.		
May 20	16	Washington avenue, near Knox street	Leolz		
May 20	8 s. c.	Ferry street, at Lumber District	Leak.		
May 21	HYDRANT.	Lumber District	Leak.	Danala	
May 22	HYDRANT.	Intersection Rensselaer and Dallius streets	•••••	Break.	
May 26	I 2	Washington avenue, west of Hawk street	Look	Break.	
May 29	30	Clinton avenue; east of Perry street	Leak.		
May 29	30				
May 29	12	State street, opposite Lodge street	Leak.		
May 31	8	In front of the City Hall	Leak.		
June 1	HYDRANT.	Corner of Livingston avenue and Broadway	Leak.		
June 7	30	In Clinton avenue, west of Robin street	Leak.		
June 7	30	In Clinton avenue, east of Ontario street	Leak.		
June 8	HYDRANT.			D 1.	N
June 9	HYDRANT,	South-east corner Elm and Philip streets.	•••••	Break.	23
June g	6	Lumber District (caused by drain)	T as la	Break.	
June 14	3	Van Zandt street, near Philip street	Leak.	D1-	
June 26	30	In Clinton avenue, west of Perry street.	Table	Break.	
June 28	·4				
June 29	4 S. C.	Hawk street, north of Jay street	Leak.	D 1	
July 1	30			Break.	
July 19	6		Leak.		
August 2	6		Leak.	D	
August 4	3	· Milliam atmost maam Ilamand storet		Break.	
August 4	4	Philip street, south of Warren street.	• • • • • •	Break.	
August 12	8 s. c.	Madison avenue, on west line of Pearl street	T colo	Break.	
August 12	4 S. C.				-
August 14	3	Bleecker street, east of Pearl street	Leak.		
	3	Diedendi Street, cast of Tear Street	Leak.		
		·	. '		

## LEAKS AND BREAKS IN 1886—(Continued).

DATE.	DIAMETER. Inches.	LOCATION.	LEAKS.	Breaks.
August 17	HYD. PIPE.	At Park entrance		•
August 25		Hawk street, south of Elm street		•
August 27	HYDRANT.	Eagle street and Maiden lane:		
August 29		McCarty avenue and Cherry Hill street		Break.
August 30		Hudson avenue, east of Hawk street		Break.
August 30		Clinton avenue, west of Dove street		-
September 7		Knox street, at Clinton avenue	Leak.	
September 9		Elk street, west line of Perry street	Leak.	
September in		Hamilton street, at Philip street	• • • • • • •	Break.
September 15		Broadway, at North Ferry street	Leak:	
September 15		Orange street, on west line Pearl street	Leak.	
September 23		In Clinton avenue, east of and near Judson street	Leak.	
September 26		Pearl street, at Gansevoort street		Break.
September 27		High street, at State street		Break.
October 6	HYDRANT.	Hawk street and Washington avenue	Leak.	
October 6		Rensselaer and Green streets		
October 6		Broadway, in front of No. 315		Break.
November 18	4	Broadway, north of State street (old w. w. pipe)		Break.
November 24	4 SLEEVE.	Hawk street, south of Lancaster street	Leak.	
December 2	4 SLEEVE.	South Ferry street, west of Broadway	Leak.	

The recommendation for laying water mains only in streets that have been graded and drained, is here repeated. While changes in the surface of the streets often entail expense on the owners, in lowering their service pipes, the fire hydrants ought to be drained, if possible, to protect them against freezing, and to keep them in a servicable condition.

**EXHIBIT** 

Showing the cost of new mains laid in 1886, including labor, teaming and materials.

Elberon place, west of Lake avenue	\$337 05
Sloan street, from Second to Third avenue	491 36
Orange street, from Lexington avenue to Robin street	486 74
Lark street, from Washington ave. to Madison ave	1,054 09
First street, from Judson street to Ontario street	2,491 93
Quail street, south of Western avenue	216 82
Warren street, west of Delaware avenue	195 03
Tivoli street, west of Broadway	2,946 81
First street, from Lark street to Knox street	624 18
Alexander street, west of Elizabeth street	395 55
Hudson aveenue, west of Lake avenue	277 70
Elberon place, between Lake avenue and Quail street	135 86
Hawk street, south of Canal street	183 37
Warren street, west of Philip street	216 73
Hydrant on south-east corner of Hawk and First streets,	55 80
Hydrant in Broadway, opposite Mohawk street	136 00
Hydrant on corner of First street and Broadway	68 75
Changing hydrant from south-east to north-east Swan	
and First streets	12 75
Setting, etc., stop-cocks, in West and Bradford streets,	
and in Washington avenue	64 75
Replacing the four-inch with a six-inch main, in First	
street, east of Lark street	711 77
\$	311,103 04

