"WATER WORKS, YES."

WHAT "THE BEACON" HAS URGED FOR YEARS, REALIZED AT LAST.

THE TWELVE YEARS' AGITATION FOR WORKS AND WHAT IT HAS BROUGHT FORTH.

FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE PUMPING HOUSE, ENGINES, RESERVOIR, ETC.

SOME IDEA OF THE SPLENDID FIRE PROTECTION AFFORDED THE CITY.

TWENTY-TWO MILES OF PIPE—ESTIMATED YEARLY SUPPLY, 330,000,000 GALLONS.

HOW A SUBTERRANEAN RIVER WAS TAPPED BY A WELL 50 FEET IN DIAMETER.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE BUILDS FOR $380,000 WHAT WOULD HAVE COST THE CITY HALF A MILLION.

STREETS SUPPLIED—CITY DISTRICTS—ANALYSIS OF THE WATER, ETC.

HISTORICAL.

PROLONGED PRELIMINARY AGITATION.

Twelve years of agitation on the subject ends to-day in the dedication of the Akron Water Works. When on Saturday, March 7, 1869, the people of Akron saw the business portion of East Market street, above the P. & O. Canal bridge, swept away before their eyes, they began for the first time seriously to talk over the need of Water Works. The talk over these maintained through evil and good report, for "Water Works—Yes." Public meetings were held and Mr Joseph Pillsbury, C. E., then engineering the Canton Water Works, made a preliminary estimate for Akron. The proposal awakened opposition, of course. The late General L. V. Bierce assumed the championship of the opposition and dubbed the practicability of obtaining water for the city except at an enormous cost. The General's figures, however, were finally shown to be based upon engineering estimates of very ancient date and not to hold good in the light of more modern formulae. His estimate on "flanges and bolts" for pipe, in the face of the fact that flanges and bolts had been dispensed with for years in pipe-joining, awakened considerable ridicule. But *de mortuis nil nisi bonum.* The thought had taken hold of the people and was only intensified by opposition.

BOARD OF WATER WORKS TRUSTEES.

Early in the discussion Mr. P. H. Dudley, then City Civil Engineer, conducted some careful investigations as to a source of supply and decided upon Camp Brook, a tributary of the Little Cuyahoga, coming into the valley a short distance northeast of the city, as the most feasible. Of this, more hereafter. Still the talk talked, and at length public opinion formulated itself in the passage by the City Council, December 27, 1871, of an ordinance establishing Water Works in Akron. This was followed, January 8, 1872, by the passage of an ordinance providing for the election of a Board of Trustees of Water Works. Saturday, February 3, 1872, occurred the first election under the ordinance, resulting in the following vote, the successful being nominated in a delegate convention of all parties, as supposed friends of water works:

John R. Buchtel	749
A. H. Commins	1,132
Charles Cranz	1,132
Wm. H. Lapeus	269

Mr. Lapeus was run in opposition to Buchtel by the anti-water works men without his own knowledge or consent. The subsequent history of the Board is not complete, but Mr. Cranz (who was elected to serve the short term of two months) was re-elected in April, 1872. J. Park Alexander succeeded Mr. Commins in April, 1873, when D. L. King was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Cranz. In 1874 Mr. Buchtel was re-elected on the Temperance ticket and James Hopkins was chosen. Other changes, which our meager sources of information fail to give us definitely, took place, generally showing, however, that the citizens were bent on getting Water Works, if the cost should not be too great.

ENGINEERS' REPORTS.

Of the various reports on the subject we cannot speak with certainty as to dates, but after Pillsbury's report early in 1869, and following upon Mr. Dudley's report later in that year, came, in March, 1872, the result of the investigations of Mr. Geo. W. Platt, Engineer of the Youngstown Water Works, sustaining Mr. Dudley's judgment that the Little Cuyahoga was the most available source of supply—and this after a thorough investigation of the various lakes in the vicinity. The services of Mr. E. S. Chesbrough, the noted engineer of Chicago, were subsequently enlisted, during Mr. King's Trusteeship. Mr. Chesbrough went over the ground twice, and twice made known the results of his investigations, his last report, based upon Springfield Lake as the only practicable source, figuring up the probable expense at about half a million of dollars—and taking the life out of the project for the time being.

AKRON BONDS ONCE ALMOST SOLD.

Few of our people know, however, how near we were to having works at this time. The fact is, Mr. King, early in 1873, previous to going to Europe for the Valley Railroad, actually arranged to place the city's bonds, to the amount of $250,000, with Boston parties, for the construction of the works; but on his return the dying out of the enterprise on account of Chesbrough's report rendered this arrangement inoperative. The panic also played its part in diverting the attention of the people to the management of their individual affairs, and at length the ordinance was repealed.

LIGHT AT LAST.

