

THE BIG PUMPING PLANT PROJECT.

True History of an Undertaking of Great Moment That Was Shamefully Fought at Every Turn—President Angus M. Cannon, Chairman of the Board of Presidents of the Jordan River Canal Companies, Asks Pertinently, "Who Did the Holding Up?"

Allusions have frequently been made during the past few months, by a certain newspaper of this city, to the establishment of a pumping plant at the outlet of Utah lake as an effort to "bump" or "hold up" Salt Lake City. No reasonable objection could be found with a newspaper that chose to become the champion of the city, or even, as in this case, that the mayor of the city, whether his personal efforts were in the interest of the city or not, were it not that in attempting to make it appear that his honor or the city were the victim, unjust reflections are cast upon others. In the case alluded to, the

of the parties interested failed to favor it. In furtherance of this scheme, the city made a filing upon the water that could be drawn off from Utah Lake by lowering the outlet 15 inches, and also upon that which could be obtained by storage if the surface of the lake were raised two feet above compromise point. The city officers probably did not contemplate that the corporation should be the sole beneficiary of this appropriation of water if perfected, and as to whether the filing could have been perfected without the co-operation or sanction of the canal companies is disputed. Suffice it to say, that after the expenditure of over \$10,000 in the making of surveys and estimates, in the purchase of ten acres of land at the outlet of the lake, and in doing some

of Salt Lake City, and recommend to the canal companies what steps are necessary to be taken by them in order to enable them to join the city in completing said appropriation and share with it the benefits thereof.

The city council referred the communication to its committee on judiciary and irrigation, and notified the board of presidents that they would meet them for consultation at 4 p. m., March 24.

At this meeting, which was also attended by the companies' attorneys, a very friendly discussion occurred, and an adjournment was taken to 4 p. m. the following day, when there was to be a special session of the city council. At this latter meeting the resolution adopted by the board of presidents was again read and discussed for two and a half hours, without any decision on the part of the council being reached, when the meeting was adjourned to 3 p. m., March 27.

On the date last named a statement was made of the amount which the city had expended in connection with the filing, etc., and the admission was freely made by some members of the city council that the money was hopelessly lost, without any good likely to accrue therefrom, unless the city co-operated with the canal companies in establishing the pumping plant. Finally, City Councilman J. J. Thomas introduced a resolution offering the privilege of sharing in whatever rights the city had in the filing, purchase of land, maps, etc., around Utah Lake, on payment to the city of \$1,000, making a total valuation of \$7,000, including the city's share of one-fifth. This was carried, and the committee adjourned to meet in special session of the city council at 8 o'clock the same evening, at which time the resolution was reported, discussed at length and adopted by the council.

The mayor exercised his prerogative and deferred action on the resolution until the 1st of April, when, to prevent it becoming operative, he vetoed it.

The majority of the city council sensed the necessity for immediate action, as the season was fast advancing, and with commendable promptness passed the resolution over the mayor's veto by a vote of 11 to 4 on the evening of the same day he vetoed it.

The action of the city council was reported to the board of directors of each of the canal companies and each, with the exception of the North Jordan Irrigation Co., resolved unanimously to accept the city's terms and combine on the establishment of a pumping plant. The North Jordan Irrigation Co., by resolution of its board of directors, decided not to accept the offer nor to join in the establishment of a pumping plant.

The result of these meetings was reported to the city council, and, in a session held on the evening of April 8th, a resolution was introduced providing that the city join with three of the canal companies in the pumping scheme, on payment by each of them of the sum of \$1,575, making a total of \$4,725, as before, which resolution was carried.

Fearful that the mayor would again delay action, the chairman of the board of presidents called upon his honor and endeavored to prevail upon him to approve of the action of the council, by portraying to him the suffering that would certainly ensue if the pumps were not installed. He pointed out the fact that the city's interests, not less than those of the farmers, demanded immediate action, as the original owners of Parley's canyon would divert that stream from the city's conduit if more water were not procured from the river. The mayor's only reply was, "I shall do on Monday next what I think best for the city."

The day mentioned being the utmost limit to which action could be deferred without the resolution becoming law, it

was evident that the mayor was still determined to operate against the measure by delay as well as the exercise of his veto power. And so it proved, for his veto was submitted to the council on the evening of the 14th of April, and the evening of the 15th, that being as early as the city council could give the matter their attention, they passed the resolution over his veto by a vote of 10 to 3.

