

travelling on rails, would be equal to about 25mph. The propellor of the pump made about 700 revolutions per minute, and at this rate would raise above two million gallons of water per day."

"The water is forced up a length of large iron piping running up the side of a field, to an altitude of 60 feet. A second railway engine and pump then forces the water through another length of iron piping to a further height of 60 feet, from where it can run by gravity towards the existing catchment drains leading to the reservoirs at Longridge. To make this connection a new sluice has been dug along fields on the northern side of Longridge Fell. It is like a large open drain and to maintain a steady gradient its course is of the most zig-zag and angular character. Several times it crosses the roads from Longridge to Chipping etc, and at such places iron pipes are laid below the road. It is estimated that the pumping will have to continue for two or three days before the water in the sluice runs clear, but we are doubtful if it ever will be clear. The running water will always take clay, sand and soil from the sides and bottom of the new trench."

"However, the general pumping apparatus seems all that can be desired. It does its work well and its power seems to be enormous. We were going to say that it would force up anything from the Hodder. It certainly has driven up several fish, and on Thursday it managed to push up a decent-sized rat!"

"Strange to say, the ordinary sources of our water supply have now revived. Some folk will say that the town's money has been thrown away upon the pumping scheme, and we are sure that it has cost more than was originally calculated upon. But there can be no doubt that the Town Councillors and their officers were actuated by the best of motives."

"We left the emergency water works at about 5 o'clock so cannot tell if the deputation went in afterwards for water, beer or champagne. On returning we did not forget our friend Bolton's roast lamb. Whilst at the Derby Arms we were told that the Tory screw was being put on heavily in that quarter, but we saw nothing political in the house except one solitary placard, and this was entirely in favour of Mr Gladstone and Liberalism! We moved homewards about seven, and on the road nearly every cart and wagon we met seemed either to belong to, or to be in some way connected with, the generous Jem Bolton."

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The 1868 water shortage scare led to a permanent improvement in Preston's supplies:- the construction between 1870 & 1875 of the nine-mile brickwork culvert which still carries water from the Trough of Bowland towards the Longridge reservoirs and passes through Chipping village.



VERY PLAIN, BUT A GOOD SORT

In the days before imported Golden Delicious and tasteless supermarket Bramleys, Chipping did manage to grow its own good crops of apples. Local orchards have been very neglected in the last 50 years, and where any replacement trees have been planted, often they have been unsuitable varieties for this district and thus have failed. But there are still memories of that old favourite the Procter apple, and indeed just a few old trees left.

The Procter is not very pretty to look at, mostly a dull green skin with a flecked red blush at one side. At first sight it looks rather like a flattened Cox's Pippin, but when you taste it you discover it has probably plenty of wild crab in its ancestry. It is sometimes a bit small, and has no tempting fragrance, but at least it does survive our local climate, cropping heavily almost every year. Despite autumn gales and lashing rain it often sticks to the tree until late October and November. There is the added bonus of versatility. It is a good cooker, a reasonable eater, and being rock hard it stores well, even if collected as a windfall. In the past, Procter apples stored on straw in upper floors of outbuildings would keep till April.

The extract below is taken from a report in the Preston Guardian in January 1923 of a lecture by the Lancashire County Council's expert, Mr A.G.Sowman.

Two very popular varieties in Lancashire, though little known further afield, were Scotch Bridget and Procter's Seedling. Both dated back probably 100 years Procter's Seedling was probably raised in the Longridge district, and it was dominant in all the old orchards about Chipping, Thornley, and Bleasdale. There was little doubt that it was raised by a man named Procter, a name frequently met with in that portion of the county. Procter's Seedling cropped well practically every year; it was a good cooker and fairly good eater and would be worthy of wider attention if it attained more size.

Buy 1 oz. of saturated solution of permanganate of potash. If when a drop of this is added to a tumbler of water its colour changes to brown, it is unfit to drink. If it remains clear or slightly rose-coloured after an hour it is, broadly speaking, safe.

This test should always be applied when sore throats are prevalent, or diphtheria or typhoid is in a house.

TEST FOR BAD WATER