

THE MOUSAM WATER CO.

Its Conception, Source of Supply, Development and Plant.

Its Effect on Beach Property.

Away back among the foot hills of Sanford and only a few miles apart, two tiny streams have their source. Following the ravines through the forests they at length join their currents, and swelled by other rills and springs along the way, the brooklet becomes a brook and the brook a river. Through forests unexplored save by fishermen, between meadows of waving grass, over rocks and ledges the little stream, ever growing larger and stronger and swifter, rushes toward the sea. The scenery around its head waters is picturesque if not grand. Tall battalions of rushes and brakes line its banks. The air is filled with the rush of swift wings and a wondrous medley of strange cries. Here one is indeed close to Nature and to Nature's God. The very water as it gurgles, pure and sparkling, on its way to the Ocean, seems to sing of purity. Such is Branch Brook, the source of supply for the Mousam Water Company.

If there is one thing that Kennebunk and Kennebunkport are proud of it is their water supply. Partly because it is of such excellent quality and furnished at rates lower than almost anywhere else in the state, and no doubt partly because they had a hard fight to get it. As the lover appreciates most the sweetheart who is hardest to win, so the town appreciates the water because it was obtained only after what looked like a hopeless fight.

that of many Maine cities of twice our size. The capacity of Branch River in extreme drought is 6,500,000 gallons per day, which insures more than a sufficient supply. The stream is fed wholly by springs and there is no manufacturing on it, nor does it receive any damaging drainage. It comes cool and pure from the earth. Nevertheless it is carefully filtered at the pumping station and every precaution taken that it shall reach the consumer as free from impurities as when pumped from the river.

The introduction of water will be of extreme value and convenience to the summer colonists and will stimulate the growth and prosperity of the sister towns to no small degree. The system extends over all the thickly settled portions of both towns and along the entire sea front. In a few weeks the entire system will be in operation insuring protection of property against fire as well as comfort and health to the inhabitants of the two towns who have so many common interests and kindred ties.

The officers of the Corporation are: Henry C. Lord, president; Geo. F. West, treasurer; Benj. F. Williams, superintendent; H. D. Marr, engineer.

On the front page of THE WAVE will be found illustrations of the plant including a glimpse of the brook, the dam and pond, interior and exterior of pumping station and the great standpipe.

The Glorious Fourth.

On this day above all others the small boy lives in an exhilarating at-

looked like a hopeless fight.

It was away back in the eighties that a syndicate headed by Mr. Sidney T. Fuller formed a company and obtained a charter from the legislature to supply the towns of Wells, Kennebunk and Kennebunkport with water for domestic and fire purposes. Surveys were made and a proposition made to the town of Kennebunk to introduce the water. At a special town meeting the town voted to indefinitely postpone the matter. The sentiment against the measure was so strong that the promoters of the enterprise grew discouraged and the matter rested until about two years ago, when a new company composed mostly of Portland capitalists bought up the charter, made new surveys and last summer made the town a proposition which was considered at a special town meeting. Meantime a strong sentiment had grown in favor of a water system. The beach residents, and particularly the managers and hotel keepers demanded it. The business men wanted it for fire protection and street sprinkling. Still all was not clear sailing. The country residents opposed it on the ground that it was of no benefit to them, and many who wanted water thought the town should put in the system instead of a corporation. It was not until three town meetings had been held that the town at length voted to pay the Mousam Water Co. \$1250 per annum as rental for 40 hydrants for fire purposes. Water was introduced in all schools and churches, drinking fountains established, standpipes for use in street sprinkling erected, without cost to the town. This contract was to remain in force for twenty years, with a privilege of renewal or to purchase the plant at a fair valuation should the town desire to do so.

The town of Kennebunkport was

The town of Kennebunkport was next approached with a similar offer. The first town meeting called to consider the offer was in the height of the summer season of '95 and was largely attended by the summer visitors. It was a stormy gathering and the proposition of the Water Company was rejected by a narrow margin. Another meeting called two weeks later will long be remembered as the most exciting town meeting held since the incorporation of the town. The attendance was so large that the meeting was held in the open air. Again by a small majority the matter was killed. From then until the following May nothing was done. Meantime the system was introduced in Kennebunk and had proved a perfect success. Sober second thought and calm reasoning had done its work and at a special town meeting in May the town voted to accept the terms of the Corporation and pay \$1000 per year rental for 30 hydrants. Work on the Kennebunkport part of the system is going on rapidly and in a very short time the cottages and hotels of Cape Arundel will be supplied.

The plant and system of the Mousam Water Co. is one of the finest in Maine. They own seventy acres of land on Branch River through which runs the stream. The bed and bank have been cleared of every particle of rubbish and every log and stump have been removed. A fine pumping station has been built fitted with a powerful engine and duplicate pumps so that in case of accident to one pump the system would not be crippled in the least. A standpipe 105 feet high and located on the highest point of land near Kennebunk village gives a pressure equal to from 50 to 80 pounds pressure to the square inch over the length of the whole system for fire purposes. A cozy office is located on Main street, Kennebunk. The mains are twelve inches in diameter, equal in size to