

The work on the Fernilee dam was formally inaugurated on February 25, 1932, by the Chairman of the Waterworks Committee, Alderman George Padmore, J.P., who succeeded Mr. Henry Green, and who has taken a deep practical interest in the progress of the scheme.

The gathering ground or drainage area for the reservoir covers an area of 6,000 acres, and practically the whole of this land is, or soon will be, the property of the Corporation. The water will be wholly supplied by the Goyt and the small tributaries which run into it from the adjoining moorlands.

After it has been filtered the water will be taken from the northern end of the reservoir through the pipe line which is at present being laid down to one of the Disley Reservoirs, and thence through the existing mains to the supply area. The first portion of the pipe line—that between Disley and Whaley Bridge, a distance of $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles—has been completed. This work has been done by a Birmingham firm, Messrs. Whittaker Ellis. The contract for the line from Whaley Bridge to Fernilee has not yet been let.

On July 31, 1931, Mr. Thomas Molyneux, who had been associated with the undertaking for 39 years, retired from the position of Waterworks Engineer and was succeeded by Mr. Thomas Dearden.

Former residents, re-visiting the town after many years absence, and viewing the home of their childhood from the platforms of Edgeley Station, will, at first glance, behold a prospect little changed since they left the town many years ago. But a closer scrutiny will reveal in the distance, a huge erection of a reddish colour, not unlike the sandstone on which the town is built. In the middle distance, a dignified erection of brick and stone can be seen on St. Petersgate. The huge red erection, which dwarfs the Parish Church tower, dominates everything within its neighbourhood, much in the same way that the Mont Blanc massif dominates the Alps. It is the new gasholder, erected in 1931, and made necessary by the tremendous growth in the output of the Stockport Corporation Gas Department in the years since the war, and in a sense, the great tower is a symbol of the development of the undertaking.

The dignified building on St. Petersgate, which also sprang into being in 1931, is the Department's new showroom—also a sign of progress.

The development of the undertaking since the war, and since 1922 in particular, has been greater than at any period in its existence.

Whereas the number of consumers in 1922 was just over 33,000, the figure at the end of March last was 38,500, while there has been a further increase during the past year. The output of the works has been increased accordingly and the figure for the year ending March 31, 1931, was 1,050 million cubic feet, as against 775 million cubic feet in March, 1922—a remarkable record.

The growth in the demand has had its inevitable consequence in increased and improved plant and appliances. The Stockport gas undertaking always had a reputation for using the most up-to-date methods, and to-day it can still boast that its methods are the latest and most efficient, and it stands in the forefront of similar undertakings throughout the country. As compared with ten years ago, the efficiency of the works has been added to in a remarkable way, and nearly double the heat units in the form of gas are now being obtained from each ton of coal treated—an economic advantage which is easily