#### STOP-COCKS.

The following stop-cocks have been added to the works during the year ending December 31, 1886.

works during the year ending December 31, 1800.	
In Warren street, on west line of Delaware avenue	τ
In First street, on west line of Judson street	1
In First street, on east line of Ontario street	I
In Spring street, on west line of Lark street	1
In West street, on west line of Robin street	I
In Bradford street, on west line of Robin street	I
In Washington avenue, on west line of Robin street	I
In Tivoli street, on west line of Broadway	I
In State street, on west line of Broadway	1
In State street, on west line of Broadway	I
Added during the year 1886	10
Number December 31, 1885	388
Total number December 31, 1886	398

There are still a few locations where additional stopcocks would prove serviceable, both to ordinary consumers and manufacturers.

During the past year, one large section between Central and Clinton avenues, has been divided by stop-cocks. This will lessen the labor of extending the mains, of making repairs, and will relieve a large number of consumers from annoyance caused by emptying the pipes.

I again recommend setting stop-cocks on both sides of Broadway, south of State street, for reasons heretofore given. When this is done, repairs can be made in the day-time, without cutting off the supply of water from the large number of manufacturing establishments, south of State street, and east of Green street.

## HYDRANTS..

Additional hydrants added to the works during the the year 1886:

In Elberon place, 400 feet west of Lake avenue	1
In Lark street, near Washington avenue	*1
In First street, on west line of Judson street	I
In First street, between Judson and Perry streets	I
In First street, corner of Perry street	1
In First street, between Perry and Quail streets	1
In First street, between Quail and Ontario streets	1
On south-east corner of Hawk and First streets	I
On west end of Alexander street main	ľ
In First street, on west line of Lark street	*1
In First street, between Lark and Knox streets	I
In North First street, on west line of Broadway	I
East of Broadway, opposite Mohawk street	I
In Tivoli street, about 400 feet west of Broadway	1
In Tivoli street, about 800 feet west of Broadway	I
In Tivoli street, about 1,200 feet west of Broadway	I
In Tivoli street, about 1,600 feet west of Broadway	I
In Tivoli street, about 2,000 feet west of Broadway	I
In Tivoli street, about 2,400 feet west of Broadway	1
Added to the works during the year 1886	19
Number on the 31st December, 1885	535
Total number December 31, 1886	554

## SPECIAL RATES.

## Amount of special rates paid in 1886.

Ву	meters	\$13,795	о8
I 2	Brewers	3,884	44
17	Maltsters	1,960	14
19	Livery stables	423	66
19	Country taverns	238	75
14	Fountains	128	44

<sup>\*</sup> To clean the dead end of the mains.

•		
53 Bakers	\$305	91
104 No street mains	1,191	-
Baths, for whole year (325) \$975 00		
Baths, for part year (20)		
·	1,014	25
82 Buildings erected since last assessment	318	28
5r Horses and cows	701	50
21 Hotels and boarding houses	775	25
1 Public building	100	00
Sreet hose, for whole year (151) \$755 oo		
Street hose, for part year (6) 16 00		
	771	00
11 Garden hose	33	00
150 Steam engines	4,001	07
106 Building purposes:	614	85
r Canal stable	27	00
Water closets, for part year (103) 124 76		
	7,406	76
	46	00
	7,552	92
Permits of 1885, paid in 1886	2,732	60
	\$48,022	72
Water closets, for whole year (3.641)\$7,282 oo Water closets, for part year (103)	7,406 46 7,552 2,732	76 00 92 60

## SPECIAL RATES.

### EXHIBIT.

Amount of special permits from 1852 to 1886, inclusive.

