

THE CITY OF TROY

AND

ITS VICINITY

BY

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EDWARD GREEN
TROY: 214 RIVER STREET

1886

hoes, N. Y. He sells his goods direct to the trade.

WATERFORD KNITTING COMPANY, manufacturers of scarlet, knit underwear, King's Canal. J. W. Himes, president; Thomas Breslin, treasurer; M. E. Daniels, secretary. The company was formed January, 1886, and refitted the Rock Island Flouring Mills previously owned by J. B. Enos & Co., erected about the year 1863. The company employs about 80 operatives. Its goods are sold direct to the trade from the Diamond Mills.

MOHAWK AND HUDSON PAPER MILL, Frank Gilbert proprietor and manufacturer of printing paper, King's Canal. In 1872, the Mohawk and Hudson Paper Company began manufacturing paper on the site of the present mill. In 1876, Frank Gilbert, one of the members of the company, purchased its interest. Six tons of printing paper are made daily at the mill, in which 45 men are employed. The firm of Gilbert & Bell (F. H. Bell,) has a pulp-mill, on Saratoga Street, Cohoes, near the street-railway bridge across the Champlain Canal.

The works of the Mohawk & Hudson Manufacturing Company are in Dial City, south of the Champlain Canal. A lampblack factory, and three more knitting mills are to be included in the number of Waterford's manufactories.

Water Works, Troy.—About the beginning of the century the village was supplied with water by the Aqueduct Water Works, through wooden pipes from a spring on the western declivity of Mount Ida, east of Liberty Street. On July 1, 1806, an ordinance was passed by the village trustees "to preserve the unnecessary waste of water" brought to the village by "the aqueducts."

An act "to incorporate the proprietors of the Earthen Conduit Company of Troy," was passed by the legislature, June 16, 1812. By the "act to incorporate the proprietors of the Conduit Company of Troy," passed April 13, 1814, the company was permitted to use cast-iron pipes; the manufacture of which had been begun about that time at Salisbury, Conn.

The act incorporating the Troy Water Works was passed April 18, 1829; the stock was not to exceed \$250,000. By the act passed, March 20, 1832, the company was permitted to sell its property to the city. It was conveyed, and the construction of a series of reservoirs was begun in the spring of 1833, on the Piscawen Kill, where now is the distributing reservoir, west of Oakwood Avenue. The aggregate capacity of the several reservoirs was 1,009,359 gallons. In 1843 and 1853, other reservoirs were constructed along the Piscawen Kill, west and east of Oakwood Avenue. The total cost of the Troy Water Works, March 1, 1848, was \$160,496.37. There were then 59,497 feet of pipes distributing water through the city.

By the act, passed March 9, 1855, Harvey Smith, William F. Sage, Thomas Symonds, Joseph M. Warren, and Liberty Gilbert were appointed by the legislature water commissioners of Troy. Their successors were to be elected by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the common council. In 1859-60, 1862, 1868, and 1869, other reservoirs were constructed. In 1861, a force pump was placed in a building near the state-dam to pump water from the river into the mains. The machinery was afterward successively moved to buildings on the hydraulic canal, south of the former station, and water pumped from the canal to supply in part the city.

On March 19, 1879, a plat of ground

was purchased of J. Lansing Van Schoonhoven for \$9,000, on the north-west corner of State and Washington streets, in Lansingburgh. From its frontage of 300 feet on State Street it extends westward 450 feet to low-water mark on the bank of the Hudson. A contract was made with the Holly Manufacturing Company of Lockport, N. Y., on May 7, 1879, for "two sets of pumping engines and boilers with the necessary buildings, including smoke-stack, the inlet chamber in the Hudson River, the tunnel leading therefrom to the pump-well, a high service reservoir and a 30-inch rising or force main extending from the pumping station to Lower Oakwood Reservoir, (a distance of about $3\frac{1}{8}$ miles);" the consideration being \$235,000.

In June, that year, the enlargement of the water works began, and in February, 1880, water was pumped into the lower Oakwood reservoir for the first time from the new station. In the attractive one-story building, faced with Croton pressed brick, are two Holly quadruplex engines, each capable of pumping six million gallons of water daily. Near it is a two-story brick building in which the engineers reside. The thirty-inch main, through which water is forced into lower Oakwood reservoir, is 16,753 feet long, and extends from the pumping station southward through Lansingburgh to Glen Avenue, where it deflects eastwardly and enters the lower Oakwood reservoir on the east side of Oakwood Avenue.

