Transcript of a report of the opening ceremony published in the

Shropshire Star 4th January 1901

**THE SHREWSBURY SEWERAGE**

**SCHEME.**

**OPENING OF THE PUMPING STATION.**

On Tuesday the pumping station at Coleham, in connection with the Shrewsbury new sewerage scheme was formally opened by the Mayoress (Mrs Hughes) in the presence of a large company, which included The Bishop of Shrewsbury. The engineer of the scheme which it now nearly completed, are Messrs, John Taylor, Sons. and Santo Crimp, of Westminster and the work was begun between four and five years ago. The scheme comprises a complete system of sewers for intercepting the sewage which at present flows into the Severn. The sewage is conveyed to the pumping station through large iron pipes, and is then pumped by means of a pair of compound beam pumping engines into a gravitation sewer commencing in Whitehall Street, and about a mile and a half in length. From this it is discharged on to the sewage farm at Monkmoor. The foundation stone at the pumping station was laid in October 1898, Mrs. Corbett, wife of Alderman Edward Corbett, the then Mayor of the borough. There are two engines, each provided with two pumps balanced one on each side of the centre of the beam. Each engine is capable of lifting from the pump well and delivering to the sewage farm 2,360,000 gallons every 24 hours, a total of 4,700,000 gallons when working together, which is equivalent to a little more than seven times the pre­sent sewage flow of the borough. This leaves an ample margin for the future development of the town. The engines are designed of a most economic type, and are capable of developing about 100 horse power. The steam is provided by two boilers, each of which is capable of working both engines. The waste heat from the boilers is utilised through a Lowcock's economiser, made at the Coleham Foundry and the machinery has been manufactured by Messrs. W. E. Renshaw and Co., of Stoke-on-Trent, from the designs of the engineers. All the discharge at the station is completely sealed up, so that there is nothing about the station to indicate its connection with a sewerage scheme. The opening ceremony took place at 12-30 on Tuesday. Alderman Evans (chair­man of the Sanitary Committee) said that the Mayoress had kindly come there to formally open the works, for which he wished to heartily thank her. He asked her acceptance of a gold key to open the door of the building, which the engineers had great pleasure in offering her. (Applause.) That ceremony signified the completion of one of the most important municipal enterprises ever undertaken by the Cor­poration, and that they should begin the new cen­tury with the opening of a scheme which they believed would be for the improved health and well-being of the town was a most auspicious event. (Applause.) An abortive scheme of drainage was begun upwards of 30 years ago, and many thousands of pounds were spent on it and lost to the town; but the present scheme was an accomplished fact, and would be asuccess, because it had been carefully planned by skilful engineers and carried out by competent con­tractors. (Applause.) The Mayoress then opened the door*,* and the company entered and inspected the machinery. One of the engines was started working by the Mayoress amid applause. Alderman Evans afterwards proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayoress for her kindness in opening the building. Councillor Woodhouse seconded, and the vote was unanimously passed. In acknowledging the compliment on behalf of the Mayoress, the Mayor thanked Alderman Evans for asking the Mayoress to perform the ceremony, and said they had just witnessed the opening of a work which would be of lasting benefit to Shrewsbury. He was sure if they only had their beautiful river cleansed it would be worth half the outlay of the scheme. (Applause.) He also wished to thank Messrs. Taylor, Sons, and Santo Crimp for the very hand­some key they had given the Mayoress. (Applause) They would treasure it very highly as an interesting memento of their year of office. (Applause.) The handle of the key was surmounted by a miniature crown, underneath which was the borough arms and the words "Floreat Salopia" in blue enamel letters. The "teeth" formed the Mayoress's initials. On the obverse side were the Mayoress initials in blue enamel and, the inscription: “Mayoress of Shrews­bury, January 1st. 1901.” A stone bearing the following inscription, marking the event, had been placed in the wall of the building at angles to the founda­tion stone “Borough of Shrewsbury. These works were opened by Mary, wife of R, Scoltock Hughes Esq.. Mayor, 1st January. 1901 Alderman George Evans, Chairman of the Sanitary Committee."