

HISTORY
of
Hartford County
CONNECTICUT

1633-1928

Being a Study of the Makers of the First Constitution and
the Story of Their Lives, of Their Descendants
and of All Who Have Come

BY
CHARLES W. BURPEE



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already had been sold and a new site bought at the corner of Tower and Blue Hills avenues, where eleven broad acres were waiting to furnish the children abundant space. The plans were drawn for an adequate fireproof structure and under the direction of Alfred M. Silberman a "drive" was made which yielded the funds. No one was more gratified than Dr. George H. Cohen, who had encouraged the group of women in their earliest undertaking and who throughout, latterly as treasurer, has been a tower of strength for them. As president he recently has been succeeded by Morris Older, so that he could give more time to special features of the work. The president of the parent organization is Mrs. Hyman B. Cion and the president of the Women's Auxiliary, Mrs. Bertha Bauer. Hyman W. Hess is the superintendent. Assisting in the "drive" were members of the Women's Auxiliary, the Junior Auxiliary, the Council of Jewish Women, the Senior Hadassah, the Junior Hadassah, the Rebecca Lodge, the Young Women's Hebrew Association, the Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary, and the Emmanuel Sisterhood.

Still another influence for the good was apparent in 1918, when the Abraham Jacobi Hospital was started. This was chartered in 1923 under the name of Mount Sinai Hospital. Morris Marks was president, and Morris Older treasurer. With funds of \$160,000 subscribed, the former Brainard mansion on Capitol Avenue was bought, and when its spacious rooms had been reconstructed for hospital purposes it could lay claim to being one of the most desirable buildings of its kind. From the beginning it has been in "Class A" by the national rating, and absolutely non-sectarian. Albert M. Simons is now the president, and Miss Anna McGlone the superintendent.

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While great things were being done under the eyes of the dwellers in the town during the last of its 300 years of history, another great thing was being constructed at a distance, by and for it. Of the incidents in the growth of any town, none is more humble, none is more likely to cause worryment about cost and none requires more skill and patient demonstration of a good in which all will share than extension of water supply. That much

can be gathered from the story of Hartford's experience as already told. But when after the long early stages it was known that Hartford was getting water of exceptional quality and that the sources were carefully guarded—indeed, made into parks—those in responsible positions learned that they had the confidence of the public. Withal, their uphill struggle to get the meter system established early in the century had resulted in an equalizing and minimizing of cost to the individual for this the most essential of public utilities. Therefore, not as in times gone by, the preliminary steps for a tremendous extension taken in 1908 were looked upon as a matter of necessity which the increasing population and industry themselves had caused. Then when at completion, in 1922, the proceeds of \$4,250,000 in bonds were reported as having been applied, there was commendation of the board and praise for the engineer and manager, Caleb Mills Saville. Yet there is no great work about which the people know so little in detail as about this, their special dependence—no great work about which it could be wished that the people comprehended more. In this instance, too, it is not the city alone which benefits; the adjacent towns come in for their share, as needs must be so long as the one feasible source for all is being tapped. The presidents of the board through much of the period of actual activities from 1912 on and at the close were John L. Dowèr, Judson H. Root, Walter S. Garde, Frank E. Howard, John A. McKone, and Robert F. Gadd; Fred D. Berry was the secretary.

Mr. Saville, a native of Melrose, Mass., a graduate of Harvard, 1889, and with special course at Lawrence Scientific School, had had experience as division engineer at the Boston waterworks, had specialized in Brookline, and had carried heavy responsibilities in the building of the Panama Canal before he came here. In 1914 he was awarded the Norman medal of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and in 1917 the Brackett Memorial medal of the New England Water Works Association. He thus modestly summarizes this remarkable accomplishment at Nepaug:

(1) A 9,000,000,000-gallon storage reservoir (Nepaug Reservoir) near Collinsville, sixteen miles from the city, which it is estimated increases the storage capacity of the system sufficiently to take care of the needs of the city until 1950. (2) A

