



I. M. S.

No. 9. STELLENBOSCH, August, 1946.

1. OPTION ON THE FARM IDA'S VALLEY.

Prior to the Ratepayers' meeting which was held in the Banqueting Hall on 19th September, 1945, the Town Council had obtained an option on the farm Ida's Valley exclusive of the Homestead and parts previously sold off. The Council thereby obtained the right to purchase the farm for the sum of £27,000. As the option was originally obtained in August, 1945, the Executors of the Estate came to the conclusion that they could not give it to the Council for an indefinite period and so it was stipulated by them that it would lapse unless exercised before 1st November, 1946, and also that as long as the Council retained the option a sum of £100 per month would have to be paid to the Estate. As a result of the delay in exercising or renouncing the option up to the end of June, 1946, a sum of £1200 has already been paid to the Estate. It will be realised that the Council and the ratepayers must make up their minds as to what they intend doing about the option before 1st November, 1946.

2. DEVELOPMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR OUR WATER PROBLEM.

In the May issue of I.M.S. it was stated that there appeared to be four solutions for our water problem. The four solutions for schemes were not necessarily mutually exclusive, which means that one or more could be adopted, or, in fact, that none needed to be adopted. In the May issue of I.M.S. the proposal of a public utility to buy the farm Ida's Valley and construct a dam had been referred to as Scheme A.

The construction of a dam in Jonkershoek Valley was referred to as Scheme B. Scheme C was that of drilling for water near the intake of our water supply and Scheme D was that of co-operating with other Municipalities in starting a large project with extensive storage. In connection with these schemes there has been progress with the exception of B. Scheme B has not been further investigated in the light of Dr. Enslin's opinion that solid rock on which to construct a durable and strong superstructure was so far below the river-bed that the costs were prohibitive. In fact this much had already been reported in May.

3. SCHEME C - DRILLING FOR WATER NEAR THE INTAKE.

Operations were started on 1st April and after work had been in progress for a fortnight a depth of 27 feet had been reached. Many difficulties were encountered and it frequently happened as a result of loose material slumping into the cavity that depth gained was lost again and had to be redrilled with resultant loss of valuable time. After weeks of minor disappointments the drill broke down and spare parts could not be procured locally or in Cape Town. This necessitated a stoppage of work for about three weeks. Some time after the drill had been got going again a large boulder was encountered. For a fortnight the drill kept pounding away at a rate of six inches per working day. Eventually at a depth of 64 feet the big boulder had been successfully negotiated. Below the boulder loose material was again encountered. This loose material made it imperative to use casing again which had been discarded in the boulder. The result was that a drill of smaller diameter is being used at present. The softer ground made progress more rapid and on July 30th a depth of 132 feet was reached. At this depth water had not as yet been found.

4. SCHEME D - CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES
IN A MAJOR PROJECT.

In December of last year the Mayor, Mr. W.A. Krige, convened a Conference of representatives of local bodies in the Western Province interested in the control and conservation of water. At this Conference the need for co-operation was felt and a Committee of Experts was appointed to advise the bodies represented as to the procedure to be followed in order to achieve what the Conference had resolved in regard to the control and conservation of water in the Union of South Africa, the Conference having also had in mind the establishment of suitable schemes that could best be undertaken jointly. The Committee consisted of Messrs. W.S. Lunn, City Engineer, Cape Town, T.P. Fox, Engineer of the Divisional Council of the Cape, N. Shand, Consulting Engineer, Cape Town and Dr. C.L. Wicht, Forestry Research Officer, Jonkershoek. A confidential report of the Committee has been received. While I.M.S. is not in a position to publish this lengthy and important document, it is possible to state that the Committee feels very strongly that all authorities, local and Government, should be represented in considering the potentialities for supply in any one region, and should direct the policy as to how the water resources should be subdivided. Thereafter the actual carrying out of the work should be left in the hands of the Local Authorities who could provide themselves with sufficient water and prevent water from idly running into the sea. In due course this report will be brought to the notice of the bodies represented at the December-Conference in the Council Chamber. For Stellenbosch the urgent question is whether it will be wise to wait with its own scheme as set forth in paragraph 5 below until such time as it is known whether a major joint project will be undertaken and what the cost of it will be to the Municipality of Stellenbosch. As this point of whether local bodies must carry on with

local smaller schemes, could possibly be stated more clearly, the Committee has been asked to amplify its report on this matter. The Committee has also been asked to permit the Council to make the amplification of its report, which must still be written, known to the public. Furthermore the Council has been written to neighbouring local authorities to ascertain what they are planning to do in the immediate future and whether co-operation seems advisable at this stage and under what conditions. It is hoped to report more fully on this in the next issue of I.M.S.

