

### CATSKILL WATER NOT FOR MANHATTAN

Except in Isolated Instances Supply Is for Brooklyn and Queens Boroughs.

IS COSTING \$200,000,000

New York Will Struggle Along With Present Inadequate Croton Service.

By REGINALD PELHAM BOLTON.

It must certainly be a matter of surprise to a large majority of taxpayers as well as citizens of New York to learn that the vast expenditure of the city upon the Catskill water supply is being practically confined to the boroughs of Brooklyn, Queens and Richmond, to the disadvantage of the Borough of Manhattan, which naturally bears the larger portion of the burden of cost and fixed charges.

It is a matter of surprise to many persons to learn that the present Croton system which supplies the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx is to be continued in use after the Catskill supply is brought into service, which is to take place within the next two years.

Most persons have undoubtedly shared the view that the old Croton system was to be practically disused in favor of the new and purer and better supply. With the exception of a limited area in the upper part of Manhattan, in which the pressures of water are so delicate that under no circumstances can Croton water effectively supply the service, Catskill water will not be used within the Borough of Manhattan.

Moreover, the astonishing fact has recently been disclosed that after the needs of Brooklyn have been filled by the Catskill supply the present capacity of the works in the Catskill Mountains will, in all probability, be exhausted, and a further vast expenditure of capital will therefore be required to meet the demands of other boroughs.

In common with other citizens and taxpayers as well as consulting engineers I have looked forward to the advent of the Catskill supply as a means of relieving the difficulties from which Manhattan has suffered for years in connection with its water supply.

Not only have we examined the situation and found there was a shortage of water, but we have suffered the greatest inconvenience as well as actual fire losses from lack of sufficient water, involving excessive expenditures on the part of property owners in providing pumping machinery and in paying for its operation in order to get water to the upper floors of many buildings.

Practically every building in Manhattan more than six stories in height is today dependent on such machinery for a proper water supply. The necessity for the establishment of house tanks, which are known to be disadvantageous from a sanitary point of view if not other, as well as being a source of loss and danger in case of fire, exists now because of the lack of sufficient pressure due to the low level of the Croton system.

So far as any increased fire protection in the heart of the Borough of Manhattan is concerned after the Catskill system is in service there will be no improvement of conditions under the plan as it now exists.

The entire Catskill water supply plan was in point of fact, largely based on the needs of the Borough of Manhattan as was clearly shown by the investigations of William H. Burr, Raymond Hering and John R. Froeman, who are among the best known consulting engineers and authorities on water supply in the country, and who were appointed during the McEllan administration, more than ten years ago, as a commission for the purpose of investigating the subject of an additional water supply.

The findings of this commission led the public to consent to the vast expenditure of \$150,000,000, which it was represented would be the total cost of a new water supply project. This cost, by the way, according to a statement recently made before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment by President McAneny of the Borough of Manhattan, will approximate \$200,000,000.

I asked permission to appear before the present commission of engineers and present my views as a resident, as a taxpayer and as the secretary of the Washington Heights Taxpayers' Association. My purpose in doing this was to ascertain whether this proposal involved the continued use of Croton water, particularly in connection with the pumping stations on Washington Heights and at Ninety-sixth street, and also the continued use of the old and old reservoirs in Central Park as well as the present reservoir at 171st street.

The needs of greater water pressure in residential properties in certain parts of Manhattan have been very great for many years. In my own neighborhood in Washington Heights there have been and still are to-day many houses where the water pressure is so weak that the upper floors have to be water during the daytime, the tenants being compelled to carry water in buckets.

The Washington Heights Taxpayers' Association in March last requested the Department of Water Supply and presented a list of twenty-two apartment houses in that section of the city which were suffering from this condition. In answer to this complaint the department frankly replied that at this time no relief can be given. The only relief, therefore, to which we have been enabled to look forward is the Catskill supply with its increased pressure and more steady supply, which taxpayers of Manhattan have been led to expect.

To my surprise, in answer to my inquiry I learned that the arrangements for the utilization of the new Catskill service are to be such as will require the maintenance of these pumping stations, namely, those at Washington Heights and at Ninety-sixth street, and the continued use of the present reservoirs in Central Park and at 171st

### Interesting Spots at Philipse Manor



Corner of Tennis Courts in Philipse Manor These Courts Are Now Being Quadrupled in Dimensions

#### TREATY TREE.

Much interest on the part of residents of the entire Sleepy Hollow section and of visitors to the scenes of Washington Irving's romances is displayed in the death of the ancient Treaty Tree at Philipse Manor.

This mammoth chestnut, some twenty-odd feet in circumference at its base, has been slowly dying for a year or more, and the only signs of life remaining now are two or three clusters of leaves among its giant branches. It bravely withstood the ravages of the disease which has destroyed practically all the chestnut trees throughout the land and is probably the last one to die in the Sleepy Hollow and the Tarrytown sections.

This monarch of the primeval forest has been known in history as the "Treaty Tree" from the fact alleged that under its branches the last treaty was made between the whites and the Wapandemoek Indians who inhabited the Sleepy Hollow territory. It is also alleged that under its romantic shade Washington Irving wrote his famous story "The Headless Horseman," the scene of which is in Philipse Manor. Although the "Treaty Tree" now practically dead it will not be felled, but is to be preserved by the Philipse Manor Company. A number of long trailing flowering vines have been planted about its base which will cover the tree completely.

The Treaty Tree stands almost in the center of the Philipse Manor property, close to the Hudson River and in full view from Broadway or the old Albany post road.

largely wasted. Comment would appear to be unnecessary.

Upon receipt of Mr. Gregory's reply I expressed the opinion that the news would be a decided surprise to the taxpayers of Manhattan and the Bronx, and asked whether Mr. Gregory's explanation was due to any limitation in the amount of the Catskill water supply or not. In answer to this further inquiry the chairman of the commission, Nicholas S. Hill, Jr., replied with this somewhat startling explanation:

"If the Catskill water is distributed in Brooklyn that supply would be used up within a very short time after its introduction into the city, and then it would be necessary in order to obtain the relief you speak of, to go forward with further plans on the Catskill system."

Additional mention on my part has disclosed the fact that while the total capacity of the aqueduct system from the Catskills is capable of carrying 500,000,000 gallons of water per day to this city the total capacity of the reservoirs and other works in the Catskill region so far constructed is only

about one-half that amount.

If there has been a misunderstanding on my part as to this matter I think it must be shared by the majority of other citizens and taxpayers in New York, because my recollection of the arguments which were put forward under the McEllan administration in favor of the expenditure of money upon the great Catskill project is that they were based on the needs of Manhattan in particular—the necessity for additional pressure to meet the needs of tall buildings, both for sanitary and fire purposes. It now appears, however, that Manhattan, notwithstanding these needs and promises, is to be passed by, and the high pressure available from this service devoted largely to the purposes of the Borough of Brooklyn and later to those of Queens and Richmond.

Under this impression I have for years past discussed with friends and clients the subject of the eventual elimination of small pumping plants and the use of the annoying, disfiguring and dangerous house tank, which is so

common in all parts of the borough of Manhattan, but which, under the circumstances now disclosed, will have to be maintained for an unlimited period of time.

It may be, as I understand it is contemplated, that by means of additional pumping stations, involving additional cost, Croton water will be provided at a somewhat higher pressure in some parts of Manhattan; but this is no substantial relief, nor is it part of the understanding which I am sure I shared in common with the majority of citizens and taxpayers, based upon the promises and statements of the McEllan administration.

I have no idea who is responsible for this change in the situation of affairs, merely draw attention to it because it seems to me a most serious situation, which I feel should be made known to the general public.

But is it a square deal?



Ancient Treaty Tree Now Dying. The Scene of an Indian Treaty.

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#### WOMAN HORSE RUSTLER.

Head of a Gang That Has Been Working in Northwest.

PRINCE, S. D., June 7.—That Mrs. Della Beck is the head of the horse rustling organization which has been working in Sully county several years, is apparently the theory of the authorities of that county, as they are holding her for a preliminary hearing with a bail bond placed at such a figure that it is not likely she will furnish it.

The arrest of the woman, followed the arrest of Sulley Dickey, at Watervliet, with stolen horses in his possession. Dickey entered a plea of guilty on a preliminary hearing. It is charged that the system of the gang was to run the horses to the Missouri River, and then, straggling either north or south, to push them through to a farm in Minnesota owned by one of the band, where they would be handled for the market.

The members of the gang have been evading their tracks so well that it has been difficult to find a clue, but Sully county authorities believe they are at last on the right track.

#### 41 Divorce Suits; 55 Marriage Licenses.

BEATMONT, Tex., June 7.—During the month of May the number of suits for divorce filed in Jefferson county exceeded the number of marriage licenses issued by 14.

A comparison of the filing dockets of the courts with the marriage license record for May shows sixty-one suits for divorce to fifty-five applications for marriage licenses. The only reassuring feature of the month as relates to marriage and divorce found in the records of the county was the application yesterday for a marriage license by Thomas Newman and Pearl Newman, colored people divorced early in the month.

#### Historic Stamp Forgers.

LEXINGTON, June 7.—The alleged forgeries of 21 English postage stamps which are now occupying the attention of the courts recall the most historic stamp forgery in the history of our post office. This is generally known as the "Stock Exchange" forgery of 1871.

For about twelve months forged shilling stamps were in daily use for franking telegrams at the Stock Exchange post office, and so successful was the imitation that the real nature of the stamps was not discovered until twenty-six years later. It is estimated that the loss to the revenue was from \$15,000 to \$16,000.

### WANTED HIS HOUSE TAKEN TO IRELAND

Westchester Farmer Caught New York Central Napping and Took Advantage.

AGREED TO MOVE HOUSE

But Did Not Specify Where— Oversight Cost Company Thousands of Dollars.

Too much attention cannot be given to the preparation of legal papers concerning real estate. They must be studied from all points to be sure that some loophole has not been overlooked by which some one might gain advantage. There have been many cases in which money and lots of it has been lost through poorly worded papers or deeds. Not many years ago the New York Central railroad was confronted with a case that cost it quite a bit of money to rectify.

The railroad wanted to make some improvement on the Harlem division at Adams Corner up in Westchester county. Several tracks were to be laid for freight purposes. The property wanted was owned by a crafty Irishman. It included the land on which his house stood.

Representatives of the railroad went to the farmer and told him what they wanted. Of course he would sell them the plot on which his house stood and as much of his six acres as they were willing to buy. But the company only wanted the strip along the edge of the property, and on this strip was the house. In order to get the property with as little delay as possible the company as an inducement agreed to move the house anywhere the Irishman would say. That was agreeable to him. The contract was drawn by the railroad's lawyer and signed without a murmur by the Irish farmer.

Some time after the deal was closed the company asked the farmer where he wanted his house moved to. He answered he wanted it moved to the Lakes of Killarney. The railroad people thought it was just a little Irish wit, but he showed them that he was in earnest.

"You people said you would move my house anywhere I wished," he said, pointing to his contract. "You can't get away from that, because here it is in black and white."

The lawyer read the agreement and then with a smile acknowledged that the Irishman was a good lawyer. The contract was not specific enough. It merely said that the company would move the house anywhere the owner would desire. Never did it enter the mind of the railroad's legal experts that the Adams corner farmer would want his house anywhere but on his farm and not much attention was given the matter. The farmer saw the latitude given him by the papers and decided he would profit by the carelessness of the railroad. Shortly after he showed the railroad's lawyers that he was standing on firm ground negotiations were started to release the company from the contract. He released them after they paid him his price. A new contract was drawn in which the Irishman was given no

APARTMENTS TO LET—FURNISHED. APARTMENTS TO LET—UNFURNISHED.

### 375 PARK AVE

Fifty-second to Fifty-third Streets

WHEN selecting an apartment try and secure one convenient to Fifth Avenue, but far enough away from the main traffic thoroughfare to be perfectly quiet.

The Apartment Building at 375 Park Avenue is wonderfully complete. The apartments are handsome and have the best and most modern type of equipment.

Private laundries on upper floor. Additional rooms for servants. Unusual in every way.

Rentals \$6,000 to \$2,300.

Special Apartments, \$10,000 and \$11,000.

Appointments by telephone.

