

If the question of expenditure were less important and the supply inexhaustible I would have no hesitation in recommending immediate increase on account of the difficulty in checking waste in our climate and the impolicy of restricting every legitimate use of water. A lavish waste of water seems to have begun soon after the first pipe was laid, and following the history of the works we find the water pressure rapidly decreasing and in some parts of the town where a few years ago, streams from the fire hydrants could be thrown over the top of buildings, the water now will not rise to the nozzles. In consequence the High Service had to be diverted to the low, thereby destroying the High Service System. All over the city stop-cocks have had to be partially or entirely closed in order to give a supply to houses which otherwise would have none. As the consumption increases from year to year the loss of head which was at first trivial must increase so that during fires and in times of greatest draught the water must fall away in houses receiving it on the second and third floor to the first floor and basement and from elevated houses altogether.

Not only will consumption of daily supply, when reached generally take place in the 12 hours of the day and therefore require a capacity double the average for the 24 hours, but at all times when fire occurs the demand requires the utmost efficiency throughout every part of the pipe. That the consumption of daily supply has been reached has been proved by the fact that at times the draught is so great that not only is there no pressure on Quinpool Road but the water does not fill the pipe. By the time those who are inclined to doubt the enormous consumption or waste have digested that statement they may, perhaps, be converted.

The most important result of the great waste is the greater risk from fire and consequent higher rate of premiums. Waste and therefore loss of pressure destroys the value of the fire