

SOUTH LAUNCESTON RESERVOIR.

At about noon 26th ult., the Mayor (Alderman R. H. Price), in company with Aldermen S. J. Sutton, M.H.A., W. H. Ferrall, E. H. Panton, H. Edgell, and A. Barrett, visited the reservoir recently constructed in Lawrence's Paddock, South Launceston. A limited number of the general public, including the Rev. J. G. Millard, were present. The aldermen were accompanied by the Town Clerk (Mr C. W. Roher), the City Surveyor (Mr St. John David), and the Superintendent of Waterworks (Mr W. M'Elwee).

The Mayor, accompanied by the superintendent, went down to the spot where the tap was situated and turned on the water, while the rest of the party remained at the edge of the reservoir to see the water issue forth. It came slowly out, and when quite satisfied that it was "well and truly" turned on they departed with joyous hearts.

A description of the reservoir has already appeared in these columns, and the visitors to the scene on 26th ult., had an excellent opportunity of examining it. It occupies a most commanding site, being 260ft above the level of the wharf, which is said to be the highest point to which the water can, under present circumstances, be carried without the aid of artificial means, that is to say, without the assistance of pumping power. It presents the appearance of a huge earthwork. It has a capacity of no less than 2,000,000 gallons, or more than twice that of the other reservoirs combined, and has been most faithfully constructed, the Corporation employees being responsible for its completion. No fewer than 15,000 cubic yards of earth had to be moved in this stage of the work. In the course of excavation three landslips occurred and interfered materially with the progress of the work, on one occasion some 500 tons of soil falling in. The operation of concreting was performed by the waterworks department, and is of a very substantial character. The sides have a thickness of 18in of concrete, supported by massive buttresses against the pressure of the hill at the back of the reservoir, the excavation having been made in the face of a steep rise. The thickness of concrete on the bottom is 8in. The measurements, it might be stated, are 162ft in diameter with a depth of 15½ft.

The measurements, it might be stated, are 162ft in diameter with a depth of 15½ft. The water main from the St. Patrick's river via Newstead has been intercepted and portion of it directed to the South Launceston reservoir, the pipes being so arranged that the reservoir can be filled either from the top or the bottom. Of course there is no demand on the resources of this new water supply at the present time of the year, and so the work of laying the mains to connect with the Sandhill and Hampden districts has been left in abeyance, but will be utilised during the coming winter to find employment for some of those who may be out of work, and as a consequence in distress and want. A substantial picket fence, 7ft high, has been constructed around the reservoir, the posts of which are of Huon pine, a wood that is said to be almost everlasting and admirably adapted to, though seldom used for, such a purpose. This will no doubt be surmounted with wire, and some protection given at a point at the back where there is a high bank overlooking the reservoir so as to prevent anything being thrown into it by children. Messrs Wilson and Waugh have performed the work of erection, and the manner in which they have carried out their contract reflects credit on them. The side of the reservoir inside the enclosure will be sown down with grass, and also the hillside, where the work of excavation has destroyed the natural growth. Next summer the reservoir will contribute to the water supply, and when it is mentioned that its commanding position will enable it to serve King's Meadows and Young Town, should the inhabitants so desire, it is needless to comment on the improvement it should effect in our water supply. The work has cost about £2000.