

capable of affording the supply called for (50,000 inhabitants,) but that for it was not then practicable to determine clearly its probable cost, on account of the necessity for purchasing out the water rights, the cost of which would probably have been fixed by arbitration.

Without this item the cost was nearly as great as that for a pumping scheme, and with it would have been more, but other reasons determined the selection as shown from the report above referred to which says:

"In coming to a decision as to the relative merits of the gravitation or of the pumping system, both of which are practicable, it is important to look forward to the time when the population of Hamilton may exceed 50,000 inhabitants. The examinations made have been based upon the maximum as fixed by my instructions, but when this population is attained the probabilities of its being doubled will be as great as they now are of its being reached. Looking at the commanding position of Hamilton, at the head of the larger navigation of the river St. Lawrence, and at the junction of the main railway routes from the Canadian and American seaboards, and therefore the natural depot for the rich peninsula to the west of it, I see no good reason for limiting its population to 50,000 inhabitants. Before the population reaches 100,000 a larger supply of water will be required than can be afforded by the Ancaster streams, or by any other gravitation sources nearer than the waters which flow into the Grand River. In this case it would be necessary to obtain the required increase of supply either by going to a greater distance or by pumping."

In a further report of the 9th of June, 1856, Mr. Keefer says:

"There is another consideration which weakens any objection to the distance of the Lake from the city, and which gives the lake plan in this respect an advantage over the Ancaster one. As the city increases in population its growth must be eastward to a greater extent than in any other direction, its extension westward being stopped by the marsh and by the fact that the exporting and importing points by water and by rail will naturally draw the denser population toward the lake. If the city increases as from its position it may fairly be expected to do, it will not be long before the eastern limit reaches Slabtown, the population approaching the reservoir and taking the supply from the descending main already laid. With respect to the Ancaster scheme the interference with private rights, the necessarily irregular condition of the water, the number of separate works required and the risk of accident to each give it no advantages either on the score of economy or efficiency over a supply from the lake, while the strong probability that the ultimate requirements of the city will necessitate a resort to the lake at some future day gives to the latter a decided advantage."

As to more distant sources for a gravitation supply the same report says:

"The distance from which water can be brought in competition with a pumping plan is evidently limited. I did not feel at lib-