

Alexandria Water Company.

The first annual meeting of the Stockholders of the Alexandria Water Company, was held at the Lyceum Hall, on Monday evening, the 24th November, 1851.

On motion, Dr. William L. Powell was called to the Chair, and Edward S. Hough, appointed Secretary.

Upon calling the list of Stockholders, it was found that 445 shares were represented.

Benjamin Hallowell, President, presented the report of the proceedings of the Board from its organization to the present time, which was read and approved, and one hundred copies ordered to be printed, for the use of the Stockholders.

The Treasurer presented his report, which was read and approved, and ordered to be recorded.

On motion of P. Janney, it was

Unanimously Resolved, That the thanks of the Stockholders be tendered to the President, Directors, and Officers of the Company, for the faithful and efficient manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the Company since its organization.

The meeting then proceeded to ballot for a Board of Directors to serve for the ensuing year:—The ballots of all present being received and counted, the Commissioners reported that the following persons were *unanimously* re-elected, viz:

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL,
ROBERT H. MILLER,
STEPHEN SHINN,
GEORGE D. FOWLE,
THOMAS MCCORMICK,
JOHN B. DAINGERFIELD,
WILLIAM N. McVEIGH.

On motion of A. C. Cazenove, it was

Unanimously Resolved, That the thanks of the meeting be presented to the Chairman, for the ability with which he had presided over its deliberations.

The meeting then adjourned.

WM. L. POWELL, Chairman.

EDWARD S. HOUGH, Secretary.

Report of the President and Directors.

The President and Directors of the Alexandria Water Company, report to the Stockholders in general meeting, that immediately after they were chosen on the 10th of March last, they organized, and elected Edward S. Hough, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Board felt the duty that was placed upon them by their election, to be a very responsible one, involving a heavy expenditure of money, and requiring, in order to prevent ultimate disappointment, much practical skill in hydraulic constructions: they therefore deemed it an object of primary importance, to secure the services of a competent Engineer, who had successfully executed works of the kind—From testimonials of the very highest character, written by persons who had been concerned in the erection of Water Works at Harrisburg, Pa., and Frederick Town, Md., of which works he was the Engineer, they elected Frederick Erdman, Principal Engineer; and they take this occasion to state, that high as were the testimonials in his favor, the ability and skill which he has thus far evinced in our works, have shown that he was entirely deserving of them. His son, Geo. Erdman, is assistant Engineer, and is constantly at the works, superintending their construction.

After examining the different sites on the West of the Town, as a place for the Reservoir, and consulting with the Engineer, the four acre lot, belonging to Peter Tressler, was selected, and purchased for the sum of four thousand dollars. On the lot is a good brick dwelling, the rent of which, it is believed, will pay a large portion of the interest on the cost of the lot. This lot gives an elevation for the Reservoir of about 96 feet above tide water; which is near 50 feet higher than the most elevated parts of the town.

The construction of the Reservoir, and the laying of the pipes, were given by contract to Wm. McClane, who has thus far prosecuted his work with great energy and fidelity, and to the entire satisfaction of the Board.

The excavation and embankment of the Reservoir, are entirely completed, the puddle bed formed, with which to line the Reservoir, and it will then require only sodding on the outside, and lining with bricks on the inside, to render it complete. The 300,000 bricks which are required to pave it, are very nearly all on the lot, ready to be used as soon as the puddling shall be finished. It is the united testimony of competent judges who have examined the Reservoir, that one superior to it, has not been constructed, the strong clay of which the hill was composed, being admirably adapted to form a firm embankment.

The Reservoir is near 200 feet square, with a division across it from east to west, to within about 4 feet of what will be the surface of the water when full, so as to form two basins in the lower part, while it will appear as one when filled. This plan of construction will admit, when the water of the stream is muddy, of pumping into one basin, while the supply for the town is taken from the other, and thus allow the turbid water to settle, before it is drawn off for use. The Reservoir will admit of about 16 feet depth of water, and is calculated to hold near two and a half millions of gallons, a quantity fully adequate for ten days supply for the present population of the town, or five days supply for a population double what it now is, or say of 20,000 inhabitants.

This calculation allows 25 gallons per day, for every man, woman, and child, in the town; and when it is considered that probably not over half the families will take the water, it will be seen that the supply for those who do take it, will be very ample.

It may here be remarked to the Stockholders, that taking into view the positive prospect of a material addition to the present population of our town, and this at an early day, the Board have deemed it expedient to construct all the works, of a capacity, to accommodate a population of 20,000 inhabitants. Accordingly, instead of an 8 inch pump, as originally contemplated, with a 8 foot stroke, we are procuring a 10 inch pump, with a 10 foot stroke. The descending main from the Reservoir to town, is 10 inches, instead of 8, as at first intended.—We have, also, concluded to lay 8 inch pipes, where at first, it was designed to put 6 inch; and 6 and 4, where we originally intended to place 4 and 3 inch, respectively, and to have no 3 inch pipes laid, as being too small for service. Some of the Board, since their appointment, have visited the Water Works at Baltimore, Wilmington, and Philadelphia, and obtained the sentiments of those who are connected with these works, and of intelligent persons, familiar with other similar structures; and all unite in the injunction, *not to lay down pipes that are too small*, the efficiency being so much less when a full supply of water is needed, as in time of fire, and the expense and trouble of substituting larger ones for the smaller, when they are once laid down, being so great.