A visit and investigation by Mr. M. R. Scowden, builder of the Cincinnati works, we think in 1877, temporarily revived interest in the subject, but nothing further was done until June, 1880, when Mr. M. S. Frost, a Philadelphia gentleman of ample capital and large experience, representing parties making a business of constructing such works who had just completed water and gas works in Elyria, visited Akron and, in conference with a few representative business men, made the proposition to supply the city with water. This proposition, put in formal shape June 22, 1880, and signed by M. S. Frost & Son and O. C. Kendrick, was, after more conferences, accepted in the city's behalf.

On the part of the company it was proposed to build works of a sufficient capacity to give a good and full supply to the city of Akron, to be brick in a substantial and workmanlike manner; with a reservoir on Sherbondy hill capable of holding 2,500,000 (it was built to contain 4,000,000 gallons); the city to guarantee to take at least 150 fire plugs for fire purposes and pay for same $45 each per year, up to the number of 200; the city to have the privilege of buying the works, at the end of ten years, by appraisement of value.

On the 25th of June was formed the Akron Water Works Company, with $250,000 capital and with Frank Adams, A. L. Conger, O. C. Kendrick, M. S. Frost and E. I. Frost as corporators. August 2 the first meeting of stockholders was held and Frank Adams, Geo. W. Crouse, A. L. Conger, O. C. Kendrick and Chas. Wilhelm were elected directors. Subsequently Frank Adams was elected President and E. I. Frost Secretary and Treasurer.

M. S. Frost & Son were put in charge of the construction of the works, with Joseph Flannery as engineer.

RECORD OF THE WORK'S PROGRESS.

Mr. Frank Adams, President of the Company, has kept a record of the progress of the work which we reproduce as of interest in this connection:

June 25, 1880—Charter applied for.

August 2—Stock books opened and $250,000 stock subscribed.

August 5—Work commenced on the reservoir, with 20 men and five teams.

September 1—Work begun on the preliminary well. Went through a foot of turf and clay soil, then 18 inches of black muck, then grey marl, which in the 50 ft. half is right feet thick; then water-bearing gravel.

September 13—Commenced digging ditch at corner Main and Exchange streets.

September 14—Laid the first pipe.

October 1—Laying of pipe progressing at factory; 2½ miles laid. Broke ground for pumping and engine house. Started sand elevator and put in shoe for well of well. Commenced laying brick for well, now eight feet deep.

October 4—Commenced to sink wall in well.

October 14—Well down 12 feet; water coming up at rate of 1,000,000 gallons in 24 hours.

October 22—Well down 16 feet; 8¼ feet of water, so much that one centrifugal pump could not gain on it. Mr. Flannery estimates that the pump is throwing out 1,500,000 gallons in 24 hours.

October 25—Commenced to put in concrete for foundation of boiler and pump house. Ordered another centrifugal pump.

November 1—New pump arrived and being placed in well.

November 19—Commenced to lay brick on engine house.

November 22—So cold that no work has been done for several days.

December 1—Weather continues cold. Stopped pipe-laying.

December 10—Boilers delivered and on blocks; also small pump.

December 13—Put in 1¼-inch pipe; water spurted up several feet.

December 15—Large pump arrived and stored in shed.

December 20—Put down 5 inch, 8-inch and 12-inch pipe; water flowed freely.

January 1—Decided to sink the big well through the hard pan. Arch over Exchange street bridge completed.

February 21—Stack completed. Work commenced on building. All other work suspended.

March 1—Roof on boiler house.

April 18—Work commenced again on sinking well and laying pipe.

April 21—Fired up under boilers for first time.

May 14—Well finished; down 32 feet; 16 feet of water.

May 19—At 6:11 P. M., water turned into pipes.

ENGINEERS' REPORTS.

Of the various reports on the subject we cannot speak with certainty as to dates, but after Pillsbury's report early in 1869, and following upon Mr. Dudley's report later in that year, came, in March, 1872, the result of the investigations of Mr. Geo. W. Platt, Engineer of the Youngstown Water Works, sustaining Mr. Dudley's judgment that the Little Cuyahoga was the most available source of supply—and this after a thorough investigation of the various lakes in the vicinity. The services of Mr. E. S. Chesbrough, the noted engineer of Chicago, were subsequently enlisted, during Mr. King's Trusteeship. Mr. Chesbrough went over the ground twice, and twice made known the results of his investigations, his last report, based upon Springfield Lake as the only practicable source, figuring up the probable expense at about half a million of dollars—and taking the life out of the project for the time being.

AKRON BONDS ONCE ALMOST SOLD.

Few of our people know, however, how near we were to having works at this time. The fact is, Mr. King, early in 1873, previous to going to Europe for the Valley Railroad, actually arranged to place the city's bonds, to the amount of $250,000, with Boston parties, for the construction of the works; but on his return the dying out of the enterprise on account of Chesbrough's report rendered this arrangement inoperative. The panic also played its part in diverting the attention of the people to the management of their individual affairs, and at length the ordinance was repealed.

LIGHT AT LAST.

A visit and investigation by Mr. M. R. Scowden, builder of the Cincinnati works, we think in 1877, temporarily revived interest in the subject, but