



CHAPTER II.

Waterworks Developments—An Up-to-date Gas Undertaking—The Importance of Electricity—Tram and Omnibus Services—Cleansing—Police and Fire Brigade.

THE Waterworks Department of the Corporation has witnessed the beginning of one of the biggest developments in the municipal history of the Borough. This is the Goyt Valley water scheme, the inauguration ceremony of which took place on February 25 last. The complete scheme, for which the Corporation obtained Parliamentary powers in 1930, provides for the construction of two reservoirs, at a total cost of £991,000. These will supply all the possible needs of the undertaking until at least 1960, but at present only the Fernilee reservoir is being proceeded with. This will cost £550,000, give a storage capacity of from 800,000,000 to 1,100,000,000 gallons, and yield a minimum of 4,000,000 gallons a day. The reservoir will cover an area of 86 acres.

The scheme has been devised by Messrs. G. H. Hill and Sons, consulting engineers, of Manchester, who were engineers to the Kinder scheme. The actual construction of the dam for the Fernilee reservoir is being done by a Derby firm, Messrs. Lebane, Mackenzie and Shand, and it will cost £334,000.

The scheme is the outcome of a policy adopted ten years ago when it was decided to buy land in the Goyt Valley for the purpose of forming another water-shed. It owed its inception largely to Mr. Henry Green, J.P., who was Chairman of the Waterworks Committee, and it was to a great extent through his instrumentality that the scheme was brought into being (Mr. Green retired in 1929 after 25 years service as Councillor and Alderman). Owing to the continual growth in the consumption of water it was recognised that the existing facilities would soon be inadequate to the needs of the district, especially in times of drought. In twenty years the consumption per head of the population has increased from 20 gallons to 33 gallons per day. The Corporation supplies an area of 90 square miles, the population of which is now over 200,000.

The construction of the Fernilee reservoir will take five years and will employ between 400 and 600 men during the whole of that period. When completed the reservoir will give the Waterworks Department a total storage capacity of 1,472,000,000 gallons, besides the supply available from the Wilmslow bore.

The dam of the Fernilee Reservoir will be 657 feet long, upwards of 130 feet high, and wide enough on top to take a carriageway. Six hundred thousand tons of earth and clay will go to its making.

It will be thrown across the valley from a point a quarter of a mile down the private road leading to the Powder Mills and Errwood Hall from the Fernilee Lodge to the estate on Long Hill.

The reservoir will thus be about 200 yards wide at its northernmost point,