

F I F T H
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Water Commissioners

FOR THE

CITY OF HAMILTON.

Transmitted to the City Council, Oct. 17, 1859.



H A M I L T O N :

PRINTED AT THE "TIMES" OFFICE, HUGHSON STREET.

1859.

F I F T H
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Water Commissioners
FOR THE
CITY OF HAMILTON.

Transmitted to the City Council, 17th Oct., 1859.



H A M I L T O N :
PRINTED AT THE "TIMES" OFFICE, HUGHSON STREET.
1859.

Fifth Semi-Annual Report
OF
THE WATER COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE CITY OF HAMILTON.

R E P O R T .

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty
of the City of Hamilton.*

The undersigned, in accordance with the provisions of the 8th Section of the Act 19 and 20, Vic., Cap. 64, beg leave to submit their fifth semi-annual Report.

The Commissioners have the satisfaction to report the steady and successful progress of the great work under their charge, and which is now rapidly approaching completion. For the present position of the works in their various sections, they beg leave to refer to the Report of the Engineer, from which it will be seen that it is confidently anticipated that the water will be regularly supplied to the citizens about the latter part of October next.

Since their last Report the remaining contracts mentioned therein have been given out, and are mostly fulfilled.

On the 15th January, the tender of the Canada Lead Pipe Company, for the supply of Service Pipe, was accepted, payable in debentures at par; and on the 17th of the same month the tender of William Hendrie, for laying the Distribution Pipe, was accepted, and the work immediately commenced, thereby affording employment to many needy laborers.

The Contract made with Edmondstone, Allan & Co., for the transport and charges of Pipes from the Clyde to Hamilton, was limited to the year 1858. In consequence of the failure on the part of Messrs. Stewart & Co., to deliver the whole of their contract in that year, it became necessary to make new arrangements for the freight and charges on the pipes remaining behind, and also to settle a claim (arising out of this failure,) with Edmondstone, Allan & Co., and Mr. Keefer was requested, on 17th February, to proceed to Montreal for this purpose; and on the 2nd March he reported that he had made arrangements for the transport and charges of remaining pipes at old rates, payable wholly in debentures.

On the 3rd March, the Contract for the Hydrants was allotted to Messrs. Gurney & Carpenter, of this City, payable in debentures; and at same time 200 tons extra pipe was ordered to meet any extensions of the distribution which might be called for. It may here be remarked that new buildings have gone up since the distribution plan was first proposed; and, as more are still being erected annually, it is difficult to decide beforehand in which direction the pipes must be extended; it is necessary, therefore, to have on hand a surplus to meet these requirements.

On the 9th March the Engineer was empowered to obtain from the Government the title to that portion of the Beach occupied by the Filtering Basin. The Commissioners regret to state that they are still without the long promised title to this ground, and that in consequence serious difficulties have arisen with parties having claims to the land. The Commissioners had every reason to hope that so important a work as the Hamilton Water Works would have met with favor at the hands of the Government; or, at least, that they would have been long since permitted to purchase, at the valuation of the Crown Land Department, the site of the Filtering Basin, so frequently promised in interviews with Mr. Keefer. What makes the matter more aggravating is, that although no replies have been received to the numerous communications addressed on behalf of the Commissioners to the Crown Land Department, yet nothing appears to stand in the way of a speedy settlement of the question, but the want of an influential agent in daily attendance, to prevent the matter from being laid aside for other business, or forgotten altogether.

On the 4th April the Bank of Montreal announced their unwillingness to continue the advances hitherto made upon the debentures, and Mr. Keefer was thereupon requested to proceed to Montreal to see the Manager. On the 14th of April he reported an arrangement for a further credit, sufficient to carry on the works until the first of July.

In order to prepare for the Water Rates and Regulations, which had been brought under the notice of the Commissioners by the Engineer, on the 24th March, the Secretary was, on 21st April, directed to address the Manager of Water Works in various cities for copies of their Rules and Rates. Replies have been received from nearly all, and a tariff is being prepared which will soon be ready for inspection of parties desiring to take water.

On the Queen's Birth-Day the water was admitted into Main and King Street, and played from a Jet in the Court House Square, and from Hydrants in King Street. The power of the Hydrants has proved fully equal to the highest expectations which had been formed of them. The City Corporation were notified on the follow-

ing day that so many Hydrants were ready in case of fire ; and from that date, as fast as the Hydrants have been set, the water has been let in, and kept in, ready for use in case of fire.

