

with us, Steam Fire Engines should be portable, and constructed on such a principle, as not to be easily put out of order. From the Report of the Special Committee appointed to make trial of Steam Fire Engines in Boston, last year, it appears, that of 4 Engines—the best that could be procured—one weighed, 7,330 lbs., another, 7,480 lbs., another, 9,330 lbs., and the fourth, 9,415 lbs. The shortest time occupied in raising steam to 60 lbs. pressure, from cold water, was  $10\frac{1}{2}$  minutes. The greatest horizontal distance thrown of a single stream of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches, through 200 feet of hose, was 163 feet, and the greatest vertical height 110 feet. This does not seem a very wonderful performance, but the advantage is, that a Steam Engine would continue to throw such a stream as long as it was supplied with fire and water. On the other hand, the weight, being three or four tons, would require, at least four horses to move one of them on a level, and six horses, when it would be necessary to ascend a hill. The cost of one of these Engines, in Boston, is about three thousand dollars.

As a Steam Fire Engine would be of comparatively little use, until the city is better supplied with water, and as it is highly probable that a cheaper and lighter class of steam machines will be introduced before long, the Committee think it would be wise to make further enquiry before purchasing a Steam Fire Engine, and suggest that His Worship the Mayor shall take such steps, by correspondence, or otherwise, as will put the Council in possession of the latest information on this point.

This brings the Report to the discussion of what is after all, the real difficulty—the obtaining of a more abundant supply of water.

The Directors of the Halifax Water Company, in a statement recently submitted to the public, complain of some want of courtesy, on the part of the City Council, and of this Committee, in reference to their proposition, previously described.