5. SCHEME A - BUYING IDA'S VALLEY
AND CONSTRUCTING A STORAGE DAM.

In order to construct a dam at any of the sites on the farm Ida's Valley, the suitability of the foundations on the selected site is of major importance. Mr. Shand, the Council's Consulting Engineer, and Dr. Enslin, an expert in Geo-Physics in the Department of Geological Survey, gave their opinions on the suitability of the sites and more especially on the suitability of the most likely site, the one lying highest up the Valley. Both the Engineer and Dr. Enslin thought it essential that their opinions should be verified by drilling. A suitable diamond drill was obtained from the Government and at the time of writing two holes have been drilled with highly satisfactory results. The first hole was drilled in the bed of the stream and there the solid rock was encountered at a depth of only three feet. After the rock had been reached the machine drilled to a depth of 47 feet without encountering anything but hard rock. It was then thought to be unnecessary to drill any deeper. The second hole was again drilled in the bed of the stream, but this time sixty feet up stream. Here the hard rock was reached at a depth of 16 feet. Further drilling in this hole failed to disclose a break in the rock. At present

holes are being drilled further from the stream, i. e. against the flanks of the valley. Results have not yet come to hand.

6. WHAT THE COUNCIL PROPOSED TO DO ORIGINALLY.

As ratepayers will be called on to give their verdict on the schemes mentioned above, it seems necessary to recapitulate what are the essentials of the Council's original scheme. The objectives aimed at were firstly to improve the pressures and distribution of water to all sections of the community and secondly to guard against summer shortages. In the scheme put forward the first objective was to be attained by laying a new main from the existing service reservoir in Jonkershoek to a new service reservoir above Idas Valley Township and linking the latter in turn with a new service reservoir at Pappegaaisberg. The existing reticulation was to be linked up with the new service reservoirs and mains so as to ensure even distribution to all.

To achieve the second objective the Council proposed to acquire a large portion of the farm Idas's Valley, as described in paragraph 1, construct a storage dam there and use the water stored in it to supplement the town supply during periods when the demand exceeded the quantity of water that could be legitimately taken from the Ecrste River or, should the Council further acquire additional water, the quantity that could be taken through the Municipal main from the intake to the service reservoir in Jonkershoek.

In order to get the water to the storage dam on Idas's Valley farm it was proposed to extend the proposed newmain leading to the Idas Valley service reservoir, mentioned above under the work for objective one, to the proposed storage dam. During times of plenty this main would serve to fill the storage dam and during times of scarcity water would be drawn through it from the dam into

the distribution system. To ensure that the water from the service reservoir was not contaminated a filtration plant was to be installed.

It is important to note that though put forward as one scheme the objectives which it is hoped to attain are twofold.

No matter what scheme of augmentation is adopted, to meet summer shortages, improvements to distribution will have to be undertaken.

The estimated cost of the scheme is set out below. It is, however, more than probable that construction costs as well as the costs of materials have risen.

It will be noticed that besides Ida's Valley three other properties must be purchased as it has been ascertained that the water in the proposed storage dam will overflow onto them. The pipe track from Jonkershoek to the proposed storage dam passes through private orchards and vineyards and compensation has accordingly to be paid. The figures are as follows:-

Purchase price of the farm Ida's Valley	£27,000	
Purchase price of further properties	13,155	
Transfer, Survey, Servitude Charges	<u>3,000</u>	43,155
Ida's Valley Water Scheme (including dam, pipes, service reservoirs, purification plant)	75,400	
Overhead Charges - 15% of £75,400	11,310	
Estimated Water Court Costs	<u>1,690</u>	<u>88,400</u>
		<u>£131,555</u>

THE ABOVE IN GREATER DETAIL:

Purchase of farm Ida's Valley
exclusive of Homestead Area
and parts sold off previously

27,000,

Further Properties:

Mr. L.H.G. Polchet

3,000

Mr. E.B. Shaw

6,000

Compensation to Mr. Shaw for
purchase of ground by him

1,155

Captain Grossart

3,000

13,155

Servitudes:

Mr. P.J. Marais, Rosendal

850

Mr. A. Buchanan

500

Transfer and Survey Charges

16503,000

43,155

Ida's Valley Water Scheme including (1) Improvements to
Distribution, and

(2) Augmentation of
Water Supply.

