MELBOURNE GAS.

New Holder "Christened" by Mrs. Loake.

For some time the Melbourne Gas Co. have experienced some little difficulty giving a regular supply of gas on account of storage facility. This has now been obviated by the installation of new three lift spiral gasometer, with a capacity of 55,000 cubic feet. The Melbourne Gas Co. was formed in 1853, with Mr. Stephen Smith first manager. At that time five retorts were erected, and a gasometer, with a capacity of 9,200 cubic feet. There were ten shareholders, and the works cost £2.200. Then as requirements, increased, about 50 years ago, a new single lift column holder was erected, and it this which is now replaced by the new holder, which stands in a well 14 feet deep, has a diameter 44 feet, and when filled stands about 50 feet high.

The ceremony filling the new gasometer took place on Monday afternoon, in the presence of large gathering, amongst whom were Mr. R. Loake (chairman directors), Messrs. T. Smith, R Wood, Mrs. Tomlinson, and Miss Parker (directors), Messrs G. Calow, K F Greasley, T. Stafford, T. Wright, A. S. Jacques, J. Bates, and F. E. Kent (manager), Mrs. R. Loake, Mrs. Greasley, Mrs. Wood. Mr. Loake opened the proceedings. spoke of the growth of the company from its small beginning, and detailed the great improvements recently made. He then turned to Mrs. R. Loake to switch on the gas.

Mrs Loake congratulated the directors the progress the past, and on the improvements made, which would ensure a full and constant supply of gas to the town She thought Melbourne should be proud the gas works, and the consumers a debt of gratitude to the company for their enterprise. She then christened the new holder by breaking on it a bottle of wine, and then turned on the gas. She was accorded three cheers. The party then adjourned to the institute for tea by kind invitation the directors. Mr. R Wood, moving vote thanks Mrs. Loake for so ably performing the ceremony and turning on the gas, congratulated and shareholders on their successful efforts to supply the parish with a needful article, and to give good value for money. The history of the gas company was similar to that town. It had developed steadily without those fluctuations that so many towns had suffered from, and that was the history of the gas company.

Mr. I. Smith seconded, and Mrs. Loake briefly replied. Mr K. F. Greaslev expressed thanks to Mr. Kent, their able manager, under whose supervision improvements had been carried out.

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