## Report

OF THE

# WATERING COMMITTEE 

TO THE

## Select and Common Councils.

READ JANUARY 11, 1815.

Published by Order of Councils.
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## REPOR'T

OF THE

# WATERING COMMITTEE, 

APPOINTED TO SUPERINTEND

## THE WATER WORKS.

THAT since the Annual Report of November 11th, 1813, Councils have directed their Committee by Resolution of the 28 th April 1814, to exhibit their annual report on the first meeting of Councils in January in each and every succeeding year. Previous to entering into the detail of your Committee's proceeding in the work of last year, they respectfully represent to the consideration of Councils, that it is essential for the due and regular transactions of the business of the Committee, that the office of Clerk of the City be abolished, or that he be appointed for a term not less than three years; but it is the opinion of the Committee, established by long experience, that the interest of the Corporation will be much promoted, by authorizing the Watering Committee to appoint a Secretary for the especial purposes connected with its duties.

Before a City Clerk is capable of conducting the business of that important office, the Mayor (not frequently more than one year in that station) having the appointment of all salary officers under the Corporation, removes the incumbent; and the clerk capable or unfit, is superseded by another individual, whether qualified for the task or not. Since the secretaryship to the Watering Committee has been united under the ordinance of June 1811, six different clerks have succeeded each other, and every one unacquainted with any part of the transactions of the City Commissioners, or of the Water Works. The task to instruct the new created clerk in the latter, devolves on your Committee. As it may not always be in the power of the members of the Watering Committee, who are equally subject to be changed at every new organization of the Councils, to give the required information to a Clerk, they themselves may be strangers to the business; and as the knowledge of both branches can only be acquired by time, practice, and ability of the Clerk, his removal at the pleasure of the Mayor, seems injurious to the interest of the Corporation. The yearly increasing Rents of that all important revenue, requires the utmost attention that can be bestowed on it. The great number of errours, omissions and misstatements, committed since the appointment of a City Clerk, of which the formerReports of your Committee, and the present Statement of the accounts of the rents prove, what losses may be expected, and to what
perplexities the Collectors, those who are charged with the rent and your Committee are exposed to. And for these two years back the Committee of Accounts of Councils, have not been able to report on the state of the accounts of the City Commissioners.
The 1400 Cords of Wood purchased for Centre Engine, will hardly be sufficient to last until March next, the great quantity of fuel consumed by the boilers, owing to their decayed state, particularly the wooden one. The stock this year must be considerably increased, should the new works not be capable of supplying the city from Fair Mount.

With the 2093 feet of Pipe now in the pond, and the 5424 feet of Logs due on the contract of the new works, it is presumed no pipe timber will be wanted this year, as it will not require more than 1500 feet of pipe to complete the leading main to the distributing chest. The distribution last year and the repairs took 4441 feet, as per statement No. 2.

By a Resolution of Councils passed June the 9th, 1814, a contract has been entered into with Oliver Evans, for a complete Steam Engine on his principles, capable of supplying the Reservoir at Fair Mount-3,500,000 gallons of water of 282 cubick inches to the gallon, in each twenty four hours, to be delivered at Mar's Works, and to be in full operation nine months from the date of the execution of the articles of agreement. The whole appertaining to said engine (the pump and lever beam, with their fixtures, wall plates and other materials for setting up the engine and removing the same from Mar's Works excepted) will cost including the putting up, twenty-three thousand dollars in full compensation, and for all claims of patent rights, payable five thousand dollars on the day of the execution of the contract, nine thousand dellars when the engine shall be finished and ready to be delivered, and nine thousand dollars sixty days after the engine shall be set up and has proved sufficient for the purpose. And should said engine not be capable of raising 3,500,000 gallons, the decision to be left to persons mutually appointed, and to be at the election of your Committee to keep the engine at that price or not; and if not, Oliver Evans on notice given is to remove within sixty days the engine, except the pump, lever beam and all other materials paid for by your Committee, and within one hundred and twenty days after the date of said notice return all moneys he may have received.
It is further agreed, that in case the engine should have power to supply more than 3,500, 000 gallons, Oliver Evans is to be paid in proportion for such increase in a regular ratio, but not beyond $4,000,000$ gallons; and to be at liberty at his own expense, to alter and improve said engine so as to be capable of raising four million of gallons; provided, that the said engine shall not be stopped in its operation more than four days in any period of twenty days during six months.

The bottom of the Reservoir has been laid with a bed of puddled clay eighteen inches deep, and after having been seasoned with two inches of mortar and paved over it, the joints are filled with grout. To avoid the frost from acting on the bottom during the winter, a quantity of water by means of the small forcing pump on Schuylkill has been thrown in, together
with the rains, the depth of water may be eighteen inches, sufficient to secure the work from injury. There remains for the protection of the walls of the Reservoir, to cope the same with flat stones, and to surround the whole with a strong paled fence eight feet high, and to plant dwarf cedar and pine trees between it and the wall of the Reservoir.
The leading main has been carried last year, in such of the streets and through the grounds as mentioned in last report, and the pipes connected with the Reservoir at Fair Mount: to complete the same there remains the laying the pipes through the Centre-square ground, and to join them to the distributing chest. New cocks have been provided, those in use being old and too leaky are to be replaced.

