

Company the value of such main and service pipes and apparatus as the said Gas Light and Coke Company shall be possessed of without the line herein before described, and which they are not at liberty to retain for four years from the passing of this Act as aforesaid."

*Form and Regulations adopted under an Act for regulating the Police of the Burgh of Calton (part of Glasgow), 3 Vic., cap. 28.*

"BURGH OF CALTON AND MILE-END.

"Lodging-house, No. of Register,

"Is situated in No. , and consists of

and is kept by

"The number of the keeper's family, including self, is

"The keeper of this house is allowed to receive lodgers therein at a time, in addition to own family; and, if a larger number is admitted, or any of the provisions of the Police Acts, or rules or instructions of the Commissioners of Police, are violated, the keeper incurs a penalty not exceeding 2*l.* for each offence.

"Court House, Calton, , 184 .

*Superintendent of Police.*

"In addition to the provisions contained in the Police Acts, the Commissioners of Police have, in terms of the powers thereby conferred on them, enacted, and appointed all keepers of lodging-houses to observe the following Rules and Instructions:—

"1. The floors are to be washed at least twice in each week, viz., on Wednesday and Saturday.

"2. The walls are to be whitewashed, and the houses thoroughly cleaned, on the first day of each of the months of June, August, November, and March, or on the following day, if any of these days fall on Sunday.

"3. The blankets used in all lodging-houses are to be thoroughly cleaned and scoured on the eighth day of each of the months of June, August, November, and March, or on the following day, if any of these days fall on Sunday; and, if any person or persons in such house shall be affected with fever or other infectious disease, the blankets and bed-clothes used by such person or persons shall be thoroughly cleaned and scoured immediately after the removal of such person or persons; and the bedding used by such person or persons affected with contagious disease, shall be fumigated immediately after the removal of such person or persons; and, where the bedding used is shavings or straw, the same shall be burned immediately after such removal.

"By order of the Board of Police of Calton."

MEMORIAL from the SOUTHWARK and VAUXHALL WATER COMPANIES.

*To the Commissioners for Inquiring into the State of large Towns and Populous Districts.*

1. The Directors of the Southwark and Vauxhall Water Companies beg leave respectfully to call the attention of the "Commissioners for inquiring into the State of large Towns and populous Districts," to

the following statement of facts, relating to the supply of water to the Metropolis south of the Thames.

2. The Companies by which that portion of the Metropolis is supplied (the Southwark, the Vauxhall, and the Lambeth Water Companies) were, from the periods of their being respectively established, and prior to 1834, in possession of charters which more or less permitted or encouraged competition; but in that year having all had occasion to apply to the Legislature for further powers to raise capital, certain restrictions, which tended in some cases to preserve the several Companies' districts free from the operations of the others, were removed, and from that period a competition, in which sometimes two, sometimes all three Companies, were engaged, has ensued, which was in full activity during the years 1839, 1840, and 1841, and which has only completely ceased since 1842.

3. The results of that competition were as inconvenient to the public as they were disastrous to the Companies, and afforded the very strongest illustration of the truth of the doctrine laid down by the Committee of the House of Commons in 1819, that the principle of competition cannot with advantage be applied to the operations of Water Companies.

4. As regards the Companies, the result of the struggle was an immense expenditure of capital in utter waste—double or treble sets of mains and pipes being laid down in districts, where one set would better have served the inhabitants. An enormous annual outlay, equally in utter waste—in the salaries of canvassers and commission to agents, who procured tenants—in the bills of plumbers who changed the service-pipes of the tenants from one set of mains to another—in the charges of taking up and relaying roads and pavements on the like occasions\*—in double and treble sets of turncocks and pipe-layers—and, as the climax of absurdity, a payment of all parochial and district rates in every parish on all the pipes of all the Companies in proportion to the capital expended on assumed profits or interest, which it is needless to say had no existence. These expenses being accompanied by a great reduction of rates, the result was such as might have been anticipated; one of the Companies, overwhelmed with difficulties and debt, ceased to pay dividends to its shareholders; the other two must shortly have arrived at the same condition; and the total return on more than half a million of capital expended has not since been, and is not now, more than £2½ per cent. per annum.

