**Essays on Mount Crosby - Hathorn Davey Steam Engines**

The steam engines used at Mount Crosby pumping station in 1926 held a world record for efficiency. In his report to the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Government Inspector of Machinery, Mr J.A. Henderson, stated that mechanical efficiency tests performed on the new No.2 pump units at Mount Crosby showed "consumption per indicated horsepower was considerably less than the guarantee and created another world's record". Results showed 9.63 lb (pounds) of steam per indicated horsepower, which we may safely assume was a very good thing in a world essentially powered by steam.

This was high praise for the Hathorn Davey triple expansion steam engines that Chief Engineer Jack Dan installed between 1923 and 1926. Hathorn Davey was a famous English manufacturer of steam engines, specialising in large equipment for mines and waterworks. Formed around the Sun Foundry in Leeds (which had been operating since 1846), the firm came together when a consortium of new owners, including Hugh Campbell, Alfred Davies and John Hathorn took over operations in 1872. In 1872, Henry Davey joined the group and the company known as Hathorn Davey was born.

The company triumphed in 1881 when it built the most powerful pump engine in the world for the Mersey Tunnel (near Liverpool). The company's name disappeared in 1936 when they were taken over by the firm known as Sultzers, but not before producing many magnificent pump engines, including complicated systems for the Beaconsfield Gold Mine in Tasmania and six wonderful engines for the Mount Crosby pumping station (among very many others).

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