

mitted for their consideration, and are of opinion that the plan of the works, as laid down by Mr Liddell, is by far on too extensive a scale for the population and present demands of Halifax. They readily concur with Mr. Liddell in the opinion that all due allowance ought to be made for the progressive increase of population, especially in the erection of Gas works in a distant country, where additions, when required, cannot at all times be easily obtained; but at the same time, they cannot imagine that the increase of population will be of so rapid a character, as to require so great and disproportionate an outlay in the first instance as that contemplated by Mr. L's estimate. The chief causes hitherto assigned for the complete failure of all our undertakings of a public character in the town of Halifax, have been the anticipation of too much from the enterprise, and the injudicious expenditure of money and means, without attaining the proposed end; the Committee would therefore, most strenuously urge upon the Shareholders, the necessity of proceeding with the present works on the most economical system, inasmuch as they feel satisfied that Gas works sufficiently large for Halifax at the present day, will be equally so for a period of 20 years hence, with the exception of additional main pipes that may be required to be laid down by the Company from time to time, as the demands of the population increase, and the people from practical experience becoming convinced of the utility of such an establishment, will then most readily advance such funds as may be required for the further extension of the works.

The greatest annual consumption of Gas in the town of Greenock, with a population of about 30,000, has been $15\frac{1}{2}$ millions of cubic feet, while the Gas works for Halifax, if completed on Mr. Liddell's scale, and according to his plans and estimates, would annually produce $19\frac{1}{2}$ millions of cubic feet, to be consumed by a population amounting in number to only one half. The Committee therefore feel satisfied that reductions to a considerable amount may be made in various items mentioned in Mr. Liddell's estimate, so as to admit of works sufficiently large to meet the exigencies of Halifax at the present day, and capable of supplying its increased demands for years to come, being erected for a sum not exceeding £11,000-Halifax currency.

The Committee cannot find any instance on record of the failure of Gas Companies, either in Europe or America,