

THE AUBURN WATER WORKS.—The project of supplying Auburn with water for extinguishing fires, as well as for culinary and sanitary purposes, was started here in 1850 by the Hon. Benj. F. Hall, acting in conjunction with the late George Underwood and Wm. Beach. The apprehension that the diversion of so much water from the Owasco River would injure mill owners on the stream and diminish the supply to the Erie Canal at Port Byron, caused the mill owners, State Prison Inspectors and Canal Commissioners to oppose the granting of a charter. That opposition continued until the winter of 1852, when a plan was contrived by which to overcome it. It was to deepen and straighten the Owasco Outlet, by which a sufficient amount of water might be obtained from the Lake for all the purposes for which it should be wanted. That work, completed in 1854, removed the difficulty.

Messrs. Hall, Underwood and Beach then renewed the application for a charter, when a new form of opposition appeared—the toll-gathering lobby influence. That influence headed off the measure until 1859, when the charter passed.

About a year ago, steps were taken to carry the enterprise into practical operation. By this time a method had been discovered by which a reservoir might be dispensed with, and considerable expense saved. That method is the Lockport plan of automatic pumps and valves, by which the water is sent directly to the consumer from its source without entering any reservoir whatever. The works have been commenced on that plan, and will be completed as soon as possible after the spring opens, so that the company can lay their mains.