

HOBART IS A COLD WATER MAN.

He, With Other Wealthy Men,
Owns an Extremely Val-
uable Trust.

Have Cornered the Passaic Watershed
and Future Millions Must
Look to Them.

HOW THEY PINCHED LEHIGH VALLEY.

All They Have Is Legally Theirs, but the
Thirsty of the Future May Not
Appreciate Their
Thrift.

Brooklyn, in its hunt for a pure water supply, is again turning its attention to the Passaic watershed. Commissioners were recently sent to investigate the Ramapo section, and at the same time to investigate such possible additional supply on Long Island as could be piped into the Ridgewood reservoir at low cost.

The Commissioners have reported that any further supply from Long Island would have to be pumped into the reservoir, whereas, by means of an aqueduct thirty-nine miles long, crossing the Hudson River near Piedmont, the pure waters of the Ramapo could be carried to Brooklyn.

The attention of the authorities was called to the supply of the Passaic watershed, which could be carried to Brooklyn through Jersey City, under the Hudson to New York, and thence to the Ridgewood reservoir, a distance of nineteen miles. Legal authorities contended that the waters of the Ramapo could not be diverted, because of riparian rights.

John R. Bartlett, No. 2 Wall street, one of those who had secured a monopoly of the supply of the Passaic watershed, through the East Jersey Water Company and associate corporations, was appealed to and furnished the city of Brooklyn plans by which both the lower section of this city and Brooklyn also could get a supply of water from New Jersey.

The owners of this monopoly are negotiating with Jersey City to supply them with water instead of their using that from the Passaic River above the tide limit. Should they get this contract, the laying of pipes under the Hudson River to Brooklyn could be easily accomplished by extending the Jersey City supply pipe.

There is water to spare in this great watershed. It is estimated that the supply derived by the owners amounts to 400,000,000 gallons a day. Of this not more than 200,000,000 gallons will be required by Jersey towns for the next fifty years.

Of the five owners of this great monopoly of water is Garret A. Hobart, Republican nominee for Vice-President. His associates are John A. Baker, H. C. Fahnestock, John A. Garland—all of the First National Bank of this city—and John R. Bartlett, the engineer who devised the scheme. They bought, with the backing of Winslow, Lanier & Co. and the First National Bank, all rights in the Passaic watershed, except the Morris Canal and the waters of lakes Hopatcong and Greenwood, which they controlled.

Forming the Water Trust.

Then they organized the New Jersey General Security Company, to which was transferred the properties. Those corporations included the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures, the Dundee Water Power and Land Company, the Passaic Water Company, the Acquackanonk Water Company, the West Milford Water Storage Company and the Montclair Water Company. In all these Mr. Hobart is a director, and of the Acquackanonk Water Company he is president.

The object of the water trust was to acquire control of all the water the cities of New Jersey would ultimately need. They got opinions from the best lawyers of the State, including ex-Chancellor Runyon, Henry C. Pitney, Benjamin Williamson and William Pennington on how absolute a monopoly they could have. Their opinions being favorable, they went on with plans, which have resulted in tribute being demanded from all the flourishing towns in this section of New Jersey except Jersey City, for which they are now gunning.

One of their most important purchases was the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures. This was operated under a very old charter, which gave the exclusive right to the waters of the Passaic River above the falls at Paterson. Here they looked for a monopoly, and Garret A. Hobart was called on for an opinion, a portion of which was as follows:

It is self-evident that the society are the owners, for their own purpose, under the common law right as riparian owners, as well as the powers particularly given by their charter, of all the waters of the river; that it is neither within the power of the municipal corporations of Jersey City nor of Newark, much less of any private water company, to divert a single drop of water from the Passaic watershed above Paterson, and before it reaches the dam of the society.

Fought the Lehigh Valley.

After these water rights had been secured and valuable reservoir sites bought, a stumbling block was presented by the Lehigh Valley Railroad. It owned the Morris Canal and the water supply of Lake Hopatcong and Greenwood Lake, which it had been attempting to sell to the city of Newark for \$3,000,000. Hobart and his associates were seeking to enter into a contract to supply Newark with water.

A fight resulted in the New Jersey Legislature. Here a strange mixture of coal and water became apparent. Baker, Fahnestock and Garland owned almost a controlling interest in the Central Railroad of New Jersey. Mr. Hobart was a director in the New York, Susquehanna & Western Road, also a coal producer. These interests, united with the Pennsylvania Railroad, through Mr. Hobart's influence, fought the Lehigh Valley in the Legislature and beat it by three votes on joint ballot.

The Lehigh Valley was now prevented from selling its canal and lake supplies of water to the city of Newark, and Newark was compelled to give in to the water monopolists. The Lehigh Valley transferred its water supply to the East Jersey Water Company, the other parties to the deal being Garret A. Hobart and his associates. This company, of which Mr. Hobart is counsel, at present supplies Newark with water.

As late as 1888 these associated water right owners offered to supply New York with water at \$75 for each million gallons. They now seek to supply Jersey City with water, and Brooklyn may be compelled to pay tribute to these capitalists for the water she so badly needs.

The Republican nominee for Vice-President undoubtedly has a legal right to all he and his corporations possess, but it is thought by some to be hard that they should hold within their grasp the supplies of water which all the near-by cities must ultimately have.