

Chelsea.

PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF MYSTIC POND WATER.

A committee of the City Government has just made a report on the subject of introducing Mystic Pond water into Chelsea through the Charlestown Water Works. The report is accompanied by a report and estimate of T. E. Ames, Civil Engineer, on the character and cost of the necessary works. At the rate of 70 gallons per day for each inhabitant, which is a liberal allowance, the present population of Chelsea (about 15,000) would require 1,050,000 gallons of water every 24 hours; and, at the present rate of increase in population, by the year 1895, 3,008,430 gallons. A pipe 24 inches in diameter will supply 6,000,000 gallons daily. The cost of laying such a pipe from the Charlestown main, across Mystic river, and the necessary distributing pipes in Chelsea, would be, according to Mr. Ames, \$181,083. This does not include the expense of a distributing reservoir, should one be decided upon. The committee have caused the city to be canvassed, and find that 759 owners of buildings favor the introduction of the water and would take it, while 611 are undecided or indifferent. The hospitals and the Ferry Company would be glad to have it. The committee approve the terms offered by the city of Charlestown, which are that Chelsea shall bear a proportion of the annual interest on the actual cost of the works (exclusive of the Charlestown and Somerville distribution) and of the expense of maintenance, according to the relative amount of water used, to be determined by the amount of water rates collected; the rates to be the same in both cities. On this basis, the annual charge to Chelsea would be about \$21,000; the interest on the cost of distribution in Chelsea, \$12,000; the expense of repairs, offices, clerk hire, &c., \$2000, making a total of \$35,000 yearly outlay. According to the most favorable estimate, the annual receipts would fall much below this sum, and leave a deficit of \$20,000 to \$25,000 to be raised by taxation or added to the water debt. To offset this there would be the increased value of real estate, the addition of new dwellings and factories to the taxable property, and safety against destructive fires. The committee are strongly in favor of the project, but recommend that action be delayed till the rates of labor and material are reduced to a point more favorable for such an enterprise.