The timber furnished by the contractors amount to 48,617 feet; 4041 of which are not part of the agreement; a great proportion of them however, have been employed. The leading main contains to this day 44,842 feet of pipe, and will require 1500 feet more to complete the same. The residue of the timber contracted for said works is to be delivered this next spring.
The engine house and boiler sheds have been erected and slated. To protect that building from receiving damage from the high freshes in the Schuylkill, and Iarticularly against the floating ice, a strong wall upwards of four feet thick, projecting ten feet from the engine house, has been built, carried up to the level of the street and vaulted.

The engine is now putting up, the lever beam and fly wheel are hung, and the boiler placing. The pump chamber, four feet below low water mark, is finished; and the channel which is to be two feet below said mark and conducted several feet in the river, remains to be accomplished. The excavation in the rock for the rising main, from the reseryoir to the building is almost complete.

The foundations for Oliver Evans's Engine and Boilers are so far carried up as to admit the same, except the regulating of the height of the walls for that work.

Should the new engine be capable of raising the water into the reservoir at Fair Mount this next summer, fuel to continue them in operation will be wanted. Your Committee as usual, in their estimate of expenditures to carry on the works of the current year, have provided for the necessary quantity of fire wood, for both the engines, and to purchase and contract that the same shall be landed on Schuylkill, where the wood may be required; landing only such part at the wharf, for the use of the lower engine, to last until the supply from the reservoir at Fair Mount shall be fully established, and can be relied on; and in the meantime sufficient ground to store the stock of fire wood is to be prepared. This labour, however, will unavoidably take time and expense, being through hard rock.
There remains but for the completion of the works, the fixing of the engine, the pumps, and cylinders, and the rising main. This, however, must in part be delayed until spring, on account of the frost, and will take some considerable time after, before the engine, \&c. can be put into operation.

## ( 6 )

The sums borrowed in virtue of the ordinances of 13th of August 1812, and 27th August 1814, by the late and former Mayors, amounted on the 1st of Oct. last to $\$ 143,000$ Of which has been drawn and applied to the following heads:



Could your Committee entertain so much assurance, that this sum shall be sufficient to meet all the expenditures, to complete these necessary and interesting works, they would feel satisfied. An undertaking of so much magnitude, where the difficulties of penetrating through unexpected hard rocks, combined with the events of a war, when the greatest part of the materials employed in the works became scarce as the importations diminished, and the increase of price of them and of every artificer, workman and labourer, and that their contracts from the same causes became almost void: Your Committee cannot but lament, that it is not in their power to ascertain that the $\$ 171,000$ will be sufficient to finish the works.

Two thousand eight hundred and fifty Dwellings, Manufactories and Institutions, are supplied with the Schuylkill water to 31st December 1814, as per Statement No. 3.

The receipts of the Rent in advance from the 1st October1813, to the 31st December 1814, amount as follows:

| First quarter ending December 31st, 1813, on 49 dwellings $\quad \$ 20064$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Second | do. | March | 31st, 1814, | 13 | do. | 3649 |
| Third | do. | May | 31st, | 49 | do. | 4200 |
| From June 1, to 30, 21 dwellings rent to Dec.31, 1815, 19953 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fourth |  | September |  | 64 | do. | 51034 |
| Fifth |  | December | 31, | 50 | do. | 33212 |To which is to be added, recovered by the Solicitor from delin-quents of 1813, received in the first quarter,4045

Do. by the same of F. Baily a delinquent, in 2d do. ..... 2200
Do. from Edw. Burd, Execr. arrearages of rent of a house, sup- plied since 1806, up to 1 st of July 1814, in 3d quarter, ..... 4292
Do. by the Solicitor, from delinquent of 1813, received in June, ..... 7233
Do. from delinquents of 1814 , and rents in advance to 31 st De-cember 1814, received in the same month,13500

- -20733
Do. from do. received in the 4th quarter, ..... 32500
Do. from Pipes cut off do. ..... 9550
Do. arrearages of rent from sundries, ..... 16055
- 58105
Do. do. from Dr. Currie, ..... 3750
Total rents in advance, arrearages and delinquents, ..... 225237Sales of Old Materials, \&c. by Superintendants.
First quarter, \$ 223 84, 2d do. $\$ 172$ 65, in 5th do. $\$ 333$ 09:
together ..... 72958
Total rents and sales of materials, ..... 298195

Which sum and the following repairing over pipe have been paid into the treasury. First quarter $\$ 49$, second do. $\$ 9$, third do. $\$ 52$, in June $\$ 16$, fourth do. $\$ 57$, fifth do. $\$ 26$ : together, \$ 20900

The returns made by the collectors of the rent on the first of June 1814, reported 99 dwellings, \&c. 9 baths and 2 horses delinquents of the rent and errours in their duplicates for which the allowances were made amounting to
$\$ 66750$

Of which the following is the result: 40 dwellings, \&c. and one bath the rent recovered, 14 do. reported to the Solicitor to sue for, amounting to $\$ 13500$