1. Improvements to Distribution:

9" Main from existing ser-
vice reservoir in Jonkers-
hoek to proposed new ser-
vice reservoir in Idas Val-
ley

6,570

New 1 Million gallon ser-
vice reservoir at Ida's
Valley

9,000

C/f 15,570

B/f £15,570

£43,155

12" Watermain along Ban-
hoek road up to exist-
ing high level pipe in
Bird Street

4,060

9" Main from above connec-
tion in Bird Street along
Dennesig and the Railway up
to proposed new service
reservoir at Pappogaaisberg

4,400

New 1 million gallon ser-
vice reservoir at Papp-
gaaisberg

9,000

9" Main from Pappogaaisberg
service reservoir up to in-
dustrial sites

2,750

9" Main to connect last-
mentioned 9" main with the
existing low level main in
Dorp Street

1,100

36,880

Plus Overhead Charges - 15% of £36880

5,532

42,412

2. Augmentation of Water Supply:

9" Main from new Ida's Val-
ley service reservoir up to
storage dam No. 1
Earth dam at Damsite No. 1
Purification works near new
service reservoir at Ida's
Valley

5,120

27,400

6,000

38,520

Plus Overhead Charges (15% of £38520)

5,778

44,298

Estimated Water Court Costs

1,690£131,555

7. WHAT IS THE COUNCIL PROPOSING NOW?

No final decision has as yet been taken, but as the investigations that the ratepayers instructed the Council to take are nearing completion and as the option on Ida's Valley lapses on 1st November, a decision cannot long be delayed.

8. HOW THE NEXT RATEPAYERS' MEETING MUST BE CONVENED.

Ordinarily a ratepayers' meeting must be advertised in the press a number of times and this entails considerable expense and moreover requires about six weeks. Possibly to obviate this expenditure and undue delay the ratepayers' meeting that took place in September, 1945, decided to adjourn. At present the Council is seeking legal advice on the legality of cutting out all the advertising and the delay. If the legal opinion is favourable, the meeting can be called at shorter notice than six weeks, otherwise the ordinary course will have to be taken.

9. EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF RATEPAYERS' MEETING.

In order to enable ratepayers to refresh their memories of the resolutions taken at the ratepayers' meeting in September, the following extract is published. The minutes read as follows (the actual resolution being given in translation):-

"Dr. A.C. Cilliers said that much discussion could still take place if everyone was to voice his opinion. He would not like to see the proposal just turned down, but would like to ask that the meeting adjourn on this point. Dr. A.C. Cilliers moved as follows:-

'This meeting is of the opinion that the water supply question is so important that no hasty decisions should be taken in regard to it before all possibilities

have been thoroughly investigated. For this reason the meeting refers the whole water supply question back to the Council for reconsideration, investigation and report, particularly with regard to the following:-

1. The possibility of a combined scheme with other Municipalities such as for instance Pearl and Cape Town.
2. The possibility of damming up the Eerste River in Jonkershoek and the building of a storage dam of 1000 million or more gallons.
3. The possibility of the construction of smaller storage dams or the provision of boreholes in order to provide for the interim requirements should it, after due investigation, become apparent that the larger scheme is a practical possibility within a reasonable period'.

.....
.....
Mr. P.E. le R. van Niekerk stated that he would second the motion if Dr. Cilliers would add to it that a Committee consisting of Professor Reitz, Dr. D.L. Scholt, Dr. A.C. Cilliers, Dr. O. Reincke and Dr. M.S. Taljaard be appointed to co-operate with the Council in investigating the questions mentioned in the motion.

Dr. Cilliers agreed to this and the motion was adopted.

Dr. Yeats suggested that the resolution meant that the Council's scheme had thus been turned down and was no longer open for discussion.

Dr. Cilliers, however, strongly objected to this interpretation and it was unanimously resolved that the

meeting adjourn on the question of the purchase of "Ida's Valley" and the construction of a water scheme, as mentioned under items Nos. 3 and 4 of the Loan Proposals, and that it be left in the hands of the Council to call the ratepayers together again at an adjourned meeting.

10. PERSONAL.

I.M.S. deeply regrets to inform its readers that an accident took place in Ida's Valley where the diamond drill is operating. Mr. S. Newton who is in charge of the plant and who has throughout shown great efficiency as well as friendly co-operation with all concerned, had the misfortune to get two of his fingers caught between a cable and a revolving shaft round which it had twisted. As a result of this accident one of Mr. Newton's fingers has had to be amputated. Mr. Newton is still undergoing treatment in our General Hospital. I.M.S. regrets that our happy relations should have been mirrored in this way.

11. "SAFETY FIRST" FILM.

The Council has been requested by the Organising Secretary of the "Safety First" Association, Johannesburg, to make known to the public that a film called "Common Sense A-Cycle" will shortly be shown in the local bioscopes. The readers of I.M.S. are requested to watch the bioscope posters on which it will be made known exactly when the film will be shown.

12. CONTROL OF INFLUX OF NATIVES.

I.M.S. draws the attention of the public to the fact that Municipalities have been circularised to the effect that, unless the Chief Native Commissioner, King William's Town, is informed of native labour requirements, he will not issue documents to natives to purchase

railway tickets. It is in the interest of all who require native labour, therefore, to communicate with the Registration Officer, Kaya Mandi, who will be in a position to supply fuller information than space allows I.M.S. to do.



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