

## A NEW WATER MAIN.

**\$20,000 Voted by Taxpayers for a Second Water Pipe from Monhagen Reservoir—The Sewer Appropriation Voted Down.**

A large and interesting meeting of taxpayers was held at the Assembly Rooms last night, to vote on two propositions. The Water Commissioners asked authority to issue five per cent. bonds on the village not exceeding \$20,000, to lay a new twelve inch iron water main from Monhagen Reservoir, and to extend the works in the village. The Board of Trustees asked for authority to levy \$2,000 taxes next year towards building a sewer from High street to connect with the main sewer on Canal street.

Charles J. Boyd, clerk of the village, called the meeting to order. President Sweet did not appear to preside, and Wm. B. Royce, President of the First National Bank, was elected Chairman.

The clerk read the call from the official paper, the DAILY PRESS.

Ex-Senator E. M. Madden, President of the Water Board, on request, explained the necessity for their appropriation clearly and forcibly, in a speech of an hour's length. His principal points were these:

A new water main from the reservoir to the village is needed, the present one being unsafe and inadequate, and now is the time to build it, material, labor and money being cheaper than they are likely to be again in years. A 12 inch iron pipe, such as is used in New York, can be laid from the reservoir to the centre of the village for \$12,500. Sections of the village newly built up are without water, although ready to pay for it if mains are laid in their streets. These people pay taxes, and are entitled to protection from fire. The sum above \$12,500 is asked to extend the works in the village.

The water works, when constructed eleven years ago, were adequate then, but the population has doubled since then. In place of one small hat factory using little water then, there are now three large ones, three railroads and a State Asylum, all using and paying largely, which was not anticipated then. Of 400 consumers, twelve or fifteen pay two-thirds of all the water rents, which support the works. Without the works, the important manufacturing of the place cannot exist, there being no other water.

The commissioners have known for some time that the present cement pipe is unsafe where it crosses the black dirt for some distance near the reservoir, and it may break any day. It was laid upon plank, which is rotting away, and with the heaving by frosts the pipe is cracked and ready to give out at any time. Should it break, especially when there is a fire, the loss would far exceed the cost of a new main.

Iron pipe can be now bought at a cent a pound, the price of old iron a few years ago, and it can be laid for one-third what it cost to lay the present main. Labor is low and a large number waiting to be employed. We should imitate the policy of France, which undertakes its great public improvements when labor, material and money is plenty.

The \$20,000 asked for now was voted a few years ago, but not used. The commissioners had power to issue the bonds now without further authority, but they thought the tax-payers ought to be consulted and would abide by their decision. He always favored economy in public affairs, but he would take this step now if it were his private business.

The proposed main will have nearly one and a half times the capacity of the present one and will deliver 250 gallons to the old one 100 gallons, and this increased supply is much needed. The pressure at the hydrants in the day time when the factories and railroads are using water, is not sufficient for fire purposes, and on the hills, will not carry water into the second story. Large sections of the village are asking for water, which they cannot have without a larger supply.

It will pay to lay new mains in the village in streets where the residents are willing to pay for the water. The money to lay the pipes can be borrowed at five per cent., and the rents for the use of the water will pay from ten to twenty per cent on its cost. By law 7 per cent of the cost of taking water into a street must be guaranteed before the work can be begun. The residents of Wilcox ave. signed a bond to pay \$70 a year, and they now pay, in water rents, more than that and enough to make 15 and 18 per cent. of the cost of taking the water into their street. Benton avenue wants water in the same way. The section west of High street also wants water, during the last year, three houses having been burned down in that section because there was no water for the firemen to use.

Mr. A. A. Bromley asked if, with this increase of the works, the water supply would be sufficient.

Mr. Madden thereupon explained the history of the Shawangunk Kill enterprise, which he frankly admitted, was a blunder. In 1872, by allowing water motors to be used, and by reason of drouth, the water supply gave out. When the reservoir was nearly empty, the water was shut off except for fire purposes, and it was feared there would be a water famine. The new Board of Water Commissioners, in order to get water quick for the winter, went to the Shawangunk Kill. They went to Mr. Norbury, a mill owner down the stream, for his consent, which he gave verbally, saying if they were going to pump the water they could do him no harm. They could never use the pumps except when there was more water than he wanted and they might go ahead. Through delays in getting the wooden pipes and through a mistake of the manufacturers of the machinery the works were not started until a couple years afterwards. In the meantime rains had fallen copiously and there was plenty of water without pumping as there has been ever since.