On the 22nd of April the attorneys of three canal companies drew up a contract to be signed in behalf of the city and the several canal companies, which, on being submitted to the city attorney, was acknowledged by him to be according to the resolution of the city council. The three canal companies approved of this contract, and authorized its ratification. They also each appropriated the sum of \$1,575 to pay into the city treasury, being their three-fourths of the total sum agreed upon.

The same evening the city council met, and the contract, a copy of which was already in the hands of the city attorney, was submitted to the council, but the council decided to await the action of the mayor in the matter of signing it.

After waiting for two days for the mayor to take action, the chairman of the board of presidents grew impatient at the delay, and called upon the mayor to urge its ratification by him. The mayor said, "I refuse to sign or approve of the agreement for the reason set forth in my message to the council, when I vetoed the resolution, being governed by the advice of the city attorney." The city attorney happening in during this interview, was reasoned with in an endeavor to get him to sign, and the fact pointed out to him that the city would be no more a partner with the canal companies if combined with them in the pumping plant than it had been in the past in the joint ownership and control of the proposed dam—the partnership feature having been the special objection urged by the attorney to the proposition. Both officials were again reminded of the seriousness of the situation, and of the prospect of the half million-dollar loss of crops suffered in this county last year being repeated and possibly exceeded during the present season. They were reminded that the city had waited three months to make and install the pumps, and that two months had already been frittered away in trying to effect an agreement with the city. They were told that three canal companies were impatient to commence the work, and if they could be assured that the city would not withdraw from the work, they would do so without delay. They were asked, too, that on ratification of the contract the canal companies could proceed with the work, even though the city might be enjoined, as it was asserted it probably would be. The reasoning and appeals, however, were all without effect, as the mayor still declared that he would not sign the contract.

The mayor's refusal to sign the contract was at the last day forwarded to the city council, and then followed dictatorial measures which prevented its final ratification until the 21st of May, when the president of the city council, over the mayor's protest, was authorized to sign it.

The checks of the canal companies for the total sum of \$5,225, which had been awaiting the ratification of the contract, were immediately paid into the city treasury.

In all the proceedings of the board of presidents relating to the pumping scheme the city engineer, who had previously been the city's representative in that organization, had declined to take part, on the plea that he had not been instructed so to do. One of the objections urged by the mayor and city attorney to the contract was that it did not provide for the work being done under the direction of the board of public works. With a view to overcoming this objection and producing harmony, a resolution was introduced into

To show the insincerity of the suit started by the three citizens, it may be here mentioned that when, on Sept. 13, the case came up before Judge Hall, the plaintiffs were unrepresented. When their attorney was finally communicated with, he moved for the dismissal of the case, and that the defendants recover their costs.

Fortunately, the injunction, although it prevented the city from taking part in the establishment of the pumping plant, did not prevent the city's participation in the matter of raising money to sustain their families, offered their farms for sale at a sacrifice and sought homes elsewhere.

Another effect of the delay was, that the manufacturers of the machinery required, instead of being able to furnish the same on short notice and reasonable terms, as they proposed to do earlier in the season, had become so crowded with other orders that they demanded higher prices and more time in which to fill the contract.

Measures were immediately adopted to secure the pumping plant, the contract therefore being let to Messrs. Gard and Ingalls, the superintendent and engineer of the Utah Sugar company. Mr. F. C. Kelsey, the former city engineer, was also employed to draw the plans and specifications and superintend the construction of the plant. The work of constructing the dam was proceeded with, pending the arrival of the pumps, so that when the first pump arrived, on the 25th of July, the foundation was ready to place it in position. The second pump arrived Aug. 2, and was ready for operation Aug. 5. The third pump arrived Aug. 10, and was installed Aug. 20. The fourth pump arrived Sept. 4, and was installed Sept. 8.

The induction motors to propel the first three pumps and the transformers

asked to put their proposition in writing and wait at the mayor's office until the board of presidents could repair the dam and discuss the matter with the committee, the city attorney assented. The board of presidents went immediately to the mayor's office, but to their surprise, found no one there. A telephone message received later informed the board that the committee's proposition would be mailed to them. The proposition was not received until two days later, when a special meeting of the board of presidents was called to consider it. The terms proposed were not acceptable, but the conditions upon which the canal company presidents were willing to furnish the water were communicated Aug. 12 to the committee, who reported the same to the city council Aug. 18 with a recommendation that the proposition be rejected and the court be asked to adjust the matter. The majority of the council, however, did not view things as the mayor did, as a vote showed ten for and three against accepting the terms offered, it being understood that the amount paid as the price of pumping should apply towards the purchase price of a permanent interest in the pumping plant in case of the injunction being removed so that the city could make the investment.

