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City Document—No. 26.

CITY OF BOSTON.

PURE WATER.



In City Council, December 19, 1844.

The Joint Special Committee on the introduction of "Pure Soft Water," having taken into mature consideration the measures proper now to be pursued by the City Council in relation to that important measure, ask leave to submit the following

R E P O R T :

The project of introducing Water into the City, having been many years before the citizens, it has been earnestly and ably discussed at public meetings and

by the public press, in all its bearings; various reports have from time to time been made, by persons eminently qualified to investigate the subject; it is therefore to be presumed that not only the members of the City Council, but the citizens at large, are informed upon the subject. Certain propositions have been recently submitted to the legal voters duly notified in their respective wards, who have by a large majority, both instructed and advised the City Council to take measures for the introduction of Water into the City. Under these circumstances, your Committee would recommend that immediate measures should be taken to bring the subject before the Legislature at their approaching session.

Your Committee deem it expedient that the subject should be decided and the petition presented to the Legislature by the present City Council, for reasons which must be obvious. The members of the present City Council have had the subject before them for many months, and are presumed to be more familiar with the subject in all its bearings, than a new City Council, however intelligent, can be supposed to be, and are therefore better prepared for final action. The Committee have been further influenced in coming to this conclusion, by the consideration that the Legislature are to be convened on the first day of January next, while the organization of the City Council does not take place until the sixth day of the same month; that it cannot be expected that the members of the new City Council will be disposed to act with precipitancy upon so important a subject, for the first time presented to them in their official capacity; time therefore, will be required to prepare and mature proceedings in

relation to it; so that several weeks of the session of the Legislature will have elapsed before the petition of the City can be presented. Further delay will be occasioned by the necessity of an *Order of Notice* to parties interested, and in the hearing of those parties by a Committee of the Legislature; thus nine or ten weeks of the session will have passed before the report of a Committee could be prepared for the action of the Legislature. Under these circumstances, there is great reason to fear that an adjournment may take place without any definite decision on the subject.

Your Committee therefore, in consideration of the information in possession of the present City Council, and of the duty which devolves upon them of assuming a responsibility which properly belongs to them, and which it is confidently expected will be assumed by them; and also in consideration of the time which must necessarily elapse before any action of a succeeding City Council can be had in relation to the introduction of water, earnestly recommend that an early application be made to the Legislature for power to bring water from Long Pond in Natick and Framingham, or from sources adjacent thereto, and they report the following Resolve and Order.

For the Committee,

M. BRIMMER, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That it is expedient to procure a supply of water for the inhabitants of the City of Boston, to be brought, at the expense of the City, from Long Pond in Natick or Framingham, or from any of the sources adjacent thereto, on the condition that those of the inhabitants who may elect to take and use the same, shall be required to pay for the water such reasonable tax as shall hereafter be fixed and established by a Board of Water Commissioners that shall be appointed by the City Council.

Ordered, That the Mayor be instructed to make immediate application to the Legislature for the grant of such powers to the City, as may be necessary to carry the foregoing resolve into effect.