

THE
LEADING BUSINESS MEN
OF
CONCORD,^{N.H.}

AND VICINITY,

EMBRACING
PENACOOK, EAST AND WEST CONCORD.

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both unquestionably have the best interests of the city, state and nation at heart. The *People and Patriot* publishes a weekly edition and one is also issued from the *Monitor* office, known as the *Independent Statesman*; these have an especially large out-of-town circulation. Another weekly is the *Concord Tribune*, the successor of the *Weekly Blade*, which succeeded the *Concord Daily Blade*, established September 1, 1880. The *Tribune* occupies a field of its own and appeals successfully to the support of a large and important class of readers.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of a city has so important a bearing upon its healthfulness, upon the cost of manufacturing, and upon the probable fire losses and consequently the insurance rates, that there is no other single advantage offered by Concord as a city to live and do business in, which will outweigh its magnificent water service. "Magnificent" is a pretentious word and may perhaps be legitimately objected to from a literary point of view when used in this connection, but it seems to describe, as no other word can, a service which, although not perfect, is doubtless as nearly so as that enjoyed by any New England city. Concord has expended about half a million of dollars on her water works, and the system is so arranged as to enable a heavy increase in the present consumption to be provided for at comparatively small cost.

The great fire of 1851 caused an awakening of the people to the imperative need of an additional water supply, and earnest efforts were made to provide such, but little or no progress was made, for all available money was needed in the development of private business interests, and the people objected strongly to material increase in the rate of taxation. Finally a committee was appointed to investigate the matter, and in a report dated December 16, 1859, it is stated:

"Our population is at present supplied in part from wells and in part by several aqueduct companies, the two principal of which are the 'Torrent Aqueduct Association' and that of Nathaniel White. In addition to these are several others of more limited capacities, each supplying from one or two to forty families."

The Committee examined five different sources of supply, comprising Merrimack River, Horse-shoe Pond, Ash Brook, Little Pond, and Long Pond, and very wisely gave their preference to the last on the list, summarizing its advantages and the attending conditions as follows: "Long Pond is distant three and one-half miles from the State House, has an area of two hundred and sixty-five acres, and is, in some places, seventy-five feet deep. Several small brooks enter it, but it is fed principally by springs. The land about it is of a granite formation, and rises pretty rapidly to a height of from three hundred to four hundred feet, and is mostly cleared. The Pond is surrounded by a water-shed of some 3,000 acres in extent. Its bottom is of white sand, overstrewn with granite boulders, and is free from sediment and aquatic weeds. There are no boggy meadows on its shores. Its water is soft, pure, perfectly transparent, and abundant in quantity."

