

25 June 1914.

FUTURE SUPPLY.

In accordance with the instructions of the Board at their last Meeting; I beg to report that I have seen Professor Lapworth and asked him to re-consider his report on the best available sites for Pumping Stations in the Company's Area, and also as to the selection of suitable sites in the Penkridge area, and I have to submit his report on the matter.

If the Board decide to go to Parliament for the extension of their Limits of Supply, by taking in certain Parishes in the area of the Cannock Rural District Council (as shown on the map which I produce), it would appear that application should be made for a site at Lower Green, to the South of Summerford Hall in the Parish of Brewood; and a second site on the Watling Street near Water Eaton in the Parish of Penkridge.

I have considered the question of pipe lines from these places: One route is along the main road from Stafford, through Wolverhampton and Sedgley to Shavers End Reservoir, a total length of 14 miles, and the cost of which would be £80,250. The advantage of the scheme would be that we should have an entirely independent pumping main from this district, discharging into a high level Reservoir.

The disadvantages of the proposal are that we should

have to cross a hostile country in the shape of Wolverhampton, and go through the centre of their Town - this would no doubt raise serious opposition and, further, at Sedgley we should have to go through ground which reaches to a height of 13.15 feet above the top water level of Shavers End Reservoir. This would necessitate deep cutting and tunnelling for about 1000 yards, which would increase the ordinary cost of main laying.

An alternative route I have considered is to discharge the water into Barr Beacon Reservoir. The pipes in this case would be taken via Watling Street and Chester Road and connected to the Barr Beacon main at the corner of the Walsall Road near Streetly.

The length of this main would be $17\frac{3}{4}$ miles and the cost £99,601, the only objection to it being the extra length of main required and the consequently greater cost.

A third route would be by way of Hilton to Bloxwich, and connect on to the existing 24" main from the Cannock district, which latter main is reduced to 22" diameter 400 yards nearer Walsall.

The length of this main would be $10\frac{3}{4}$ miles and the cost £60,106.

A possible disadvantage of the last-named scheme is that we should have to cross through the Essington district, which

is in the Water Area of the Wolverhampton Corporation; but it is within the Cannock Rural District Council's area, and it might be considered that the Wolverhampton Corporation would have no locus standi, as they are not the Road Authority for that district.

I may say that the present 24" main from Cannock runs through the Parish of Essington, not far away from the line referred to in the foregoing paragraphs; and we are actually supplying water to certain properties in this Parish by arrangements with Wolverhampton Corporation, owing to their main being too far away.