There is nothing now to prevent the city acquiring and maintaining an interest in the pumping plant equal with each of the three canal companies, at whose cost and through whose determined energy it has been constructed. There is no feeling of vindictiveness manifested by the latter because of the impediments placed in their way principally by an official who ought to have been foremost in working for the city and county's interest, but a feeling of deep regret that the pumps were not installed as early as June, as they might have been put for the opposition, instead of too late to save much of the season's crop. The benefit that will accrue to the city and county through the saving of trees from complete destruction and through reviving the lucern and other crops by late irrigation can hardly be overestimated. The prospects for a crop next year are enhanced many fold by a thorough irrigation this fall. Mingled with the regret that relief did not come sooner, is a very general feeling of gratitude that it has come at last.

Of course, there are pessimists who ask: "What about the effect upon the lake?" In answer it may be said that the great anxiety of the parties interested has been to relieve distress and save property from perishing, for want of water. While the water of the lake is passing off by evaporation four times as fast as it can be drawn off by pumps, even when all four are in operation, the lake has no scruples about pumping it. Besides, there are good reasons for believing that the water of the lake, up to a certain level (though that level may possibly not be high enough to flow out naturally), are supplied by subterranean springs; and if, by the installation of the pumps, the fact can be demonstrated that there is an inexhaustible supply of water there which only requires pumping out, the knowledge gained will be worth many times more than the expenditure.

Some of the parties who strongly favored the establishment of the pumping plant, although anxious to gain the cooperation of Salt Lake City in the matter, and willing to sacrifice something rather than fail to do so, had grave doubts about the value of the city's filing. These doubts were confirmed when it was found necessary later to make another filing under which to act, and this was done under the direction of the board of presidents, with a view to protecting the city's rights as well as those of the canal companies.

Now, to sum up, it may be mentioned that the canal companies, instead of having taken any advantage of the matter, have had all the opposition here detailed as emanating from the same, to contend with because of their desire for harmony and unity of action, and have paid \$5,025 for a three-fourth interest in 10 acres of land, at the outlet of Utah lake, which cost the city about \$1,000—that being the only tangible asset realized from the deal.

The city has enjoyed the use of the \$5,225 paid by the canal companies for almost four months, and for almost one month last past, has had its full share of the water pumped without having paid a dollar towards the constructing or operating expenses of the pumping plant. In view of all the facts here narrated, it may be pertinent to ask:

Who did the holding up, and who is responsible for all the loss of the people's crops?

Respectfully submitted,
ANGUS M. CANNON,
Chairman of Board of Presidents of Jordan River Canal Companies,
Salt Lake City, Sept. 13, 1902.



HON. ANGUS M. CANNON,
Father of the Big Pumping Plant Project.

canal companies of Salt Lake county, or their officers, are represented as the guilty principals in the nefarious business of "bumping" or "holding up."

A recital of the facts connected with the establishment of the pumping plant will show how false and unjust have been the accusations and insinuations against the canal companies.

The principal parties interested in Utah lake, as a reservoir, and in the Jordan river as a source of water supply, are the Utah and Salt Lake Canal Co., the South Jordan Canal Co., and the North Jordan Irrigation Co., all taking water from the west side of the river, and the East Jordan Irrigation Co., and Salt Lake City corporation (the latter representing the Jordan and Salt Lake City canal), taking water out of the river on the east side. These five parties have been for years joint owners in an impounding dam used for storing the water in Utah Lake, and their joint right to store water in that reservoir has the sanction of long usage, confirmed by decree of court.

The scarcity of water from the source indicated with which to irrigate the land in this valley during the past three years has not only been a serious drawback to the canal companies mentioned, but has greatly embarrassed Salt Lake City, an arrangement having been affected with the farmers south of the city for the exchange of most of the river water expected by the city for the canyon creek stream with which to fill the conduit extending from the mouth of Parley's canyon to the city.

The farmers of the county and the engineer of Salt Lake City have been trying for years to devise means of supplying the deficiency. More than two years ago the city engineer had advocated widening, deepening and straightening the river from the outlet of Utah Lake down to the principal diverting dam, a distance of a little over 10 miles, following the windings of the river, but which distance would be shortened about three miles if the river's course were straightened by the process proposed, but as the work would cost not less than \$250,000 most

little dredging with teams (all of which work was done without the canal companies being consulted), the work ceased until there was danger of the appropriation lapsing, and without any prospect of the work being resumed.

In the meantime the veteran pioneer and mill-builder, Bishop Archibald Gardner, had advocated a cheaper and more ready means of supplying the deficiency. He claimed that pumps could be installed at the outlet of the lake within a period of a few months, by which the water could be lifted from the lake and delivered into the bed of the river at a fraction of the cost required to widen and deepen the channel so as to bring it out on the gravity principle. In the meetings of the canal company stockholders this plan was discussed and strongly favored. It was the opinion, too, of several attorneys who were consulted, that the scheme, if adopted, could be made available as a means of perfecting the filing made by the city upon the lower waters of the lake, which filing would otherwise lapse, as all work under it had long since ceased and no other was ever contemplated by the city officers. The canal companies were duly impressed with the necessity for harmony among the various parties interested in the lake and river, if the work were undertaken, as they realized that opposition from one might result in the others being enjoined.

The public sentiment on the question finally crystallized into the following preamble and resolution, which were unanimously adopted at a meeting of the board of presidents, held Feb. 26, 1902, and forwarded to the city council:

"Whereas, Salt Lake City, a municipal corporation, has heretofore filed certain notices of appropriation of the waters of the Jordan River and Utah Lake for the purpose of acquiring additional rights of storage in said lake by raising the waters in the lake and also by lowering the channel of the Jordan river; and

"Whereas, the canal companies are interested with the city in the rights which it now has in the waters of said lake and river, and are desirous of obtaining an interest in said additional appropriations; now, therefore,

"Be it resolved, that the presidents of the canal companies and their attorneys confer with the representatives



VIEW FROM THE SOUTHWEST OF DAM AND PUMP HOUSE.

the city council at its first session held after the contract had been ratified, which provided for the city's being represented in the board of presidents by the board of public works. The chairman of the board of public works was accordingly notified of the time when the presidents would meet as a board, and invited to be present to look after the city's interests. He at first hesitated about attending because of having received no official notice of the city council's action in the matter, but afterwards manifested his willingness to act in the position by attending one meeting without a formal notice of authority. At the next session of the city council the mayor's animus was further shown and his hostility to the majority of the canal companies was his formal disapproval of their action in the matter.

The next obstacle raised to prevent the construction of the pumping plant was a suit for injunction filed on the 14th of June by three citizens—M. H. Walker, W. A. Nelden and H. J. Hayward—against the mayor and city council, to prevent their joining other parties in undertaking such an enterprise.

In view of the fact that the mayor had opposed the work from the start by every means in his power, it was regarded by some people as somewhat significant that one of the citizens applying for the injunction was his brother-in-law. A preliminary hearing was had before Judge Stewart and a temporary injunction, pending a full investigation, which was set for Sept. 15, was granted. Thus the good intention shown by the majority of the city council to combine with the canal companies in providing water was nullified.

This was Salt Lake City as well as the farming districts of the county subjected, unnecessarily, to the terrible effects of the drought which has prevailed in this region for several months, and a loss of crops amounting to nearly if not quite \$200,000, and nearly if not quite the expense incurred by the city in defending the injunction suit just mentioned, and one started later by the farmers south of the city.

were received and installed as the pumps were placed in position, and the suffering farmers were relieved, to some extent, and their hopes revived from the time the first two pumps began to operate.

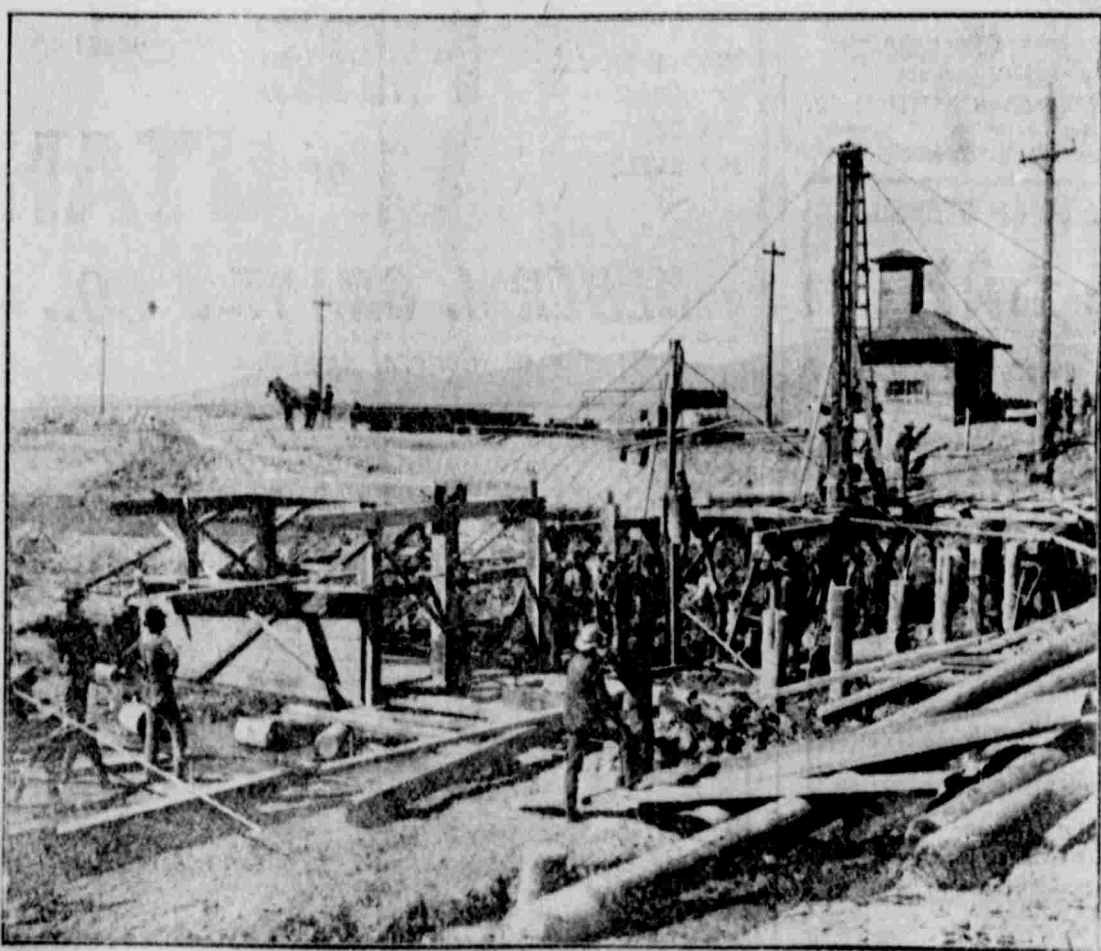
These pumps were made especially for this work. They are 40-inch centrifugal pumps of the double suction pattern, having an 8-inch diameter discharge 40 inches in diameter. They stand 10 feet high and weigh each about 12 tons. When the four pumps are all installed, they will occupy a space in 15 feet, and will turn 400 cubic feet of water per second. To operate these mammoth pumps, there are four one-hundred horse-power Westinghouse induction motors and three transformers of 170 k. w. each to transmit the current from 18,000 volts to 500 volts. The motors weigh about 6,500 pounds each and the transformers about 6,500 pounds each. The pumps are set on a concrete base which rests on a pile and timber foundation, and they will be entirely surrounded by concrete to keep out the water.

At the west end of the foundation there are nine regulating gates, each eight feet wide, to let the water flow out of the lake when the pumps are not in operation.

The power for using these pumps is furnished by the Salt Lake City Water and Electrical Power Co.