The length of pipe which the Board design laying, is, also, considerably greater than was at first proposed, extending now, in all, to nearly seven miles.

The whole of this, as the Stockholders will readily perceive, will necessarily increase the entire cost of the work; but the Board are confident in the opinion, that the advantages and greater efficiency, will more than compensate for the additional expenditure.

It may be added, too, that it was at first contemplated to use the Water Wheel then in the Mill purchased by the Company; but, on examination, that wheel was found not to possess sufficient power for our purpose, and it having been for a number of years in use, no reliance could be placed upon its being much longer fit for service at all. Looking at the great inconvenience and disappointment that would attend the breaking of the wheel, and thus the stopping of the whole operation, especially if this should occur, as it would be liable to do, soon after the commencement of distributing the water, the Board decided to procure, at once, an *iron wheel*, adapted to the size of the pump, and to be put up with it. For the pump and wheel, a very solid foundation of masonry, is in process of being built. The ascending main pipe from the Water House, to where it turns into the Reservoir, is laid, and, also, the descending main from the Reservoir to near Catts' Tavern. The pipes are laid at an average depth of 5 feet, and are all well covered with a coat of white-wash previous to being placed in the ground, as a preservative from rust.

It is gratifying to the Board, to be able to state, that great as has been the drought of the past summer, there was, at the lowest stage of

the Cameron stream, sufficient water to grind 70 bushels of grain in 24 hours. The power requisite for this purpose, it is believed, would be ample to raise an adequate supply of water to the Reservoir for the purposes of the Town, with its present population. It must also be borne in mind, that the power referred to, was independent of the Dam across the stream, which R. & R. F. Roberts have just completed, and which will add materially to the quantity of water that will be delivered at the Water House, and be rendered effective for the purposes of the Water Company.

While the Board thus advance the opinion that there will be sufficient power furnished by the stream, to supply the Town with water at all seasons, for some years to come, they yet admit the possibility of a deficiency in an extremely dry season, and they are consequently constructing the machinery so as to admit of using a steam engine, should it be found necessary, in aid of the water power, for the short season when the latter may not be itself adequate. It will hence be seen, and the Board are anxious that the Stockholders, and others interested, may bear this continually in mind in connexion with the question, that, as it cannot be determined, with entire certainty, in the first place, how much water will be consumed by our citizens, and next, what will be the precise power of the stream in the driest seasons, and as it is deemed impolitic to be at the expense of procuring a steam engine till it is demonstrated that one is necessary—there is a possibility, at some dry season, that there may not be, for a short time, a full supply of water. But it shall be for only a short time, and shall happen but once; for the Board, on such an occurrence, would take immediate measures to place a steam engine in the Water House, to be used in aid of the water power, whenever the stream should be too low to answer the purpose without it. And even during the time the steam engine is thus being placed in the Water House, the citizens will receive a much larger supply than is furnished them in the present mode of watering the Town.

As far as the Board can now see, there is nothing to prevent the water being introduced into the Town by the 10th of March next, which will be just one year from the time of their appointment.

The state of the finances of the Company will be seen by the report of the Treasurer. Having succeeded in procuring the pipes and castings for the work, in great part, for the Bonds of the Company, redeemable in ten years from the 1st day of the past month, and you, the Stockholders, having paid your subscriptions with a freedom, and a promptness, characteristic of our citizens, for which encouraging aid to our Board, permit us in this way to express our sincere thanks, we have been able to meet, instantly, every requisition that has been made upon us, and this, too, without using any portion of the ten thousand dollars subscribed by Council, the Board not thinking the time auspicious for disposing of the Corporation Bonds. We have now in the Treasury, \$1,556 38, which sum, together with the \$10,000 from the Council, and the balance of the instalments \$9,555, not yet called in from the Stockholders, remains for future disbursements. There will, probably, be needed from six to ten thousand dollars additional subscriptions, to complete the work on its present enlarged plan, which sum, it is confidently believed, can be raised among our citizens.

The Board have thus endeavored to render a clear and full account of their proceedings and prospects, and it remains only for them to assure the Stockholders, that from their first appointment to the present time, they have attended to the interests of the Company, with a diligence and a fidelity that could not have been exceeded, if the entire work had belonged exclusively to them, and with a harmony among themselves, which it will be pleasant to reflect upon, after the work shall be completed.

All of which is respectfully submitted.—

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors:

BENJ. HALLOWELL, President.

ALEXANDRIA, 11 MO. 24TH, 1851.