

—Middletown laborers are happy over the prospect of a long job digging the new water main. With the exception of the amount expended in the purchase of the pipes, most of the money appropriated will find its way into the pockets of our townspeople.

## Middletown Laborers and the New Main.

The laying of the new water main will afford employment this fall to many laboring men and brighten the prospects of more than one poor fellow, who has been looking forward to the coming of winter with dread. So far as is possible, residents of the village, especially men with families, should be employed upon the work. The Water Commissioners should either do the trenching themselves, or if a contract is given to an outsider, make it one of the conditions that Middletown men shall be employed to, do the trenching and filling in. It would be a gross injustice, were no restriction of the kind imposed, for a contractor to bring from New York or elsewhere, a party of Italians for instance, and give them the work which so many of our own citizens need—and contractors have done just such things time after time.

## THE APPROPRIATION MEETING.

**A Large Attendance and long Discussion—An Appropriation for a New Main and an Extension Voted—The Sewer Project Squelched.**

A very large number of taxpayers attended the special appropriation meeting at the Assembly Rooms, last evening. Halstead Sweet, the President of the village, not being on hand, Wm. B. Royce, Esq., was chosen Chairman.

After the call for the meeting had been read, Hon. E. M. Madden, President of the Board of Water Commissioners, explained with reference to the proposition that an amount not exceeding \$30,000 be appropriated for a new main that the Commissioners after carefully considering the matter had arrived at the unanimous conclusion that a new main was needed and that now was the opportune time for laying it. Eleven years ago when the present main was laid, the village had but about half its present population. There was but one small hat factory instead of three. It was not then known that the railroad companies and the asylum would want water, and, although the main was then amply large enough the village had outgrown its capacity. More than this, the main crossed the black meadows in two places, and was laid on plank. The plank may and possibly has rotted, and the present main cannot be considered safe. A new main can be laid at the present time very cheaply. Twelve inch standard cast-iron pipe can now be bought for the cost of old iron five years ago. Labor is cheap and waiting for employment. Money is cheap and waiting for investment. The bonds, if authorized, with ample time in which to dispose of them can be placed at five per cent. It is sound policy to make improvements at just such times of business depression as the present.

A number of pipe manufacturers have been written to and four have been here. A twelve inch main, that will give us one and a half times more water than the present ten inch main, can be laid from the sixteen inch pipe near the reservoir to the centre of the village for \$12,500 at the outside. The speaker had figured the cost at \$11,500 but wished to be on the safe side.

All that section of the village bounded by Wickham avenue, Liberty street, Lake and Knapp avenues is entirely without water. When the main was laid there were but two houses there. The water had not been introduced there because there was no money whith which to pay for the improvement. The works could not be extended unless ten per cent. was guaranteed and in every case but one, Grand avenue, the rents received had paid from twelve to fifteen per cent on the cost of extension. The Commissioners ask for money with which they might make this improvement, believing it due to the people of that part of town that inasmuch as they paid taxes they should be as well protected from fire as their neighbors.

In answer to questions by Mr. Bromley, Mr. Madden explained that there was more water in the reservoir than there was at this time last year. He also stated that the Shawangunk Kill extension was built in 1872, in obedience to a popular clamor, that something should be done at once to provide a supply of water without delay. The work was delayed by various causes and copious rains filled up the reservoir, but when all was ready and tested the pumps worked satisfactorily. The works were not used because of the Norbury injunction. There was an understanding with Mr. Norbury, when the works were commenced, that the commissioners could take water from the Kill, but Mr. Norbury now asked \$10,000 for the privilege or \$24,000 for his mill property. All the water they would have needed in five years would not have run his mill three days.

Mr. Farrell suggested that the present time, when so many men, who owned small homes were struggling to save them from the sheriff and tax collector, was a poor one to saddle the village with more debt.

Mr. J. I. Foote asked as to the condition of the present main. Mr. Madden answered that although not an alarmist, he could sleep better if there were another one.

Mr. W. B. Royce said that ten years' experience as a fireman warranted him in saying that during the day it was often impossible to get a stream to the second story of a building, owing to the lack of pressure caused by the insufficient capacity of the pipe. He also urged that the Erie was a large consumer, paid a large revenue to the village, and, if they knew the bad condition of the present main, might go to Goshen, at which place propositions had already been made. He also suggested that the meadows, where a break was most likely to occur, were often eighteen feet deep with water, and it might be weeks before a break could be repaired.

Mr. Smith Hulse was in favor of repairing the present main if necessary, but not of incurring any great expense. For his part he would take the risk a little longer. When the water works were built the people were assured that they would be self-sustaining, but every year but one there had been a deficiency.

Mr. L. F. Van Duzer, in response to a question by Dr. Draper, explained that several years ago when a break occurred, he examined the main and found that the cement had cracked in all directions and that the pipe looked to him as if it might give out at any moment.

Dr. Draper said that when the ice knocked down the tower, he saw some twelve or fifteen bricks washed out of the waste pipe and believed that others had been washed into the main, which would account for the diminished pressure.

Mr. H. W. Wiggins moved that \$12,500 be appropriated for laying a new main. Mr. J. H. Bell moved as an amendment that \$1,000 be appropriated for repairs of present main; the Chairman ruled the amendment out of order. Mr. Bromley moved as an amendment that the amount be made \$20,000 or so much thereof as necessary that pipes might be laid in the unprotected portions of the village, and a revenue thus secured.

Messrs. J. W. Canfield and John Wilkin were appointed tellers. The vote was taken by show of hands. In the affirmative Mr. Wilkin counted 91 and Mr. Canfield 90; in the negative Mr. Wilkin 48 and Mr.