The works were successful. The

pumps worked like a charm. A fine stream of water was sent through the pipes into the reservoir. [The writer saw the water running as it did for weeks and knows that Mr. Madden's statement is true in every respect.] Then Mr. Norbury got out an injunction forbidding the Commissioners to take any more water from the stream. Negotiations had been begun to compromise the matter thus far without success. Mr. Norbury offers to sell out his mill for \$24,000, or to take \$10,000 damages. The Board declined to do either, and the injunction still stands. Mr. Madden thought they could have settled with Mr. Norbury but for a son-in-law of his, who thought he knew a little more than anybody else. They had made a survey, and found that all the water that would have been necessary to keep the reservoir full since the pumps were completed would not have run Mr. Norbury's mill for three days. The Commissioners are trying to get a settlement, and hope to succeed in due time.

Speeches in opposition to the appropriation as not an immediate necessity and on account of hard times, were made by Mr. Farrel and Mr. I. S. Hulse, and in favor of it by Mr. Royce, Mr. A. A. Bromley, Dr. Draper and others.

Mr. Farrel and Mr. Hulse thought it might better be postponed, and the latter suggested mending the present main where defective.

Mr. Royce explained that the money was not to be raised by tax, but by the sale of bonds, and only the interest would have to be paid annually. He offered to guarantee that the bonds could be placed at five per cent. He also cited the fact that frequently at fires there is not pressure enough at the hydrants to throw water to the second story. The water supply here should be increased or Middletown might lose one of its best customers, the Erie Railroad, which pays \$2,700 annually.

Dr. Draper gave it as his opinion that the lack of pressure in the pipes was owing to brick that had been washed into the main when the ice broke in the tower at the reservoir. He was not then a member of the Water Board, but he went to the reservoir when the repairs were making and he saw twelve of fifteen bricks come out of the water-pipe below the dam, and presumed that other bricks went into the main before the waste gate was opened. In proof of his theory, he said that there is no such pressure now under any circumstances as there was when the works were first constructed.

Mr. I. F. Van Duzer, the plumber, at the request of Mr. Foote, explained the condition of the pipe. It is of sheet iron, coated outside and inside with cement. He examined it and has mended it. In places on the black dirt now the outer cement is cracked in all directions, and can be pulled off anywhere it may be uncovered. The thin iron is badly rusted, and it is liable to give out any day.

Mr. John H. Bell moved to appropriate \$1,000 to mend the pipe on the black meadows, and was beginning to ask questions from his seat when the chairman called him sharply to order.

Mr. Royce decided that the meeting having been called to vote upon a new main, a motion to repair the old one was out of order.

Henry W. Wiggins then moved an appropriation of \$12,500.

Mr. Bromley, following Mr. Van Duzer, made an effective speech. evening. He said he came there prepared to vote against the appropriation, but from what he had heard of the need of more water for fires, of the danger of the old pipe, and the cost and probable income from the improvement, he should vote for it. He believed if the village could borrow money at five per cent. for new mains in the village, and get twelve or fifteen per cent. back, they ought to vote the whole amount, and he moved to make it \$20,000.

Messrs. Jesse W. Canfield and John Wilkin, Esq., were appointed tellers, and the vote on Mr. Bromley's motion was taken with uplifted hands.

The appropriation of \$20,000 was granted by a vote of 90 to 60, which was afterwards made unanimous.

The proposition to raise \$2,000 by tax for the sewer was voted down as the PRESS predicted it would be, almost unanimously without any debate.

### Encampment Notes.

—The posters announcing a special train on the N. J. Midland state that Gen. Judson Kilpatrick will command one division in the sham battle and Gen. Phil. Sheridan the other.

—We learn from one source that in the sham battle it is planned for courtesy's sake that the division representing the rebels, who are to be lodged on the hill, and are first to be routed, are finally to be victorious.

—The contract for feeding the soldiers has been awarded to Mr. Overton, a Park Row restaurateur, who last year had the contract for feeding 30,000 people at Creedmoor.

—Lager will flow freely on the ground. W. C. F. Bastian of Middletown will furnish 800 kegs a day of Ehret's, and refused to take other contracts, while the Port Jervis brewery will furnish 400 kegs per day.

—The Erie sells excursion tickets from Port Jervis to Middletown and return for 85 cents. The Midland fare added makes the fare from Port Jervis to Deckertown and back \$1.60.

### National Greenback Meeting.

A meeting will be held at Holding's Hotel in Middletown on Thursday evening, August 22d, at 7½ P. M., for the purpose of organizing a National Greenback Club for the Town of Walkkill. All friendly to the cause are invited.

M. I. McCORNAL,  
Chairman Town Com.