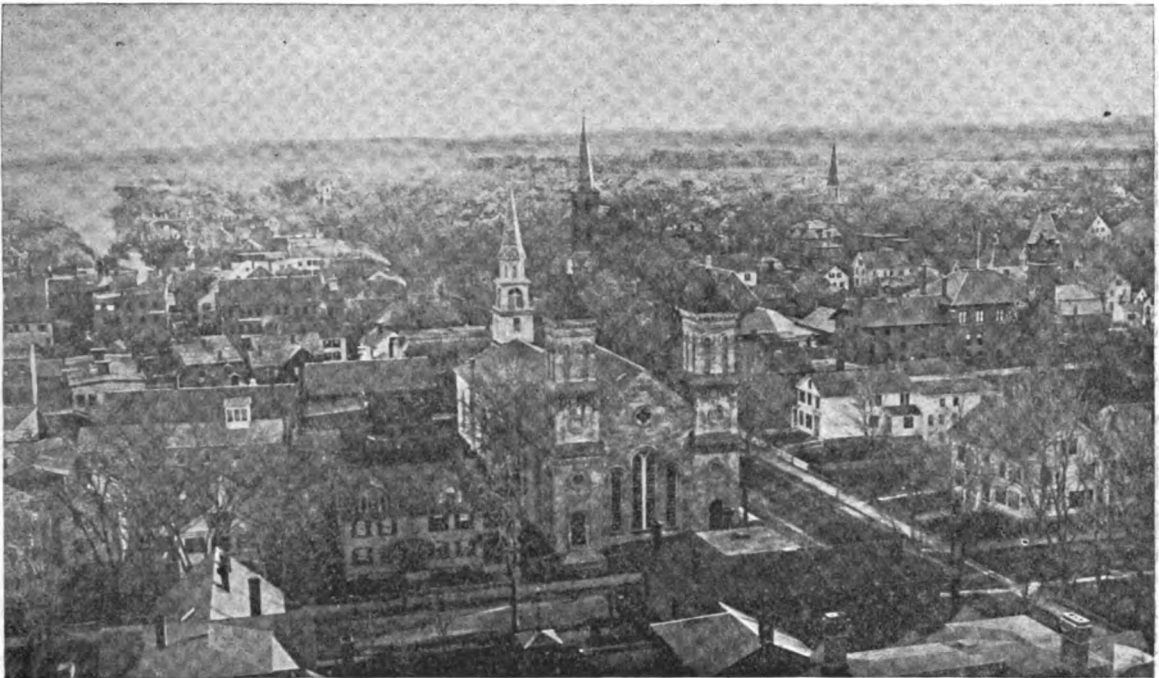
Although issued thirty years and more ago, this report is a faithful description of the Long Pond, or rather the "Lake Penacook" of to-day, for no changes have occurred such as would exert a contaminating influence on the water. The outbreak of the Rebellion put aside all thoughts of expensive local improvements, and for some years after its close no decisive steps were taken concerning the water supply, but at a mass meeting of citizens held October 1, 1870, it was

"Resolved, that the safety, health, prosperity, and growth of our city absolutely demand a greater and better supply of water than it now has."

A committee was appointed to vigorously push the matter, and in August, 1871, they reported that they had obtained from the Legislature "An Act to authorize the city of Concord to establish water-works in said city." A Board of Water Commissioners was appointed in January, 1872, and the work of preparation and construction was very vigorously pushed. The right to draw water from the pond was bought of the owners of the water power at West Concord, for \$60,000, and contracts were made with the American Gas and Water Pipe Company for the construction of the main line, distributing branches, and the furnishing and setting up of gates, hydrants, etc., at a total

cost of about \$144,000. The stock of the Torrent Aqueduct Association, and the water rights of Nathaniel White were bought for \$20,000, and a little more than \$16,000 was paid for other rights and for land damages. The contractors put a large force to work and hurried matters along so successfully that water was admitted to the pipes only eight months after the beginning of operations, or January 14, 1873.

Although done hurriedly, the work was done very thoroughly and has given excellent satisfaction from the first. In fact its very perfection soon made an extension of the delivery facilities imperative, for as the knowledge of the convenience and reliability of the service became more general, there was a constantly growing demand for water and the consumption reached a point where the fourteen inch main was unable to supply an adequate amount to the higher portions of the territory covered. The result was the laying of a second main, eighteen inches in diameter; the work being completed in the summer of 1882, the total construction account being thus brought up to \$492,000.



CONCORD FROM STATE HOUSE CUPOLA, LOOKING SOUTH.

Improvements have been made from time to time as circumstances required, and nearly every dwelling in the city is now supplied with an abundance of pure water, it having a good "head" in the pipes, as Penacook Lake is one hundred and twenty feet above Main street in front of the State House.

THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS.

A city having such a water service should have a fire department to correspond, and certainly Concord pursues a consistent policy in the matter, her fire department being as efficient as any in the State. Its mechanical equipment is generally modern in style and is handled by some two hundred trained firemen, who know their business and are commendably prompt and fearless in the discharge of their duty. On many occasions they have shown their ability to cope with all ordinary conflagrations, and although, in the light of recent experiences at Lynn and Boston, it would be presumptuous to claim that a disastrous fire in Concord is impossible, still it should be remembered that the character of local buildings and their contents, and the absence of the narrow streets, high walls and other