

so as to prevent the possibility of their being interfered with by children or others?

Witness: The gas company take every precaution to prevent it, and, in this case, they had a policeman stationed there to keep the children away.

A Juror: But, could there not be some machinery used—something of a cap to screw over the cock?

Witness: We all become wiser after an event—perhaps there might. Generally speaking, a heavy stone is put over the place, so as to prevent any mischievous person from interfering with it, but any one jumping suddenly upon the stone, might have disturbed the tap.

The Coroner: There is a scientific gentleman, a Mr. Simmons, present, who, I understand, has invented an apparatus which he calls a gas-connector, whereby such accidents as these may be prevented. He waited on me to explain his invention, and, as I think it is a matter of so much public importance, I propose that he should be called.

The jury having assented,

George Simmons, Esq., was called, and produced a model of his recently-patented gas and water-connector. He said, I am a civil engineer, of No. 7 New Palace yard, and am the inventor of this machine for preventing accidents in making connexions with mains and services. When a bladder is used in making such connexions, I believe, if it is fully blown, and hermetically sealed, no gas will pass; but, in putting in the bladder, in the first instance, there is always an escape of gas, because a hole has previously to be drilled for its reception. My apparatus consists of a small box with a stuffing-gland, and a valve in the interior for shutting off the communication between the main and the atmosphere. When it is attached to the pipe for the purpose of connecting a service, the drill passes through the stuffing-box, so that there can be no escape of gas during the operation of boring the main: After the hole has been made, the drill is partially withdrawn, but left in the stuffing-gland. The tap is then inserted, and the valve is opened, so as to allow of the hole in the main being tapped. The tap is then removed in a similar way as the drill was previously, and the service-pipe is screwed in. The apparatus may be applied in laying mains along the street, and, in that case, no bladders need be applied, because the operation of the same machine I have referred to will effectually prevent any gas escaping. A fire may be placed round during the operation, and no danger need be apprehended.

The Coroner: Do you think the application of your machine would have prevented this accident?

Witness: Yes, it would. At the time of the accident, from what I have heard, there was a hole drilled in the main where the plumber was, and that hole was for the purpose of connecting a service-pipe to Mr. Hulet's house. It was from that hole the gas escaped.

The Coroner: But we are told there was a bladder inserted?

Witness: Still, there was a certain amount of gas that passed the bladder, which was lit by the plumber's iron, and that quantity was certainly more detrimental than if the main had been fully charged with gas. I think, if the main had been fully charged with gas, and it had caught light, there would not have been an explosion; the gas would have burned in a similar way to a common burner in a room. In this case, it became mixed with the air in the other portion of the main, and hence the explosion.

The Coroner: I am sure we are much obliged to Mr. Simmons for attending to explain his invention. I thought the public ought to have the information that there were means of preventing accidents of this kind.

Mr. Atkinson (to witness): You are aware that this accident did not occur while they were drilling the hole?

Witness: I believe the hole was already drilled.

Mr. Atkinson: It arose as explained by the engineer, probably from the tap being turned by accident or design, causing the bladder to collapse a little.

Witness: Yes, and there was a hole in the main where the service-pipe was being laid on. If this machine had been used in that instance, certainly no fire would have run into the main.

Mr. Atkinson: Has your instrument been applied at all?

Witness: Oh, yes, I have applied it in several instances.

George Bashford, recalled and examined by the Coroner: I did not mention that Neal came to me because I could not answer for the truth of what other parties said. I remember Neal saying that the plumber said he had done it. I went to the plumber, and made inquiry, but he gave me no answer. He had previously drawn my attention to a temporary connexion, which he wanted shifted, as it was in his way. I sent a man to do it and to make all secure.

The Coroner summed up the evidence, and left it to the jury to say whether this deplorable calamity was the result of accident or not. Having read some portion of his notes, and commented thereon, he said he thought the jury would have no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that, however lamentable the result, it had arisen from an accidental circumstance, which could not have been prevented.

The jury consulted for a short time, and then returned a verdict of "Accidental Death," in both cases. The foreman said they desired to express their hope that the company would take every precaution to prevent a similar catastrophe. He suggested that a cap should be screwed over the stop-cock of the bladder, to prevent its being accidentally turned.

Mr. Atkinson: On behalf of the London Gas Company, I am instructed by the directors to say, that they most deeply deplore this unavoidable accident, and that every precaution which human care and forethought could suggest has been always taken by them. With reference to the families of the deceased men, the company will extend their sympathy to them, and do all in their power to alleviate the sorrow which their melancholy loss has occasioned. They have always looked carefully after the interests of their servants, and everything will be done by them in the present case which the public have a right to expect at their hands.

The Coroner: I am sure this communication will be very gratefully received.

A verdict of "Died from an Accidental Explosion of Gas," was then recorded in both cases, and the proceedings terminated.