is a special permitted from 1032 to 10	oo, muai	
Year.	·	
Year. 1852		\$5,440 07
1853		7,665 33
1854		12,070 06
		, ·
1855		11,526 00
1856		
		11,748 72
1857		11,795 45
1858		12,661 18
1859		12,371 88
		701
1860		12,736 09
1861		,,,,
		11,504 78
1862		12,613 67
		, , ,
1863		12,243 85

Year.	. Amount.
Year. 1864	\$13,492 17
1865	13,198 37
1866	15,583 50
1867	17,383 96
1868	22,017 25
1869	
1870	
1871	
1872	
1873	
1874	
1875	. 25,698 96
1876	
1877	
1878	
1879	
1880	
1881	
1882	
1883	
1884	
1885	
1886	
•	

While the ordinary water rents upon buildings and vacant lots are paid to the Receiver of Taxes, the special water rates, for the use of water for special purposes, are paid to the Chamberlain.

#### EXHIBIT.

Showing the moneys paid in 1886, for pipe castings, stop and service-cocks, lead, etc.

Pipe castings	\$1,249	64
Hydrants, including casings and boxes	223	45
Stop-cocks, including covers	687	34
Service-cocks	369	84
Lead	560	38
Sand	33	40

Plugs	Ū	50
Coke	18	44
Packing	59	51
EXHIBIT.	\$3,207	50
Showing the moneys paid in 1886, for labor and teaming in to mains, hydrants, and stop-cocks.		ade
Repairs to mains	\$852	86
Repairs to hydrants	318	05
Repairs to stop-cocks	387	•
EXHIBIT	\$1,538	39
Of payments made on account of the Albany City Water-Wor	rhe in 18	86
New pumping engine, river		
Prospect Hill reservoir		
Prospect Hill reservoir	9,482	
Refunded water rents	241	
Bleecker reservoir, including keeper	1,436	41
Rensselaer lake, including keeper	774	
Tivoli lake, including keeper	714	
Conduit	88	-
Maezlandt Kill	368	
Office expenses, including Superintendent's salary	6,476	71
Printing and advertising		
Watchman at West Albany	460	50
Inspectors of water fixtures	939	00
Inspectors of fire hydrants, in winter	1,350	
Regular employes	8,808	30
Tapper boy	234	75
Incidental expenses	3,367	13
Insurance and taxes	482	58
Mains, stop-cocks and hydrants	2,161	03
Laying mains	5,507	77
Repairing mains, hydrants and stop-cocks	1,558	39
Stable and tool house	1,868	05
Preparing assessment, water rent rolls	645	25
Lead, coke, packing, etc	369	84
•	\$86,291	09

The following schedule shows the amounts of the "water rents" in the different wards for the year 1887.

First ward	\$6,050	70
Second ward	5,449	87
Third ward	5,783	62
Fourth ward	8,069	58
Fifth ward:	6,564	76
Sixth ward	10,140	00
Seventh ward	6,424	04
Eighth ward	4,758	74
Ninth ward	5,968	56
Tenth ward	9,378	29
Eleventh ward	8,060	04
Twelfth ward	6,802	69
Thirteenth ward	7,104	83
Fourteenth ward	9,107	49
Fifteenth ward	5,446	56
Sixteenth ward	10,144	57
Seventeenth ward	7.638	98
	\$122,893	32

## REPORT

OF THE

## ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF OF STEAM POWER.

Albany, January 28, 1887.

To the Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Albany:

Gentlemen. — I have the honor to submit herewith, the eleventh annual report of the operation of the river pumping engines, supplying Bleecker Distributing Reservoir; and the ninth annual report of the high service pumping engines, supplying Prospect Hill Distributing Reservoir.

## RIVER PUMPING ENGINES.

These were in operation during the past year, two hundred and ninety-eight (298) days, with an average pumping of twenty-one hours and forty minutes per day, and pumped from the river into Bleecker Distributing Reservoir two billions six hundred and seventy-five millions, five hundred and seventy thousand, one hundred and fifty (2,675,570,150) gallons, nearly ninety-eight (98) millions more than the previous year.