### HOTEL BERKLEY

170 West 74th St.

A new 12-story Family Hotel. Over 300 rooms arranged in apartments of any size; leased only unfurnished by the year. All rooms exceptionally large and light. Unusual closets. Now open for inspection. Rentals from \$600.00 per annum.

### HOTEL FLANDERS

133-137 W. 47th St.

Very special rates until August 1. Liberal and efficient service. Excellent breakfast. Rooms with private bath \$10 per week. Single rooms and bath from \$12.50 per week. Single rooms with bath from \$10 per day upwards. H. R. SHARES.

consent to an extensive alteration of the building.

Kerwin asked about the company that was planning to take his property and was informed that the company was to use the building as a hotel for negroes. He held a second mortgage of \$50,000 on the property. Had it not been for this he would have been in no position to protect his hotel from the black man. The lease the company was buying did not say that the consent of the owner was necessary to make the deal binding. In other words it was not specific and advantage had been taken of the loophole.

Kerwin told the man from the South, who by the way, was a white man, that if he exercised his option he would foreclose his mortgage and the lease and all the money put into the operation would be lost. The Southerner thought he should be bought off, but luckily Kerwin was in a position where he did not have to buy, and he stood

### New Brick and Stucco Houses at Bayside-Flushing



chance to hold them up again. It is said that he got as much for the surrender of the contract as for the land he sold.

A few months ago SIX readers were told of an attempt to put negroes into the Southern Hotel, formerly the Carlton on Fifty-third street, near Broadway, without the consent of the owner, Andrew J. Kerwin. Some years ago Mr. Kerwin leased the hotel to a friend. After running it several years this friend decided to sell his lease, but a clause in the lease which said that it could not be sold without the consent of the owner acted as an obstacle. He explained to Mr. Kerwin that the clause yesterday for a marriage license by Thomas Newman and Pearl Newman, colored people divorced early in the month.

### HELPING FLOOD SUFFERERS.

Human Side of the Aid Furnished in Ohio Towns.

WASHINGTON, June 7.—The human side in its best phase was not shown during the recent floods in Ohio until the work of recovery and restoration began, remarked C. L. Suteiff of Columbus, Ohio. "In my town the water's greatest damage occurred on the West Side. For several miles west of Broad street, the principal business thoroughfare of Columbus, everything was under water. Scores of small business houses and innumerable residences were inundated, and for many hours the people were dazed.

When finally the waters receded and it became possible to start relief work, the hundreds of acts of heroism were in evidence. My Masonic lodge undertook to help the members of the order or their

### CAN'T SLEEP ON SOFT BED.

Convict's 20 Years of Cell Life Unfit Him for Such Luxury.

TOPEKA, June 7.—Morgan Wright, sent to prison in 1890 from Cowley county for committing the murder of a constable and released on parole by Gov. Hodges, found that a free bed was so soft he was unable to sleep his first night out of prison. Wright came to Topeka to thank the Governor. He is on his way to see his father in Shawnee, Okla., and then will go to California to begin life anew.

### TORN COURT GOWNS.

Survivals of Ancient Customs at Royal Castle in Berlin.

LONDON, June 7.—English people accustomed to the perfect arrangements for the departure of guests from Buckingham Palace on court or State ball nights must be surprised at the confusion that prevails at the royal Schloss in Berlin on similar occasions.

### Marathon Park Home, Little Neck



the lower part of Manhattan at all under ordinary conditions. It will only take care of the high levels. It was not intended, after the introduction of Catskill water, to give up the use of Croton at all.

This statement must not be misunderstood to mean that Catskill water will reach the high levels of our high buildings, because it refers to certain high levels of ground in the upper part of the Borough of Manhattan.

The striking facts in this connection, it may be observed, are that the low level of Croton water system is to be maintained as an inadequate supply for Manhattan, with its high ground and lofty buildings, while the higher pressure and higher level service of the Catskill system is to be taken all the way underneath Manhattan to the Borough of Brooklyn with its lower ground and lower buildings. It seems that the Croton system is high enough for Brooklyn but not high enough for Manhattan. Then why should all the value of the high level of the Catskill system be

### Kew Garden Building Up on Both Sides of Its Railroad Station



Water in buckets.

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