5. The inconvenience as regards the public was scarcely less striking. The funds which should have been devoted to improving the supply of water were wasted—the districts which, being densely peopled, were supposed likely to yield a return, were encumbered with double and treble sets of pipes, and disturbed by the daily breaking up of the streets and roads, consequent on the incessant change of tenants from one Company's mains to those of another—while other districts less thickly inhabited were left without the supply necessary for domestic convenience, or protection from fire. The impoverishment of the Companies, arising from the double source of unnecessary expenditure and

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\* The expenditure of the three Companies for these three items alone, namely, canvassing and commission, plumbers' bills and taking up and re-laying pavements, &c., amounted in the year 1841 to not less than £4,300.

uncalled for reduction of rates, tended to incapacitate them from adequately discharging their duties to the public, and left them neither means, leisure, nor inclination, for improving to the utmost the supply of water given to their tenants. Independently of the wasted capital in superfluous mains and pipes, the sum, as above stated, annually thrown away in plumbing, paving, and canvassing, was more than adequate to the depuration by deposit and filtration of the supply to all the tenants of the three Companies. Neither was the sole end, which it might perhaps be supposed competition would answer, permanently attained. The prospect of impending ruin compelled a suspension of hostilities, and the rates of the whole district were raised to a level, which though still very low as compared with the rest of London, are yet at least as high as would have obtained had there been no competition.

6. The cessation of the competition and of the consequent absorption of the means and attention of the Companies has already begun to produce its natural and salutary effect. The Southwark Company have already in full operation at Battersea reservoirs of deposit and filtration, which enable them to supply to all their tenants, 18,000 in number, perfectly pure and bright water, while in every part of their district the mains are charged at a high pressure for the extinction of fire. Arrangements are already made requiring only the authority of Parliament, for carrying the agreement between the Companies into effect for amalgamating the Southwark and Vauxhall Companies, and that portion of the Metropolis south of the Thames served by the united Companies, and comprising 34,000 to 35,000 tenants, will then have a supply, not to be surpassed in quality or abundance.

7. Of the facts above stated, it is believed that the Commissioners are already to a considerable extent in possession; but the Directors are prepared to afford, in the fullest detail, whatever information respecting the affairs of the Companies the Commissioners may require.

8. The Directors beg leave further to state that they shall be ready most willingly to concur in any plans which the Legislature or executive Government may prescribe or suggest for the better securing the public health, safety, or convenience,—feeling convinced that the interests of their shareholders will be best consulted by their furnishing to all classes, under all circumstances, supplies of water, to which no reasonable objection as regards either quality or price can be taken.

9. With the above statement of facts relating to the supply of water south of the Thames, and the expression of their readiness to concur in any plans of improvement, the Directors would have rested satisfied, in the full conviction that the diffusion of the information obtained by the Commissioners must ultimately ensure the prevalence of sound opinions on the important question of the supply of water to large towns, had they not observed that notice has been given of an application to Parliament, for a bill for the establishment of a Company, to supply the Metropolis south of the Thames, as well as some portions of the town on the north of the Thames, with water from the Wandle.

10. They cannot anticipate that a scheme so extravagant as that which has been announced will receive the sanction of Parliament; but as the striking evidence collected by the Commissioners can scarcely yet be supposed to be fully and generally known either to the members

of the Legislature or to the public, and the results of carrying the scheme into effect would be disastrous in no common degree both to the existing Companies and the inhabitants of the districts they supply, the Directors feel that they should be wanting in their duty alike to the public, and those, whose interests they are bound to protect, did they not respectfully urge upon the Commissioners the importance of some expression of opinion, as the result of the information of which they are already in possession, which might excite the attention and awaken the caution both of the Legislature and the public.

11. The outlay on the scheme proposed (the using the waters of the Wandle at their junction with the Thames, culverts being brought down from the source of the river on either side to prevent the influx of any and all drainage) would be, even supposing the plan otherwise practicable or expedient, preposterously great. The whole expense of depositing, filtering, and bringing the water from Wandsworth and distributing it through the wide districts to be served, being to be incurred in addition to the great expenditure necessary for the formation of the culverts to intercept the drainage, and the compensation to millers for the diversion of the feeders, on which they must at least partially rely, and to other parties, whose grounds the culverts must traverse.

12. This outlay, as regards the districts south of the Thames alone, would certainly not fall short of, it would probably exceed, the £500,000 or £600,000 already expended by the three South Metropolitan Water Companies; and the result would be, only, to bring to these districts an inferior supply of water; the Thames water, when filtered, being, as well by reports of the most eminent chemists, as by common experience, ascertained to be softer and fitter for domestic use than the water of the Wandle.

13. But the entire waste of the capital expended would be but the commencement of the evil created by the execution of the proposed scheme. The competition recently terminated would be renewed with augmented fierceness, as added capital would have to find remuneration from the same amount of tenants. The existing Companies would, it might be thought, derive some advantage in the struggle from the superior fitness for domestic purposes of Thames water over the Wandle water; but experience has shown, and especially in poor districts, such as the greater portion of the metropolis south of the Thames, that cheapness is the great element of successful warfare; and the old Companies, equally with the new Company, would be driven to compete with each other down to the point of general ruin. This struggle would last probably for some years,—attended of course by all its usual concomitants, treble and quadruple sets of mains and pipes in every street, treble and quadruple officers and servants, treble and quadruple parish rates, and thousands annually spent in plumbers' bills and paving.

14. The conflict would of course also have its usual termination. The Companies would either agree to divide the whole district among them, or they would agree to a scale of rates. But there would then be an additional half million on which interest must be paid, and an additional establishment to be supported,—burthens which an augmentation of from 50 to 100 per cent. of the present rates would scarcely suffice to support. That such would be the inevitable result of the

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establishment of the proposed Company, the Directors are quite sure that the Commissioners are prepared, from the information already in their possession, confidently to anticipate.

15. The Directors will conclude the observations with which they have ventured to trouble the Commissioners, by calling their attention to one consideration, which seems to them of no trifling importance with reference to the question to which the foregoing statement relates. It is highly probable, certain perhaps, that the result of the inquiries of the Commissioners will be a general conviction that more extended supplies of water than are at present distributed in great towns, are imperatively required for many purposes of public health, safety, and convenience. It is further probable, the Directors presume, that whatever might be the theoretical advantages of such a plan, neither the Legislature nor the public would be at once prepared to commit to the charge of the Executive Government the whole machinery of supply. It remains only that the existing establishments should continue to be the agents for the distribution of water, subject to such control as the Legislature may think fit to impose, intrusted with the various duties naturally connected with the supply of water, and remunerated to such extent and by such process as to Parliament may seem reasonable. The Directors are quite satisfied that in all the measures for an extended supply of water which might be thought desirable for the public welfare, the existing Companies would be found willing coadjutors, but they cannot perceive how the Water Companies are to be made efficient instruments in any such system unless the services of each Company be restricted to a given district. They do not see how an effectual responsibility for the discharge of the contemplated duties can be created, when two, three, or more Companies are simultaneously serving in the same districts, nor how the remuneration for what may probably be in many cases a large preliminary outlay, can be secured to the Company by which it will have been incurred.

Signed by order of the Board of }  
Southwark Water Company }

JAMES ROSSITER, *Secretary.*

Signed by order of the Board of }  
Vauxhall Water Company }

WM. BUTTERWORTH, *Secretary.*

10th Jan. 1845.