In addition to the above, there was drawn from Rensselaer Lake during the stoppages of the pumps, about six hundred and one million, five hundred thousand (601,500,000) gallons, making a total of upwards of three billions, two hundred and seventy-seven millions (3,277,000,000), exclusive of the quantity drawn from Rensselaer Lake during the cold weather to supplement the shortage of the river pumping engines when they were working up to and somewhat beyond the quantity they were contracted to supply. This supplement I computed in last year's annual report, to be on some occasions, two millions, six hundred and ninety-three thousand, one hundred and thirty (2,693,130) gallons per twenty-four hours; making the total supply on those occasions twelve millions, six hundred and odd thousand (12,600,000) gallons per twenty-four hours.

Gallons of Water delivered through Bleecker Distributing Reservoir.

YEAR.	No. of days pumping.	Average No. of gallons pumped per day.	No. of gallons pumped per year.	Gallons from Rensselaer lake during stoppage of pumps.	Total gallons through Bleecker, exclusive of water taken from Reneselaer during operation of engines.	Per cent. from river per year.	Per cent, more than preceding year.
1876	143	4,558,973	651;928,008	1,012,083,997	1,644,012,005	39.17	
1877	245	4,837,309	1,185,140,858	581,477,153	1,766,618,011	67.12	
1878	225	4,478,004	1,007,557,050	626,920,650	1,634,471,700	61.64	i
1879	262	4,31,176	1,146,933,700	433,945,540	1,580,879,240	71.92	į.
1880	308	5,176,934	1,594,495,900	295,085,680	1,889,581,180	84.38	
1881	318	6,663,136	2,128,877,300	303,167,398	2,432,044,698	87.12	!
1882	270	7,197,170	1,943,209,168	683,721,743	2,626,930,911	73,97	i
1883	302	7,328,964	2,213,347,400	448,287,677	2,669,650,636	82.91	1
1884	283	7,784,444	2,203,486,700	629,489,334	2,833,336,034	77.78	
1885	285	8,671,508	2,577,816,725	589,662,544	3,167,439,269	81.37	16,965
1886	298	8,978,423	2,675,570,150	601,500,000	3,277,070,150	81.645	3.762

#### BOILERS.

The battery of steam boilers, consisted until recently, of five boilers, of the locomotive type; each twenty feet six inches long. Shell, sixty-six inches in diameter. Fire-box seventy-six inches wide, and each containing seventy-eight (78) four-inch tubes, ten feet long.

They have been in constant use eleven and a half years, and the latter half of that time, night and day. They have received, from time to time, such repairs as a due regard to safety and efficiency required, but they begin to show the effects of age and hard work, and the repairs upon them will have to be more extensive during the present year. This was foreseen two years ago, and a new boiler was made, according to my drawings and specifications, by the firm of Skinner & Arnold, of this city.

It is of Otis homogeneous steel, cylindric in form, eightyseven inches inside diameter, and twenty feet long. It is double return drop tubular, and the hot gases travel fifty-four feet before leaving the boiler. It has been in regular service one month, and when required, has done the work of three of the old boilers.

The present working steam pressure required, is only thirtyfive pounds, but this boiler will be quite safe with a pressure of one hundred pounds per square inch, so that if necessary, at any future time, it can be used in connection with compound engines.

#### FILTERS.

Heretofore, when pumping continuously for a month, and in winter, six weeks, and sometimes longer, without an opportunity to open and clean boilers, the surface and bottom blow-off valves had to be used four, and if the river was turbid, as often as six times per twenty-four hours, to prevent priming, which it did; but with an increase in the consumption of coal, ranging from one thousand to fourteen hundred pounds per twenty-four hours.

In October, the Albany Steam Trap Company erected two eighteen-inch Blessing filters and return traps in the boilerhouse, and connected them to the boilers. Their operation is as follows: They take the water from the boiler, or boilers, in a continuous stream, which passes through hard packed, fine sand, in the filtering vessels, from which it is taken clear and limpid, by the return traps, and discharged into the same boilers. The direction of the current can be reversed, and the filters cleaned in a few minutes, by a very simple process, and without opening the apparatus. It is filtration by circulation from the boilers to the filters, and from these through the automatic return traps, back to the boilers.

When the filters had been in operation a month or more, on the five boilers, which had been steaming night and day, but without blowing off, as formerly (the glass water gauges showing it was unnecessary), the boilers were opened, and found to be much cleaner than usual, and the old scale considerably honeycombed and much of it so loose on the tubes, that it could be brushed off.

The boilers have been opened twice since, and each time gave unmistakable evidence of the continuation of the solvent action of the filtered water upon the scale, and its gradual detachment from the metallic surfaces by the same cause.

The pumping engines never worked better nor more smoothly than at the present time; notwithstanding which they should have a general overhauling, of not less than one week's duration, whenever Spring, and the quantity of water in Rensselaer Lake permits.

For details of operation, etc., please see Monthly Record No. 1.

#### THE PROSPECT HILL PUMPING ENGINES

Were in operation connected, (i. e., both engines) three hundred and forty-five and a half (345½) days, and single (while the change of pumps was being made) nineteen and a half (19½) days, and pumped from Bleecker into Prospect Hill High Service Distributing Reservoir one billion, twenty million, one hundred and sixty-one thousand, three hundred and sixty (1,020,161,360) ;gallons, an increase of twenty-nine million, seven hundred and forty-three thousand, two hundred and eighty (29,743,280) gallons, or about three (3) per cent. more than the preceding year.

YEAR.	Gallons per year.	Gallons in- crease per year.	Per cent. in- crease per year.	Per cent. increase from 1879.
1878 1879 1880 1881 1882 1883 1884 1885 1886	364,383,760 479,188,160 588,917,600 662,060,480 692,437,380 717,140,480 793,234,080 990,418,080 1,020,161,360	114,804,400 59,729,440 123,142,880 30,376,900 24,703,100 76,093,600 197,184,000 29,743,280	31.50 12.48 22.85 4.58 3.56 10.67 24.85 3.003	12.480 38.201 44.502 49.657 67.624 106.687 112.905

The two pumps you authorized me to have made according to the designs I submitted, have been in service, one of them eight, and the other three months. Their operation fully equals what was expected of them.

The old bucket valves (hinge type), when wide open, had an extreme lift of four inches (one of the serious objections to them), which gave an outlet area of only one hundred and four inches. The new buckets and valves are of an entirely new type, and with valves the extreme lift of which is half an inch, gives an outlet area of two hundred and thirty-four inches, which is rather more than the internal area of the bucket. The buckets and plungers are packed with elastic metallic packing; there is no soft or fibrous packing in contact with any part of the buckets, pumps or plungers, thereby reducing the loss by friction to its practicable minimum.

Believing that most new devices, however seemingly perfect theoretically, may be considered experimental in some degree, and susceptible of improvement, which only the actual operation of it can demonstrate, I deemed it prudent not to make the foot-valves until after a thorough trial of the buckets. This trial having extended over a period of eight months, and proving so entirely satisfactory, I can, with the utmost confidence, recommend the adoption of foot-valves of the same type.

These (the upper service engines and boilers) are in good working order, but needing occasionally such repairs as the wear and tear of such constant use must require.

For details of operation and quantities, please see Monthly Record No. 2.

Respectfully,

JOHN H. MARS,

Chief Engineer.

