

tion, as the possibility of bringing water from Little River to the City was doubted by many worthy citizens, and stoutly denied by a few of the more knowing ones, whose scepticism continued, despite of surveys and everything else, until the water was actually brought to the Aboideau.

The work performed by Mr. Wilkinson was executed with his usual care and accuracy, and the line then selected has been followed generally since.

In the Report submitted by Mr. Wilkinson in 1850 the opinions expressed by Mr. Fairbanks were generally confirmed, and a wooden dam recommended. Elaborate plans in detail of the latter were also submitted, but on mature consideration an earthen embankment was preferred on the ground of economy as well as durability.

Work was commenced on Little River in October, 1850, under the direction of George H. Bailey, C. E., of Boston. In December the dam and gate house were completed, and Mr. Bailey returned to Boston to fill a more lucrative appointment.

During the winter of 1850-51 the pipe line was brushed out and the pipes sledged on to the ground. Pipe laying was commenced in the spring of 1851, and on the 10th day of September following the water was formally let on to the City by Mayor Harding.

This was a gala day in the City. The Volunteer Fire Department — called into existence by the York Point fire of March, 1849 — was then in its prime and turned out in great force, with engines and hose, bands and banners, to honour the occasion, as did also the City Council and many of the trades and leading citizens. Lieut-Governor Sir Edward Walker Head came from Fredericton to honour the event and turn the water on to the King Square fountain, which had been finished a few days before.

Since this time the supply to the City has been constant by day and night, unless when interrupted for short seasons for inspections or repairs.

The old boilers and engines, as well as lands and buildings at the Aboideau, were sold in July, 1854, for \$8,920, and the proceeds applied to perfecting the new works and in extending the distributing system. An effort was made about this time by the late Thomas Allan, Esquire (of Harris & Allan), to organize a Company to supply Portland with water, but after one or two public meetings had been held in the old Market House, the scheme was abandoned for want of support.