

MINUTES

OF

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY



TRENTON, N. J.

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1908.

Mr. Colgate, on leave, introduced

Assembly Bill No. 24, entitled "An act to amend an act entitled 'An act to establish fire and police commissions in certain cities of the State of less than thirty-five thousand inhabitants, and to prescribe their powers and duties,'" approved May eighteenth, one thousand nine hundred and six,

Which was read for the first time by its title, ordered to have a second reading, and referred to the Committee on Municipal Corporations.

Mr. Roberts, on leave, introduced

Assembly Bill No. 25, entitled "Supplement to an act entitled 'An act concerning District Courts'" (Revision of 1898), approved June fourteenth, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight,

Which was read for the first time by its title, ordered to have a second reading, and referred to the Committee on Revision of Laws.

A message was received from the Governor by the hands of his Secretary, as follows:

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
TRENTON, January 20, 1908. }

To the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

GENTLEMEN—I herewith transmit the report of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, giving an account of the work done under the provisions of an Act, approved March 27, 1902, and amended by an Act of March 18, 1907, providing for the purification of the waters of the Passaic River within the Passaic Valley Sewerage District.

Very respectfully,
E. C. STOKES,
Governor.

To the Legislature:

The undersigned Commissioners, appointed by the Governor under the provisions of an act of the Legislature, approved March 27th, 1902, "authorizing the appointment and defining the powers and duties of commissioners in sewerage and drainage districts," etc., hereby report their operations to the present time under the provisions of an act of the Legislature approved March 18th, 1907, "to provide for the purification of the waters

of the Passaic River within the Passaic Valley Sewerage District," etc.

In compliance with the provisions of the last named act, and within thirty days from the passage thereof, a notice signed by the President and Secretary of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners was served upon the Clerk of each municipality from which sewage or other polluting matter is or may be discharged into the Passaic River, between the Great Falls in the city of Paterson and the mouth of the said river at Newark Bay, or into any of the tributaries of the Passaic River which empty into the said river between the said points, notifying said municipality in the form prescribed by the law that the discharge of sewage and other polluting matter into the said river, and into the tributaries of the said river, between the points designated, is prohibited and must cease and be discontinued after December twelfth, in the year one thousand nine hundred and twelve. This notice was served upon the twenty municipalities within the district, and upon twenty-two municipalities without the district, and an acknowledgment of service from the Clerk of each municipality is on file with the Commissioners.

A form of resolution, prepared by counsel, providing the method by which any municipality might determine that it would be advisable and to the interest of such municipality to comply with the act of March 18th, 1907, and also providing the means to defray the cost of the preliminary work, was forwarded to each of the municipalities lying wholly or partly within the district. At the outset but few of the municipalities passed the enabling resolutions required by the law, there being a feeling on the part of the smaller municipalities that it was inequitable that they should be required to advance as great an amount for this purpose as was required from the larger municipalities.

After some months of urging, and frequent meetings with municipal governing bodies, ten of the municipalities passed resolutions requesting the Commissioners to proceed with the work, and appropriating in the aggregate the sum of thirty thousand dollars, which in the judgment of the Commissioners will be sufficient to defray the cost of the preliminary work required by the law, and enable a report to be made to the different municipalities as to cost of construction and maintenance and other particulars specified in the act. Of the amount appropriated the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars has been paid in at this time.

While the municipalities were deliberating as to their action in this matter the Commissioners were considering the details

of the work to be performed to meet the requirements of the law, that there might not be any delay in proceeding with the work in the event of favorable action by a sufficient number of municipalities. As the result of these preparations the Commissioners were in a position to make a contract with Messrs. Hering and Fuller for the engineering features of the work as soon as a sufficient amount was appropriated by the municipalities to meet the expense. This contract was made in September last, and the work since that time has been progressing vigorously and systematically, and in all its details has received the constant supervision of the Commissioners. Some of the main features within the scope of the work may be summarized as follows:

A thorough investigation of the progress made in matters of sewage disposal since the trunk sewer plan was adopted five years ago, for the purpose of comparison, and to enable judgment to be passed on the comparative merits of the plan formerly recommended and two others which are thought to be worthy of consideration, in order to secure the best results for the great outlay of money that will be required.

