

WATER METERS.

THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES VISIT NEW YORK

They Inspect the Best Models—How the Trials were Made—New York Facilities Placed at the Disposal of the Committee.

One of the most important questions now agitating large and growing communities is the proper guards to be thrown around the use of water. Some are disposed to consider it a hardship, that in cities where millions of the public funds have been expended for the construction of the necessary works to supply this important article, that they should be restricted in its use, or be obliged to have it measured out to them at so much per gallon. But the fact is that so much is

UNNECESSARILY WASTED

in portions where the flow is easy that in other sections citizens are entirely deprived of their fair share of the indispensable fluid. In this city residents in high northern and eastern sections are entirely without a supply, and in order if possible to guarantee them their rights and do justice to all, the question of using water meters has been determined on. After arriving at this conclusion the next step was to ascertain, if possible, the best meter now in use, and adopt it for the city. Accordingly a resolution, appointing a joint committee of the two boards of the Councils was passed, on the 31st ult., to visit New York and

INSPECT AND EXAMINE

into the several metres now being tried in that city. In accordance with the terms of the resolution Messrs. Davis, McCathran and Baker, of the Board of Aldermen, and Barton, Lewis, Murray and Bassett, of the Common Council, were appointed, with the proviso that the visit should entail no expense on the corporation. The time for the trip was fixed for Friday night last, and the committee and a number of friends who concluded to accompany them took the 9 o'clock train for the great city, and were soon speeding away under charge of Conductor Jos. Delvin, who, when he learned that the party were paying an official (or at least semi-official) visit, took special pride in seeing them comfortably disposed. For this they return thanks. After this regular flying trip, interrupted only by a hasty

LUNCH AT WILMINGTON,

New York was reached at 6:30 Saturday morning. Accommodations were secured for the company at the Astor house, toilets arranged, a fine breakfast eaten, and then the committee entered carriages which had been provided, and drove to the Government yard, where are manufactured and stored all the necessary pipe, material, &c., for the laying of water mains. Here they were met by Chief Engineer Tracy, of the New York water works; Chief Engineer Wood, of the Brooklyn; Senator Frear, one of the commissioners of public works; Mr. John Greene, the owner of one of the meters, and several gentlemen prominently connected with the corporation and engineer works.

HOW THEY ARE TESTED.

As soon as the introductions were over, Mr. Tracy led the way into a good sized room, where were to be seen simply two large tanks and a medium sized steam engine. He then explained that about a year ago the New York authorities had resolved to use water metres, and had instructed him to advertise for patents and working models, and to erect such appliances as he thought necessary to insure a fair and correct test. The result of his instructions were now before the committee. The plan was to place the meter to be tested in the centre of the room, and attach rubber hose to either side, one connecting with a force pump worked by the engine, the other with the large tanks, on the outside of which was a perfectly correct gauge which measured by the cubic foot. The water was then pumped in, passed through the meter into the tank, and after running half an hour was stopped. The gauge on the tank and register on the meter were then examined, and if the two corresponded the metre must necessarily be correct. In response to the advertisement more than

ONE HUNDRED MODELS

had been sent. The mechanism of these were all carefully examined by a committee of nine engineers, including General McClellan, and all but thirty rejected. The thirty were then thoroughly tested, and only five found to answer the purposes for which they were intended. They are as follows: Moore's Liquid, the Gem, Weeds, the Duplex and the Hastings, the great desideratum being simplicity of construction, cheapness, durability and correctness. The report of the committee was transmitted to the Board of Public Works, and they have adopted the Moore Liquid as combining in the greatest degree all the essentials above named. The working and plan of the five meters were then explained to the Washington committee, and an opportunity of witnessing each of them in operation was given. At the conclusion of the inspection the company re-embarked for the hotel, and after dinner broke up into small squads, and "did" the city as best suited their inclination.