On the 31st May the Bank of Montreal announced their intention of not continuing advances after the period agreed upon—1st July.

On the 2nd June the Contract for the Brass Plumber Work for the Service Pipes was let to Mr. Broadbent, an artisan of this City, payable in debentures at par.

In consequence of the decision of the Bank of Montreal, Mr. Keefer was requested to proceed to that city to see the Manager prior to his departure for England ; and in case of the refusal of the Bank to supply the small amount (£7000) yet required to complete the works, to make the necessary arrangements with other parties.

On the 2nd June a communication was addressed to the Fire and Water Committee, relative to the improvement of the Gore in King Street, with a view to the placing of a Fountain there.

On the 16th June the Engineer reported that the Bank of Montreal having declined further advances, he had sold to other parties sufficient debentures to meet the wants of the Commission.

In conclusion, the Commissioners desire to express their high sense of the attention and skill displayed by the Engineer of the Works, T. C. Keefer, Esq., in the construction of the Works.

They have also to Report that the Secretary has performed his duties in the most satisfactory manner.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ADAM BROWN, *Chairman*.
PETER BALFOUR,
WM. DAVIDSON,
MILTON DAVIS,
ROBERT WALKER.

WATER COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE, {
Hamilton, 30th June, 1859. }

P. S.—The Commissioners have refrained from presenting this Report until now, in the hope that they would have been enabled to intimate that they had obtained from the Government a title to that portion of the Beach used as a Filtering Basin ; but they regret to say that so far they have been disappointed. However, they are happy to state that they have arranged with Mr. George Lottridge, the previous occupant of the land in question, for any interest he may have had therein.

HAMILTON WATER WORKS,
ENGINEER'S OFFICE, HAMILTON, 30TH JUNE, 1859.

JAMES E. DAY, ESQ.,

*Secretary Board of Water Commissioners,
Hamilton.*

SIR,—I have the honor to report the progress of the works for the last half year :

THE FILTERING BASIN.

After waiting as long as it was possible to do for the transfer of the site of the Filtering Basin and Conduit from the Crown to the Commissioners, the enclosure of this Basin was commenced, but has been resisted by Mr. Lottridge, who claims this portion of the Beach, but whose claim is not recognized by the Crown Lands Department. The negotiation for the patent for this land having been put in my hands on the 9th March last, after ten months previous unsuccessful attempt at obtaining it by deputations and correspondence, I proceeded to Toronto, and had several interviews with the Hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and also with the Assistant Commissioner. I also furnished all information called for, and answered objections raised, and was informed, some two months ago, that there is no obstacle to the obtaining of the land by the Commissioners of the Hamilton Water Works. I have addressed several communications to the Crown Lands Department upon the subject, but as no replies have been received, they have probably been mislaid, or not yet reached, in their routine order. In meantime there is danger of a collision and breach of the peace between the Contractors employed to enclose the Basin, and the claimant, Mr. Lottridge. Inasmuch as application for this land was made to the Crown Lands Department more than twelve months since, the Commissioners cannot reproach themselves with any tardiness of action in the matter—there being every reason to suppose a purchase of twelve acres of land (which is valued by the local Agent of Crown Lands at twenty dollars per acre) could be effected within one year.

CONDUIT AND WELLS.

The Conduit on section one—that portion which connects the Filtering Basin with the main land across the Creek—has been sunk to its place, and the Well at Engine House has been excavated and the masonry partly built. There remains only the completion of this Well, and a few days work upon the one which divides the two sections of the Conduit, to bring the water to the pumps.

ENGINE HOUSE, CHIMNEY, &c.

In consequence of a want of foresight in preparation, and of vigor and liberality in the prosecution of this work on the part of the Contractor, its completion will be delayed quite two months beyond the period which would have been sufficient. This has led to repeated protests on the part of the Contractor for the Engines, who was bound to have them ready for steam upon the first of May; whereas it will now be the month of September before they can be put in motion.

