

## NO SALT WATER.

The special committee appointed by the Board of Aldermen "to investigate the feasibility of utilizing the waters of the North and East Rivers for fire and sanitary purposes has reported earnestly against that scheme, especially as embodied in the bill before the Legislature, under the title of "An Act to Incorporate the Salt Water Supply Company of the City of New York." That bill confers the power of taxing every freeholder at the rate of twenty cents a foot for each foot of land owned by him fronting on the streets or alleys of the city; every fire insurance company doing business in the city \$200; every marine insurance company \$100; every public institution not eleemosynary twenty cents per foot of land fronting on any street or alley; for every steamer or vessel of 100 tons \$500 for each voyage, and for every coastwise vessel \$10 per year. The committee think that "the proposition should receive the indignant reprobation of the people and government of both State and city of New York."

Allan Campbell, Commissioner of Public Works, having investigated the subject, reports that New York has already expended on the introduction of the Croton water \$15,000,000, and that the introduction of salt water would cost at least \$13,000,000. He says the damage done by water at fires in wetting goods would be increased by the use of salt water.

The wastage of Croton, he thinks, can be checked by the use of meters on all stores, manufactories and other places where extra water is used.

The Croton River, he adds, will furnish treble the quantity of water which passes through the present aqueduct, and in due time it will be proper for the city to take steps to secure an additional supply from this source, and the money thus laid out, while it will give an abundance of pure water for the increasing population, will also furnish an ample supply for the extinguishment of fires.

The Croton Aqueduct can supply daily 830,000,000 gallons—three times the quantity now consumed—and the Croton basin, with its present resources, can feed a city of 3,000,000 people.

As evidence of the importance of the water question the committee calls attention to the fact that Rome, in its palmyest days, had no less than twenty-four district aqueducts, and among these one was sixty-three and another thirty-eight miles in length. The arches, 100 feet and higher, over which the water was carried, measured in one instance six and a half miles in an unbroken line, and in another were 7,000 in number. The daily supply of water to ancient Rome could not have been less than 400,000,000 gallons. With the decay of these wonderful works the decay of Rome kept pace, and so, they add, it would be with New York if for one moment we were to neglect our aqueduct, instead of carrying it to its utmost capacity and perfection.