## NUMBER ONE PUMPING ENGINES.—Monthly Record.

			MPS IN OPE- RATION. REVOLUTIONS.					set.	Pounds of		Pounds of Ashes, etc. Galls. Pumped into Blee Reservoir.						
1886.	Days per month.	Hours and minutes per month.	Hours and minutes per day.	Per minute.	Per day.	Per month.	Lift, in feet	Velocity in feet per second.	Friction, in fo	· Pumping.	Heating build- ings, banking fires, etc.	Total.	Per cent.	Per pound of coal.	Per day.	Per month.	Duty.
January February March April May June July August September October November	26 23 27 22 24 16 27 26 29 25 23	589,15 528,12 603,04 451,01 485,31 326,22 576,12 560,35 641,40 548,29 454,56 688,10	22.40 22.58 22.20 20.46 20.18 20.24 21.20 21.33 22.07 21.56 19.42 22.56	12.506 15.502 12.521 12.520 12.551 12.476 12.513	17,000 17,388 16,947 15,588 15,175 15,324 16,287 16,568 16,511 14,881 17,362	443,568 399,829 457,840 842,938 364,208 245,195 432,847 422,175 480,342 412,794 342,274 520,863	240.312 240.842 241.189 240.677 241.532 242.202 242.379 242.412 242.948 242.571 241.399 240.334	8.182 3.147 3.175 3.188 3.131 3.142 3.150 3.140 3.146 3.165	1	817,200 745,900 857,291 687,320 665,900 438,400 798,300 910,300 739,200 610,400 917,832	49,300 38,760 22,200 22,525 22,440 4,200 8,430 8,000 6,800 6,400 18,000 56,000	119, 428 108, 206 114, 677 90, 393 95, 002 58, 488 114, 813 111, 305 128, 470 108, 608 93, 443 141, 700		298.534 294.819 293.728 295.951 300.652 307.612 298.216 290.827 290.061 307.139 308.405 312.121	9,383,167 9,561,128 9,826,970 8,573,450 8,341,850 8,424,578 8,817,283 8,930,625 9,109,984 9,241,468 8,184,813 9,549,155	243,962,400 219,905,950 251,812,000 188,615,900 200,204,400 184,857,250 288,065,850 282,196,250 264,188,100 227,036,700 188,250,700 286,474,650	63,978,097 61,767,563 63,255,887 63,537,242 64,761,882 64,424,048 64,439,082 62,889,496 62,770,678 66,412,879 66,404,205 66,979,307
	298	6,459.27	21.40	12.552	16,825	4,864,873	241,562	8.150	16.479	8,936,946	263,055	1,284,538	13.962	299,383	8,978,423	2,675,570,150	64,481,786

## NUMBER TWO PUMPING ENGINES.—MONTHLY RECORD.

i	3		Pumps 13 Batic	- 1	R	ZVOLUTI	ons.	ا ند	feet.	Pounds	OF COAL.	POUNDS .			OT HILL RE	MPED INTO SERVOIR.	
Engines in opers Days per mon	in oper more and	Heaters and banking fires.	Total.	Per cent.	Per pound of coal.	Average per day.	Total per month.	Duty.									
January February March A pril May. June June July August. September October November November December.	2 2 2 1 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	31 28 31 30 26 5 19 11 31 30 31 26 31 32 31	557.17 518.41 527.16 395.34 336.23 119.25 241.19 228.02 411.33 388.48 405.84 405.84 367.47 336.13 70.27 458.43	17.58 18.31 17.00 13.11 12.56 23.53 12.42 20.43 13.16 12.32 13.30 12.49 12.41 20.07 14.48	19.942 20.152 20.756 20.499 20.499 21.950 20.181 20.373 20.541 20.191 20.086 20.895 21.956	21,511 22,399 21,182 16,217 15,913 31,455 15,379 26,900 16,231 15,457 16,874 15,142 15,909 26,517 18,876	666, 862 627, 173 656, 653 486, 525 418, 738 157, 274 292, 202 295, 900 503, 161 479, 418 491, 342 479, 409 421, 606 92, 811 585, 162	59.279 59.395 58.856 59.004 59.414 56.600 59.781 57.471 59.272 59.873 59.700 59.760 59.985 59.635 60.495		86,725 79,550 79,300 61,675 51,125 9,300 36,975 19,000 66,625 63,400 64,450 62,100 54,843 6,100 75,120	8,720 8,750 9,900 7,525 7,125 3,600 4,650 4,350 5,000 5,450 10,700	13,544 13,100 11,670 10,500 11,000 9,500 19,000 9,800 12,100 12,600 10,500		1290,301 1261,441 1324,898 1262,164 1294,827 1382,894 1264,430 1245,894* 1208,341 1209,294 1219,778 1235,192 1290,001 1217,191 1246,351	3,441,868 3,583,845 3,889,176 2,594,800 2,546,030 2,516,384 2,460,649 2,152,000 2,596,960 2,473,202 2,620,491 2,474,330 2,545,545 2,121,394 3,020,191	106, 697, 120 100, 847, 680 105, 064, 480 77, 844, 800 66, 198, 080 12, 581, 920 46, 752, 320 23, 672, 000 80, 505, 760 76, 705, 440 67, 456, 960 7, 424, 880 93, 625, 920	
	2	3451/2	4,975 08	14.24	20.445	17,664	6,103,016	59.617	3.97	781,888	80,470	138,760	15.478	1248.877	2,826,288	976,482,560 43,678,800	66,176,99

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