Queries

TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE

Manhattan Water Works,

AND HIS ANSWERS THERETO.

Q. What number of gallons of water are raised, on an average, each twenty-four hours, for the use of the city?

A. Six hundred ninety-one thousand two hundred gallons.

Q. How many hours of the twenty-four are you employed pumping?

A. About sixteen hours, on an average.

Q. What number of gallons could the works furnish to the city, if wanted, per twenty-four hours, all the year round?

A. One million thirty-six thousand eight hundred gallons.

Q. Is it in the power of the works to pump the well dry?

A. I have endeavored to pump it dry, but have not been able, and therefore deem it impossible.

Q. What is the force of each steam-engine?

A. Two steam-engines, each eighteen horse power.

Q. What quantity of water do the reservoirs contain, when full?

A. One hundred thirty-two thousand six hundred ninety-six gallons.

Q. When the pumps stop working, in what quantity does the water in the well increase per hour?

A. At the rate of fifteen feet per hour, the well being twenty-five feet diameter.

Q. How many miles of pipes are laid in the city?

A. Upwards of twenty-five miles.

Q. How many houses are at present supplied with water?

A. Exceeding two thousand houses, excluding manufactories, &c. &c.

Q. How many fire-plugs are furnished for the convenience of the fire companies, and what compensation does the company receive for the water used and wasted at fires?

A. About one hundred and fifty fire-plugs, free for the use of the fire-engines, and for which the company have never received any compensation, to my knowledge.

Q. Do you know of any complaints of want of supply of water, that are not trifling, and easily satisfied?

A. No complaints have come to the water-office, except of a trifling nature, and soon remedied.

Q. Do you know or can you say, about how many more houses than are at present furnished with water, you could supply? Please to state as correctly as you can the number.

A. If one house use thirty gallons per day, then eleven thousand five hundred and twenty houses may be supplied daily, in addition to those already supplied.

Q. Are not the impurities of the water, if any, allowed to settle in the reservoirs, before the water passes into the pipes of conduit?

A. The water is pumped perfectly clear, and the reservoirs are so constructed with strainers, that impurities, if any, cannot pass into the pipes of conduit.

Q. Is not the Manhattan Water deemed a wholesome water?

A. The Manhattan Water is considered wholesome. I drink it and have experienced no unwholesome effects from it, nor have I ever heard of any. The water appears as pure and clean as any I ever saw.

The reason that we have to pump sixteen hours, I thus account for:

We furnish with water, brewers, dyers, morocco leather dressers, tanners and curriers, livery stables, distilleries, hatters and grocers, and they use and waste double the quantity of water that the whole number of private houses do. The grocers near the river supply the vessels and shipping with water, in order to secure their custom; and the grocers in the more interior parts of the city supply their neighbors for the same purpose: besides, they let the water run to waste, for the purpose, as they say, to prevent freezing in winter, and to keep it cool in summer; the water taken from the fire-plugs to extinguish fires, the hose of the engines being introduced therein during fire, and the water let off to wash the pipes of conduit. Leakage of lateral pipes and cocks, and water given away to non-subscribers, by those who have pipes in their premises, are abuses to which the company are liable; for it is notorious, that one pipe often supplies a whole neighborhood.

To the above causes may be ascribed the extra pumping.

New-York, March 5, 1823.

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Memoranda relative to the Manhattan Water Works.

THE Manhattan Company have expended a very large sum in forming this establishment, and keeping it in good order; not less than *four hundred thousand Dollars*, (including the income, which has always been expended in maintaining and increasing it) presuming that their chartered rights could not be impaired, directly or indirectly.

They have supplied the City *gratuitously* with water during fires, for the use of the fire engines, which has saved an incalculable amount of property from being burnt.

The State owns a considerable number of Shares of the Manhattan Stock, which ought not to suffer a reduction in its value; and a considerable number of Shares are also owned by Trustees, Guardians, Widows, and Children, who, in making this investment, have relied on the continuance of the Charter inviolate.

The Manhattan Company have raised a greater quantity of Water than the citizens take, and which is from the same source and neighbourhood that supplied the old Tea Water Pump, and was formerly called Tea water, and was then considered the best Water on the Island of New-York. If the Water loses a part of its elasticity and freshness, by passing through, and lying in, the Water-pipes, any other Water, whether obtained from sources on the Island, or brought from a distance, will be liable to the same contingency.

The Manhattan Company are now progressing in their search for better Water, if better can be procured, that is, more wholesome, and will leave no mean untried to effect this object.

The Manhattan Company have made loans to the State, and the Governor and other Officers of the State, before and during the late War, to a very large amount.

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January 21, 1905