The system of reservoirs of the Troy Water Works begins with Brunswick Lake, in the town of Brunswick, about three miles east of Oakwood Avenue. Immediately west of it is Vanderheyden Lake. About two miles west of that lake, on the Link road, is the high service reservoir, 384 feet above tide-water. About a half a

mile west of it is the upper Oakwood reservoir, and west of it, the lower Oakwood reservoir, on the east side of Oakwood Avenue. On the west side of the avenue is the low service reservoir.

The system of distribution of water to different parts of the city embraces three divisions:

The low service comprises that part of the city between the river and a plane of 202 feet above the height of tide-water. One main extends westerly from the low service reservoir along Glen Avenue to River Street. Another from the same reservoir extends westerly along and across the Piscawen Kill to the pipes which formerly supplied water from the old distributing reservoir. One of the pipes distributes water along Eighth Street to Federal Street, and runs thence to River, Fourth, Ida, Third streets, across the Poesten Kill, thence to Madison, Fourth, to and across the Wynants Kill to Water Street. The other pipe extends southwestwardly to the intersection of Canal Street and Vail Avenue, and thence runs to River Street, and thence along River Street southwardly to the central part of the city.

The middle service includes that part of the city between a plane of 202 feet above tide-water and a plane of 290 feet above the same. The main supplying this division extends across the land of William II. Frear to Oakwood Avenue, thence along it to Tenth Street, People's Avenue, Ninth, Federal, Eighth and Congress streets to the stone bridge across the Poesten Kill, on Pawling Avenue.

The high service embraces that part of the city between a plane of 290 feet and a plane of 384 feet above tide-water. The main supplying this division extends from the high service reservoir across the fields to Burdett Avenue, thence to Tibbits, Bruns-

wick, Pawling, Maple avenues to Campbell's Highway, and thence along it to the Iron Works.

The present extent and capacity of the water works and those of 1855 are contrasted in the annual report of the water commissioners for the fiscal year 1884: "At that time the city had a population of about 33,000. Its water works, such as they were, had then been in existence over twenty years, and had cost, up to that year inclusive, about \$175,000. The extent of pipe laid was 12 miles; number of fire plugs, 85; stop-gates, 91. The assessed water-rents were \$15,324.60. There was but one storage reservoir, Brunswick Lake, and one distributing reservoir in addition to the fire dam, with an aggregate capacity of three hundred and fifty-two million gallons; and there was but one 12-inch supply pipe for the whole city, while the total daily supply of probably less than one million gallons was fully ample to meet the demands of that day. * * *

"During the short interval of only thirty years that has elapsed since that time the population of the city has increased to 60,000. The board has had to supervise the additional expenditure, in construction alone, of the large sum of \$933,618.70. The extent of pipe laid has increased from 12 to 48 miles; the fire plugs from 85 to 516, aside from private plugs; and the stop-gates from 91 to 740. The assessed water rents have increased from \$15,000 to \$65,000; the storage, or reservoir capacity, from three hundred and fifty-two millions to six hundred and thirty-three millions; the daily consumption from one to nine millions; and finally a large and expensive system of pumping by steam power from the Hudson River has been superadded to the original gravity supply in order to meet the growing demands of our large population."

The total cost of the water works from 1833 to March 1, 1886, was \$1,149,083.81. The present debt, since the enlargement and extension of the water works in 1879, is \$421,000.

The water commissioners are Richard F. Hall, president, Joseph Fales, Lyman R. Avery, David M. Ranken, and Dennis J. Whalen.

On February 1, 1885, Palmer H. Baermann succeeded David M. Greene as chief engineer of the water works department. Edward H. Chapin has been superintendent since 1854. John G. Ogden has filled the position of clerk of the department since 1875. The offices of the department are in the city building, No. 47 State Street, east of Fifth Street.

West Troy.—The site of the village of West Troy was originally a part of the tract of land purchased of the Indians for Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, July 27, 1630. On the map of Rensselaerswyck, made about the year 1631, this northwest section of the great manor is denominated *Weelij's Dael* (Weely's Part), so named it would seem in honor of the patroon's second wife, Anna Van Weely. Later, the lowland south of the first branch of the Mohawk River was called by the Dutch *de Vlackte*, (the Plain or Flat). Arent Van Curler, a cousin of the patroon, was the first person to cultivate a farm on it, where he lived from 1642 to 1660. Richard Van Rensselaer, a son of the patroon, afterward possessed the bounty for a number of years. On June 22, 1672, Jeremias Van Rensselaer sold the farm and the island opposite it to Philip Schuyler, for 5000 Holland guilders, \$2,000. The farm extended along the Hudson from the *Krom Kill*, (Crooked Creek), south of the Schuyler homestead, at Port Schuyler, northward to *Steen-hoeck kill*,