Investigations as to the amounts of suspended solids and grease in the sewage, and also regarding the trade wastes, all of which is necessary for the purpose of designing the works that may be adopted for treatment and disposal. To this end gagings have been necessary in all parts of the district to ascertain the actual quantity of sewage dealt with and its composition.

Investigations to estimate the probable composition of the sewage of the entire valley, both at the present time and in the future when the combined systems now in operation will have to be converted to separate systems.

Studies with reference to the elimination of odors which will arise at different points, and to determine the dissolved oxygen content of the discharge from representative sewer outlets into the river during different hours of the day, in order to indicate what changes will take place in the sewage on its passage from the upper to the lower end of the trunk sewer, and also the study of the putrescence of the sewage at various points.

Studies of the best way of obtaining the required degree of dilution in New York Bay and the diffusion of the sewage therein. These have been accompanied with experiments of a scientific character which show beyond the possibility of a doubt that there will be no serious or offensive pollution of New York Bay. With the same methods employed by all who use the Bay for this purpose, its waters would receive, as per statements of

competent authorities, the sewage of a greater number of people than can possibly use it for generations to come.

The mapping of the entire district to cover all the territory included in the natural drainage area of the lower Passaic River, which is twice as large as that included in the present district, with studies necessary to trace the growth of individual districts.

Studies of household sewage and ground water in the various districts to determine the probable volume to be provided for.

Investigations of the proposed dock lines of Newark Bay.

A further consideration of the details—not gone into originally—of the entire length of the sewer in the field, with a view to making any changes which suggest themselves as results of the experience of the last four years, from which it is apparent that a few minor changes will be necessary.

Tests for dilution made at experimental stations.

Analytical laboratory tests of the effluent of representative sewers in the district.

Investigations of outfalls and works elsewhere to obtain the results of the most recent plans and methods adopted.

The preparation of maps, plans and estimates of costs of the most extended single line of trunk sewer proposed in this country, which must be made with the greatest care, in view of the large interests and great cost involved.

While the work of the engineers has been progressing, other details, necessary to the speedy completion of the preliminary work, have been attended to. In further compliance with the law the tax ratables of the municipalities wholly or partly within the district, for the year 1907, upon which the cost of construction is based, have been ascertained. In the municipalities partly within the district the computations have been carefully made by the taxing officers and a representative of the Commissioners. The tax ratables of the district for the year 1907, ascertained by these means, amount to \$553,597.460. Studies of increase in ratables have also been made to approximate the future taxable cost of construction and maintenance as nearly as possible.

The counsel of the Commissioners are engaged in preparing a form of contract to be entered into between the municipalities and the Commissioners when the report of the latter upon the preliminary work shall be made.

Thus, in every detail, the work has been advanced as far as possible in anticipation of the report of the engineers. It is impossible to report further upon the engineering work at this

time for the reason that it is not quite completed, and therefore the necessary results and conclusions have not been reached. It is expected that the report of the engineers will be received very soon, when the Commissioners will have the services of other engineering experts to examine and pass upon the work done. This is necessary, in their judgment, in view of the great expense which must ensue, and the importance of a work designed to meet the sewage disposal needs of fully a quarter of the population of the State.

When the engineers in charge of the work, and the consulting engineers, have fully satisfied the Commissioners as to the most efficient and economical method of purifying the Passaic River, and disposing of the sewage of the Passaic Valley District, the Commissioners will without delay meet the further requirement of the law by presenting a report to the municipalities of the district. This report will be as complete as possible, and will be accompanied with maps, plans and estimates of cost of construction and maintenance.

Upon receiving this report each municipality will have ninety days in which to decide whether it will join with others in the proposition recommended, or whether it will adopt a separate method of disposal in order to comply with the requirement of the law to cease the pollution of the river after December 12th, 1912. The Commissioners will begin the actual work of construction at the expiration of the ninety days, if two or more municipalities have entered into a contract with them for this purpose.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. A. LEBKUECHER,
PETER HAUCK,
FRANCIS CHILD,
WM. S. ACKERMAN,
Commissioners.

ATTEST:

JOHN S. GIBSON,
Clerk.

January 20, 1908.

Mr. Martin offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the usual number of copies be printed and spread in full upon the minutes.

A message was received from the Governor, by the hand of his Secretary, as follows: