

PAPER I.—WATER SUPPLIES OF SMALL TOWNS.

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen :

There are two methods of water supply suitable for small towns, which may be considered :—

1. A system of public water works.
2. Wells or borings.

A comprehensive system of water works is generally considered to be too expensive for very small towns, and consequently the only method supposed to be practicable has been a supply by wells.

With commendable energy and enterprise, however, some small towns in Ontario have solved the problem and secured a water supply by a system of water works.

Brampton, the county town of Peel, having a population estimated at about 3,500, some few years ago adopted a scheme whereby water is brought from a lake four and a-half miles distant, and distributed to all parts of the town for domestic and fire purposes.

The lake, which is the source of supply, is fed by natural springs, and is situated at an elevation of 130 feet above the town, giving a pressure of forty-seven to fifty-five pounds to the inch. The supply of pure, wholesome water is inexhaustible, and the system works satisfactorily. The total cost up to the present is estimated to be about \$62,000. Having adopted the system of supply by gravitation the annual running expenses are very small. Sixty-two thousand dollars may at first seem to be a large expenditure for a population of 3,500, but from a sanitary point of view the cost will be returned tenfold in the saving of the lives and health of the inhabitants. When we reflect on the days and weeks spent in sickness, on the lives destroyed, and on the unhealthiness of many or most of our small towns in Ontario, an expenditure of \$60,000 or \$70,000 for