

be difficult to secure a commencement of a desirable project. As I have no object to serve, but a desire to benefit the city I am pledged faithfully to represent, I feel it to be my duty candidly to say, that I am convinced, the city will not be quite safe from water troubles in winter, and the means of providing for the annually increasing consumption of water will not be secured, at a cost of a less sum than one and a half million of dollars, including reservoirs and the completion of pipe laying in the city, and that it cannot be well and economically performed in less than six or seven years, at an average annual outlay of \$250,000. This would swell the water works loan to four and a half millions of dollars. The present water rates pay the interest and working expenses of three millions. With this year's extension of pipes to streets being rapidly built up, the annual increase of collections will amount to the interest required to pay that accruing on the additional loan to the above named extent, obviating the necessity of imposing any special rate for that purpose. Therefore, I claim that it is only just and proper that the people of Montreal, who by their water payments support the works, should have the means secured to them of obtaining a reliable and permanent supply. Further exposing them to annoyance and loss, as in the past, is most unfair, and tends to impair the confidence of the people in civic government.

#### RESERVOIRS

Should form a part of the first works to be secured. It cannot be denied that so much valuable personal and real property should not be at the mercy of mere accident, which might at any time occur at the aqueduct, and deprive the city of a supply of water through it. The present reservoir never can be so extended as to alone serve the purpose: it may only be looked upon as a receiving and regulating basin, with which there should be connected, at a higher level further west, a large reserve of water, and another further east just enough lower to be filled by gravitation from the present reservoir. Mr. Keefer very properly says: "Whatever may be expended on reservoirs, value will be received; but every year reservoirs are postponed, the cost of land will be enhanced," &c.

It will be admitted that any new debt incurred for water works improvements should be applied to form part of what will be