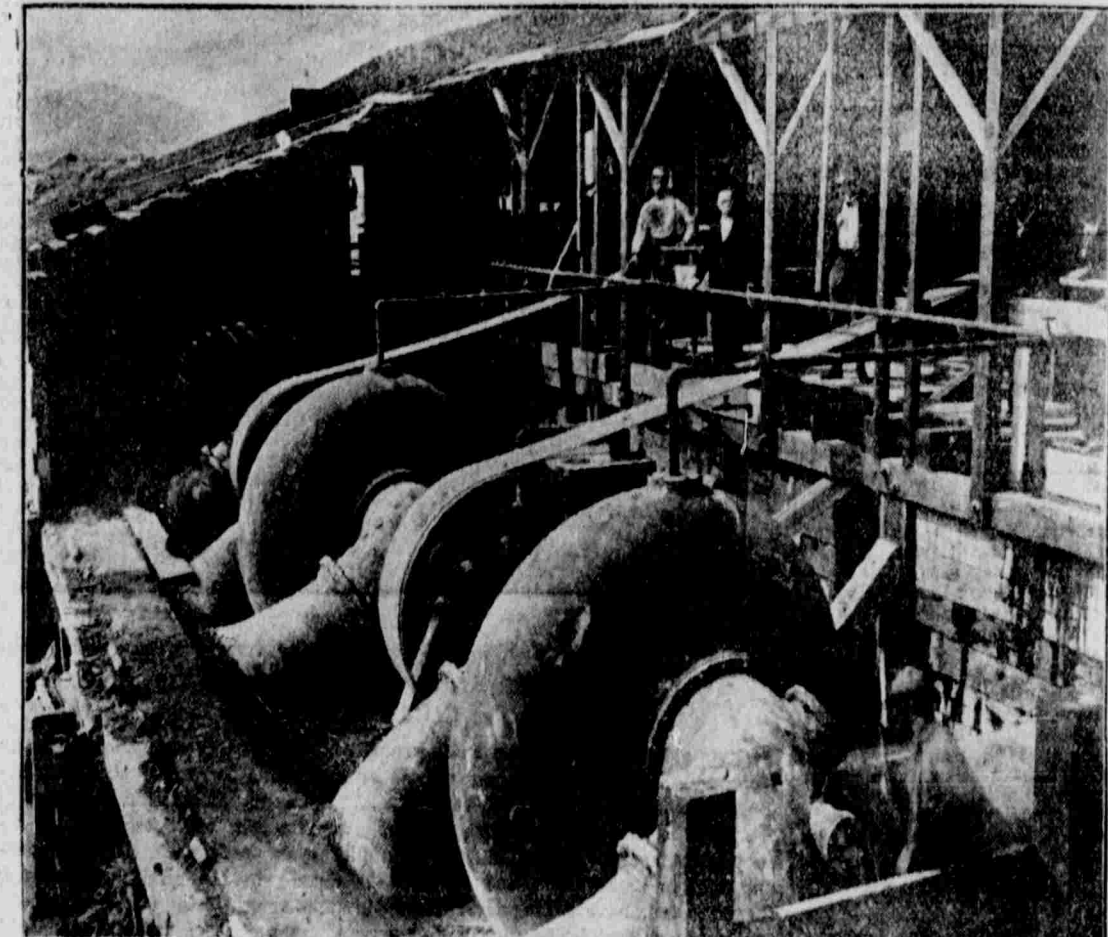
The cost of the plant when completed will be about \$42,000.

On the 4th of August, the city being in a desperate strait for want of water, the city council requested the mayor, the city attorney and city engineer to act as a special committee to wait upon the canal company presidents and ascertain upon what terms the city could procure a share of the water being pumped from Utah lake. This committee, possibly from a sense of shame, but more probably because they held the board of presidents in too much contempt to wait upon them, did not do as the city council evidently intended, but communicated by telephone an opinion of what they were willing to recommend to the council. On being



LAYING THE FOUNDATION OF THE PUMP HOUSE AND DAM.

The Building Containing the Costly Transformers is the One on the Right.



THE FOUR BIG PUMPS IN PLACE.

The First One Installed is Obscured by the Shadow in the distance.

hanced many fold by a thorough irrigation this fall. Mingled with the regret that relief did not come sooner, is a very general feeling of gratitude that it has come at last.

Of course, there are pessimists who ask: "What about the effect upon the lake?" In answer it may be said that the great anxiety of the parties interested has been to relieve distress and save property from perishing, for want of water. While the water of the lake is passing off by evaporation four times as fast as it can be drawn off by pumps, even when all four are in operation, the lake has no scruples about pumping it. Besides, there are good reasons for believing that the water of the lake, up to a certain level (though that level may possibly not be high enough to flow out naturally), are supplied by subterranean springs; and if, by the installation of the pumps, the fact can be demonstrated that there is an inexhaustible supply of water there which only requires pumping out, the knowledge gained will be worth many times more than the expenditure.

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