

UTTOXETER'S WATER SUPPLY.

THE PROPOSED PURCHASE OF QUIXHILL SPRINGS.

INQUIRY AT UTTOXETER.

Application having been made by the Uttoxeter Urban District Council, for the consent of the Ministry of Health to borrow a sum of £925 for the purpose of purchasing certain land at Quixhill, on which were situated three springs of water, one being known as the Crumpwood Spring, the land measuring in all about thirty one acres, Mr. R. C. Cox. A.M.I.C.E. an Inspector of the Ministry attended at Uttoxeter Town Hall on Friday for the purpose of taking evidence as to the requirements of the Town for an additional Water Scheme, or any objections to it.

There were present besides the Inspector, Messrs F. F. Hawthorn (Clerk to the Council), Mr. P. C. Woodhall (Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector) W. Stretch, W. Ellaway Smith, E. I. Lewis, J. Payne Hall, L. A. Dutton (Chairman of the Council) W. Richardson, C. A. Davies, A. McCann, T. Carter, E. J. Sampson, W. H. Hearson, W. Green, T. S. Wilkins, T. W. Orme, H. P. Huggins, Revd, L. Knights Smith, R. J. Kelly, and Dr. T. Bamford (Medical Officer).

Mr. Hawthorn supplied particulars of the size of the Urban District, and of the existing loans and liabilities, also of the existing Water Supply, including the springs at Bramshall and Somershall, together with the Bore Hole, which were capable of supplying 148,000 gallons of water per day upwards, according to the seasons, and usually capable of yielding a daily supply of at least 24 gallons per head of the population. Mr. Hawthorn stated that during certain periods of the year when the springs were low there was a great shortage, so that residents in the higher levels of the Town could only get a poor supply. At such periods pumping from the Bore Hole was resorted to, but the inhabitants of the parts where the Bore Hole water reached, objected very strongly to it, on accounts of its taste and smell, and the coating or "furring up" of vessels in which the water was boiled. The Bore Hole was not used to its fullest extent on account of its objectionable qualities, yet the analysis did not show organic impurity.

at first
Dr. Bamford in answer to questions said that the Bore Hole water had no taste or smell, and the county analyst's report presented it as good potable water. From some cause however it became offensive so that he would not like to drink it, On the advice of a water engineer, a sand filter was made, and the water passed through it, and this lessened its disagreeableness. There were always complaints from the inhabitants when the Bore Hole water was being used, yet without it or even with it, they were short of water in the dry seasons.

The Clerk informed the Inspector that negotiations were entered into for the purchase of the Quixhill Springs in 1898, and about that time Mr. Wilcox the Engineer employed, recommended it as the best scheme the Council could adopt. The same question was taken up again in 1903, when a contract for the springs was partly entered into but some land was required for the Reservoir, and the conditions made it incumbent on the Council to give a free supply of water to ~~farmers in the vicinity~~ farms in the vicinity. It was further considered if developed that the Crumpwood spring might tap or drain the quixhill springs, and ultimately the matter fell through, and the Bore Hole was purchased afterwards. The Council have now the opportunity of purchasing the Quixhill and Crumpwood Springs to-

(Continued)

gether with 31 acres of land with no obligations to supply farms free of charge, for £925, which was very little more than the price at first of the Quixhill Springs, without land. They could put the land together as a small holding, and let it at £37 per annum. They could also purchase a small piece of land on which to construct a Reservoir on a local eminence, which the spring water could be forced up by means of a ram. It would then deliver by gravitation to the Town, and what attention was required might probably be given by the occupier of the small holding. The yield of the Quixhill Springs was over 400,000 gallons per day which was considerably more than additional water than was needed, but as there was no public supply at Rochester of Stramshall it was probable that these places might be glad to take water by meter.