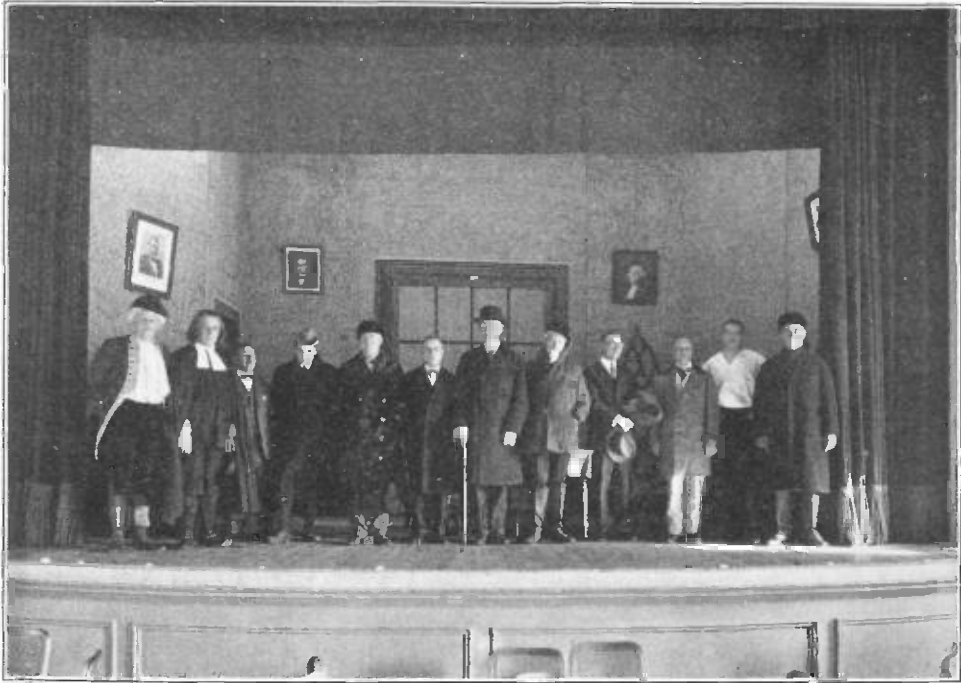
42-inch pipe line from Nepaug Reservoir to the west side of Talcott Mountain. (3) A concrete-lined tunnel through Talcott Mountain connected with the 42-inch cast iron pipe line on the west and with a 48-inch concrete pipe line to the east through a concrete conduit or aqueduct. Being built at the hydraulic grade line, neither tunnel nor aqueduct is under pressure. (5) A purification plant. (6) A 42-inch pipe line from the filtered water reservoir to the city, interconnected with the old supply mains at Reservoir No. 1, and with the larger mains in the northwestern part of the city. (7) A storage reservoir near New Hartford to supply water to the various mills along the Farmington River during the low water periods and thereby compensate the owners for the water diverted from Nepaug Reservoir to supply Hartford.

The area now occupied by the reservoir was a rolling farming and wooded country, thinly populated, with the highways generally following the valley lines. Forty-two individual farms were purchased and sixty houses, barns and principal buildings were removed, in addition to two cemeteries. Of the land actually flooded, 343 acres were cultivated, 122 acres pasture land, 168 timber land, 205 sprout land, and the balance, some 10 acres, was swamp land. In addition to the flooded area about 1,994 acres were purchased around the margin of the reservoir, making a total of 2,842 acres owned by the board in the Nepaug tract. Of this area, 489 acres are in the town of Canton, 1,104 acres in Burlington, and 1,249 acres in New Hartford.

Nepaug dam is a cyclopean masonry structure, of gravity section arched upstream, about 650 feet long, with a height above the old bed of the stream of 113 feet and a total height from the lowest excavation to the surface of the roadway of 156 feet. It is 90 feet thick at the bottom of the valley and 20 feet thick at the elevation of high water in the reservoir. The spillway for the entire reservoir is located in the center of the dam and the discharge is through five arched openings down a stepped face to a dead water pool at the bottom. The spillway has a capacity of approximately 6,000 cubic feet per second with about five feet of water over the crest corresponding roughly to 200 cubic feet per second per square mile run-off. The five arches over the spillway carry the relocated highway.



THE MAIN DAM OF THE RESERVOIR SYSTEM,
AT NEPAUG



HARTFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Dignified members in after-dinner skit "Traditions," February, 1927, at the Hartford Club. Cast, left to right: Winslow Russell; Kirby C. Pratt; Postmaster H. K. Taylor; George E. Tucker; Frank F. Foley; Judge Alexander W. Creedon; Executive Vice President William H. Corbin; G. L. Hunt; C. T. Hubbard; Mayor Norman C. Stevens; Stiles Burpee and J. W. Thurston. Skit by Samuel Ludlow, Jr.