CHEAP GAS MOVEMENT IN SCOTLAND.

The movement which the *Builder* originated some years since, and which has been so successful in England, and so advantageous to both the public and the gas companies, is now spreading with rapidity throughout Scotland. In no less than forty-five cities and towns, according to the *Glasgow Morning Journal*, the price of gas has already been induced, at an immediate saving to the community of fully £40,000 a year; and, we will venture to anticipate, at a future profit to the companies themselves of a still larger sum. The following list of reductions is given by the paper just named:

	Price reduced from	to
	s. d.	s. d.
Airdrie.....	5 10	5 0
Aberdeen.....	5 8	5 10
Ayr.....	6 8	5 10
Alexandria.....	8 4	7 6
Auchtermuchty.....	9 2	8 4
Arbroath.....	6 3	5 5
Bathgate.....	8 4	7 6
Bonhill.....	8 4	7 6
Broughty Ferry.....	8 8	5 10
Blairgowrie.....	8 5	6 8
Coatbridge.....	6 8	5 3
Carlisle.....	8 6	5 10
Cupar-Angus.....	9 6	7 6
Dunfermline.....	5 5	4 7
Denny.....	7 6	5 0
Dumbarton.....	6 8	5 3
Dunbar.....	9 2	8 4
Dundee.....	5 5	4 10
Edinburgh and Leith.....	5 5	4 10
Elgin.....	7 6	7 0
Forfar.....	7 6	5 10
Glasgow.....	8 0	5 10
Greenock.....	5 0	4 7
Galashiels.....	7 6	6 5 1/2
Helenburgh.....	9 0	8 0
Jedburgh.....	9 0	6 8
Kirkcaldy.....	5 2	4 4 1/2

Kilmarnock.....	5 8	5 10
Kirriemuir.....	8 4	6 8
Lanark.....	7 6	5 0
Manchester.....	5 0	4 0
Maryhill.....	6 8	4 7
Moffat.....	10 6	8 4
Montrose.....	5 10	5 5
Mussetburgh.....	5 10	5 0
Portobello.....	5 10	5 0
Paisley.....	5 0	4 7
Perth.....	7 6	4 2
Rothsay.....	5 10	5 0
Strathaven.....	8 4	6 8
Stirling.....	5 0	5 0
St. Andrews.....	5 10	5 0
Whishaw.....	7 6	5 10

—London Builder.

EXPENSE OF LIGHTING TROY, N. Y.—The expense of lighting the city of Troy, N. Y., for the year 1861, was as follows:

Cost of gas and lighting gas-lamps.....	11,594 02
" fluid " " fluid-lamps.....	1,496 36
New fluid lanterns.....	138 00
Glazing lamps.....	403 02
Repairing ".....	159 68

\$13,791 08

TROY, N. Y., WATER-WORKS ACCOUNT FOR 1861.	
Salary of Superintendent.....	700 00
Pay roll.....	2,949 73
Iron castings.....	420 03
Hydrants.....	57 00
Patterns.....	8 75
Paints, &c.....	13 83
Rent, water-power at dam.....	500 00
Fire department for pumping by steamers.....	600 00
Printing and stationery.....	121 90
Bibs and cocks.....	169 75
Iron pipe.....	212 85
Lead pipe.....	849 49
Brass work.....	232 58
Lumber.....	190 78
Fuel.....	70 75
Hardware.....	149 26
Posts.....	50 00
Exchange stoves.....	10 37
Brunswick taxes.....	35 86
Carpenter work.....	55 06
Blacksmith work.....	48 50
Interest on debt.....	3,582 88
Water meter.....	56 50
Team work.....	64 76
Straw.....	19 26
Sundry expenses.....	111 21
Mason work.....	12 64
Insurance.....	16 60
Construction new reservoir.....	15,083 09
Care lake.....	70 75
	\$26,464 18
Received for job work.....	4,050 08
Water rates written in city tax books.....	18,667 08
	\$22,717 16

TROY, N. Y., WATER-WORKS DEBT FUND.	
Balance in hand 4th March, 1861.....	1,171 96
Rec'd for coupons city 6 per cent. bonds.....	780 00
do. do. do. due 1st Jan. '63.....	150 00
do. do. do. 7 per cent.	140 00
Rent Female Seminary, 1860, from Chamberlain.....	1,024 91
do. do. 1861, do.....	1,023 72
	\$4,290 59

The Board has purchased city 6 per cent. bonds, due 1st January, 1863, for account of this fund.....	3,000 00
Leaving in hand a balance of.....	\$1,290 59
The investments for account of this fund are in Troy city 6 per cent. bonds, due 1st Jan., 1863.....	\$4,000
do. do. 1st Apl., 1863.....	6,500
do. do. do. 1867.....	6,500
do. 7 do. do. 1862.....	2,000
Balance March 4th, 1862.....	\$19,000