The Sanitary Inspector said there was generally at certain times of the year a great shortage of Town Water, so that even Sanitary work was hindered, there being yet some 400 closets to be converted into W.C.'s. They had also in prospect the building of 182 new houses, and water would have to be laid on to them. More water was also wanted for trade purposes, than could be at present supplied so an additional supply should be secured. He did not take water from the Bore Hole except when there was a shortage, on account of the complaints from householders who had to use it. The Bore hole was a deep one, and from it about 32,000 gallons per day flowed without pumping. It was his custom to let this flow over the filter bed into a Reservoir, and it was then pumped into the mains direct. There had been a scheme for pumping into the Reservoir at Bramshall, and another for constructing a tank on the Highwood from whence it would deliver to any part of the town, but this had not been carried out partly on account of the objections to the water. It was possible with a more powerful engine to obtain a very much larger supply from the Bore Hole.

Mr. Stretch spoke in favour of extending and making more use of the Bore Hole Supply, which was at first reported upon favourably, by the County Analyst, Mr. Jones, as good, also by Dr. Barwise and another. But after being shut down for a time the water developed a nasty smell and taste, which he thought was produced by some deposit or corrosion on the well tubing. After being filtered this was lessened.

By the Inspector: Do you use the Bore Hole water Mr Stretch?
Mr. Stretch: No I have a Private Supply.

Dr. Bamford said that the Bore Hole water was only used as an auxiliary supply but some people could not use it as it made them sick. Dr. Bamford said he could strongly urge the Council to secure this Quixhill water which was of excellent quality.

Mr. L. A. Dutton (Chairman of the Urban Council) said they wished to secure the springs for the town, but did not propose carrying out the scheme at the present time, on account of the costliness of a work of that kind, but they would like to know they had a good supply when the scheme could be carried out. There was no loss or risk in the undertaking to speak of, as the rent of the small holding would go a long way towards paying the interest on money borrowed. They had some loans which would be paid up in a few years and then this undertaking could be further considered.

A letter from Mr. J. H. Brown was read emphasising the the shortage at certain times of the year, and he saw no prospect of the town prospering, unless there was a really good supply of water.

Mr. T. S. Wilking said he was a member of the Council, when the Quixhill scheme was considered years ago, but it was thought to be expensive, and he was afraid it was now prohibitive, as the town was so heavily rated. He did not think the Bore Hole had received fair treatment, but if a scheme which had been advocated were carried out, he felt sure it would be satisfactory—that was to pump the water to a tank on the Highwood, filter it and distribute it properly over the town. He had been thought that one of the Somersall springs was responsible for the qualities mentioned when the two kinds of water were mixed. He

understood that Mr. Stretch would advocate that the Quixhill springs be purchased and secured for the Town.

Mr. Stretch : That is so: and he would also state that Mr Bunting, who bought the land at the sale had told him that the offer of the springs would hold good for twenty years, even if it was not ~~accepted~~ decided to purchase now on account of the very heavy rates.

but
Mr. Ellaway Smith advised the purchase of the springs, /would not carry out the scheme at present on account of the cost. He also stated that he knew Mr. Bunting would do anything in his power, in the public interests of the Town.

Mr. T. Harper said the floods at the springs would generally occur in that portion of the year when there was no shortage at Bramshall or Somersall. He lived in a portion of the town usually supplied by Somersal water, which was satisfactory, but there was general grumbling when the Bore Hole supply was put on. By the Inspector: How do you know when it is Bore Hole Water?

Mr. Harper: By its Appearance, it is filled with minute air bubbles, and has at first a milky appearance, also by its taste and smell, and the way it curdles when used.

Mr. W. H. Hearson advised that the Council should have the sanction of the Ministry in securing the Springs for future development.

This concluded the inquiry, the Inspector saying he would visit the Site.

INDIA OF DECEMBER.

CHINA 2011

THE PROBABLY ENGLISH OF

S O B B I I X

M V E E F

DELOXEE

U T T O X E T E R

W A T E R

S U P P L Y

The Proposed Purchase of

Quixhill Springs

Inquiry at Uttoxeter.