This delay will only affect the use of the works in the event of a contingency, which I do not anticipate, viz.: that of any defect or break down in any portion of the machinery at starting. I fixed a period for the completion of the Engines, four months in advance of that, when the town would be ready for the water, in order to provide for any casualties. But from the character of the work furnished by Mr. Gartshore, as well as from the fact that we have two independent sets of Pumping Machinery, I have no doubt we shall be able to maintain an uninterrupted supply within a week after the Engines are started. The Engine House is now roofed in, and the mason work so far advanced as no longer to cause any delay in the erection of the machinery. The Boilers are all set, as are the Air and Vacuum Vessels, the Pumps and their connections, the Fly Wheels, the Main and Spring Beams, Condensers, &c. The fitting up of the Cylinders and Connecting Rods is about all the important work remaining to be done to the machinery.

The Chimney has now reached a height of one hundred feet, and has fifty feet further to go. I anticipate the completion of the whole work, so far as to be ready for use, sometime in September.

THE PIPE TRACK.

About fifteen feet of water having been collected in the Reservoir from surface drains during the Winter, as soon as the Valves and connections were put into the Pumping Main, the water was let down, and the Main proved. In the whole distance of six miles from the Engine House to James Street, including the Reservoir Branch, eight defective pipes (out of a total number of 2,650) were found and replaced. It is much to the credit of the Contractor, Mr. Hendrie, by whom these pipes were laid, that only one joint in the whole distance proved leaky.

RESERVOIR.

The soiling and sodding of the Reservoir, with its off take drains, have been completed, under favorable circumstances, for the growth of the grass, and its enclosure is now in hand.

DISTRIBUTION.

In order to afford work for the unemployed during the winter months, the laying of the distributing pipes was commenced in January, and the weather proving unusually mild great progress was made. This unexpected advance in the work, made it necessary to put the Hydrants under contract without delay. A sufficient number of these were procured to supply the principal streets, so that on the 24th of May the water was admitted, and since that date the pressure has been constantly on, and the City has enjoyed the protection of the Hydrants, though happily no fire has occurred in the interval to test their value.

All the pipe required for the distribution, as originally decided, have arrived; an additional quantity of 200 tons have been ordered to meet demands for extension, and a corresponding amount of Hydrants and Valves—so that a fair stock of pipes, &c., will be on hand. The length of distribution pipe now laid is eleven miles, and the number of Hydrants placed is eighty. The whole number of Hydrants, when placed, will be 170, and the quantity of pipe yet to be laid is two miles, exclusive of extension. The distribution originally provided for embraced thirteen miles of pipe. The extra 200 tons of six-inch pipe will lay nearly three miles more.

The Contractor for the Plumber work is now prepared to supply the fittings for the Service Pipe as fast as they are required; and if the Tariff and Regulations were printed for the information of parties desiring the water, there is nothing to prevent the commencement of the work of putting in the services.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

[SIGNED,]

THOS. C. KEEFER.

SEMI-ANNUAL STATEMENT

*Of the BOARD of WATER COMMISSIONERS of the City
of Hamilton, shewing Receipts and Expenditures, from 1st
January to 30th June, (both inclusive,) 1859, in accordance
with the Act incorporating the said Commissioners.*

Dr.

R E C E I P T S .

To Debentures from City Council.....	\$ 10,400 00
" Cash loan from Bank.....	22,932 77
" Interest received on Debentures.....	807 86
" Bank Debenture Account—net proceeds of sale of Debenture.....	830 00
" Debentures from City Council.....	22,083 33
" " " ".....	3,830 00
" Bank Debenture Account—net proceeds of sale of Debentures.....	2,062 25
" Interest received on Debentures.....	17 61
" Cash loan from Bank.....	7,162 00
" Debentures from City Council.....	2,000 00
" Cash loan from Bank.....	2,743 63
" Debentures from City Council.....	1,200 00
" " " ".....	4,136 66
" " " ".....	973 33
" " " ".....	3,000 00
" Cash loan from Bank.....	9,056 75
" Debentures from City Council.....	3,200 00
" " " ".....	30,800 00
" Bank Debenture Account—net proceeds of sale of Debentures.....	4,136 67
" Interest received on Debentures.....	146 00
" Cash loan from Bank.....	151,20 46

\$146,609 31

Cr.

\$146609 31

Secretary.

WATER COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE, }
30th June, 1859. }