39 do. some exonerated by the Committee; some rents twice charged and paid by
others; some charged in two separate wards, or twice in the same duplicate; some the rents have been paid in advance in 1813; some having relinquished the use of the water the year before, and charged with the rent; some charged in other names not in the register, or in the register to names the premises not belonging or occupied by such persons; the total rent of them amounting to 21300 6 charged in other duplicates than those where the premises are situated, and the rents not demanded-.. These are charged in duplicates for 1814.
99 dwellings and 1 bath-

| 8 reported not to exist in premises | 2400 |
| :--- | ---: |
| 2 horses not kept on do. | 200 |

12 do. including a bath have declined the use of the water on or before June 1, 1814, and the pipes cut off; the rents amount to
Three of the delinquents of 1813 , sued for by the Solicitor; by his report two
have been discharged by the insolvent statute, and one, Pepin \& Breschard, on
their return to the city, the amount may be recovered-Total amount

Total differences and losses of rents of 1812 and 1813, $\$ 56000$

The duplicates of the rents have been issued to the collectors in July last, and amount to $\$ 25,469$, being the produce of 2675 dwellings, \&c. 189 baths, and 202 horses supplied with the water to the 30th of June 1814. The rent for one year amounts to \$ 16,878 00

To which has been added 6 months rent to the 31st of December, 1815, as

directed by ordinance of 28th April 1814, being $\quad 8,43900$

6 dwellings charged in duplicates of 1813, of which the contractors had
no notice
And 22 dwellings, \&cc. omitted in said duplicates 12200
The sums to carry on the works for 1814, being the water rents and sales of
old materials, amounted to
And the appropriation of 1814,
Together, $\$ 33,96552$
On" which has been drawn from 1st of Nov. 1813, to the 30th of Dec. 1814,
in 24 certificates issued by your Committee as per Statement No. 1.

To carry on the works of this year, 1815, the following sums may be appropriated for that purpose:


The difference of the proceeds of the duplicates of 1813, with the receipts of the rents in the treasury, amounts to $\$ 39192$, and are part of the 24 certificates above mentioned, due Samuel Richards for castings delivered, for which he has not delivered his bill, about

Sum to be deducted from the following estimate, $\$ 35,33478$

ESTIMATE of the sums necessary to carry on the work from January 1, 1815, to the 31 st of December following.

## DISTRIBUTION:

| 40 New Tubs, and finishing the same | $\$ 40000$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Repairs of Fire Plugs, Stop Cocks and Pumps | 2,50000 |
| Castings for do. and Cylinders | $\mathbf{1 , 0 0 0} 00$ |
| Boards, Planks, \&c. | 30000 |
| Boxing, Haling and Laying, 7500 feet of Pipe | 5,58000 |

## ENGINES.

| 2800 cords of Fire Wood, Wharfage, Haling and Piling | 20,00000 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Wages to Engine Men | 3,20000 |
| Materials and Repairs | 1,20000 |
|  |  |

## SAL.ARIES.

| Superintendent, \$ 1200, and Messenger, \$ 40 | 1,24000 |
| :--- | ---: |
| Incidentals and improving Centre Square | 314.78 |


|  | Total, | $\$ 35,73478$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| From which Rents, \&c. as above | 35,33478 |  |
| Leaves to be appropriated this year, 1815, | $\$ 40000$ |  |

By order of the Watering Committee,

## James Vanuxem, Chairman.

City Hall, January 5, 1815.

## List of Certificates or Orders

## FOR MONEY DRAWN BY THE WATERING COMMITTEE,

From Nov. 1, 1813, to Dec. 30, 1814.


From the foregoing Orders, as follows:
DISTRIBUTION.

| No. | Dates. |  | Doll. \|ct. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1012 | 1813. Nov. 1 | Wages for October | 27187 |
| 1013 | Dec. 2 | Do. for November | 24616 |
|  |  | Frederick Graff for sundry small bills, | 3766 |
| 1015 | 1814. Jan. 1 | Thomas M'Ilevham for $531-2$ pounds of brass castings | 2675 |
|  |  | Conarroe \& Co. for 3508 feet of 1-4 and inch boards | 10888 |
|  |  | Wages for December | 20583 |
| 1016 | Feb. 2 | Charles Richards for sundry iron - | 5891 |
|  |  | Edmund Kinsey repairs of cart harness to September 1813, | 12.5 |
|  |  | Joseph \& Daniel Rhoads for 875 feet boards, scantling and \} | 337 |

## Abstract of Payments, \&c.-continued.



## CENTRE ENGINE.

Amount brought forward,
$\$ 660019$



## Abstract of Payments

## MIDE BY THE WATERING COMMITTEE,

## From October 18, 1813, to December 31, 1814.



## Statement of Pipe

Used in the Distribution from Oct. 18, 1813, to Dec. 31, 1814.


## Paid into the Treasury by the Superintendent for Articles sold, \&c. from Oct. 18, 1813, to Dec. 31, 1814, inclusive.



LIST of Dwellings, Manufactories and Institutions, supplied with the Schuylkill Water, as per Register to the S1st Dec. 1814.


