

which any municipality is drawing, or may in the future draw, their water supply.

If I may make a suggestion, I would say in addition to what you have already said, that you also forbid in your Bill the depositing of any of the aforesaid refuse on the shores or banks of any water supply.

If there are any questions that you would like to ask in this connection, if I can be of any assistance to you I shall be only delighted to do so.

I want to congratulate you for taking this decided stand on what I consider one of the most important public health matters with which we have to deal. In my opinion the permitting of the pollution of navigable waters is one of the most unpardonable offences against public health tolerated by civilized man to-day.

Very sincerely yours,

Chas. J. Hastings,
Medical Health Officer.

I have other letters which I shall not delay the House to read, but I might refer to a letter from the superintendent of dredges on the Red river and at the mouth of the Red river in which he points out that every year he has from one to six cases of typhoid fever amongst his men and that last year there were two deaths. He says it is becoming a problem now to get men to work on the dredges on account of the awful condition of the water going down the river. I hold that any city or any municipality has no more right to contaminate the water in the river that flows by it and thus poison the people lower down the stream, than a man would have to poison his neighbour's well. If a man would place poison deliberately in his neighbour's well and cause death by so doing, he would be prosecuted for murder and would suffer the extreme penalty of the law. But under our present system the city of Ottawa can pour its sewage into the Ottawa river and poison the people living further down the stream with impunity. Dr. McCullough states, in a letter written to a friend in the city, that a recent typhoid epidemic at Hawkesbury on the Ottawa river, forty or fifty miles below Ottawa, was caused by the sewage that was put into the water at Ottawa. The city of Montreal is in much the same condition, as it draws its water from the Ottawa river, and Montreal has not escaped typhoid epi-

demics. And if something is not done to prevent the pollution of our rivers, our great cities and districts will suffer far more than they have done in the past. In the name of the hundreds of families who have been bereaved of dear ones, snatched away to untimely graves; in the interest of the people who have suffered through typhoid outbreaks in this city and other parts of Canada from the effect of the polluted condition of our lakes and rivers, from which the masses of our people draw their water supply; in the name of thousands of our people who have suffered from the effects of polluted water, and are left wrecks of their old selves, to continue life's battle; and in the interest of a strong, vigorous, virile manhood and womanhood for Canada; and in the name of a pure water-starved people; I say to this House, do not delay action on this all-important matter. The greatest asset Canada has to-day is in serious danger, the health and lives of her people are too precious to be neglected one day longer. Canada will hail with delight a measure that will stop the pollution of our great lakes and rivers, and that will eventually restore these great bodies of fresh water to their natural state of purity. We spend annually millions of dollars, this year we are asked for \$10,500,000, for the upkeep of our military establishment, millions for the upkeep and training of an army to fight some enemy in the dim and misty future, that may never appear; not one dollar for the creation and training of a staff, let alone an army, of sanitary engineers to fight an enemy that is now entrenched in our midst, slaying our fellow citizens by the thousand and causing suffering and misery to tens of thousands of our people; an enemy that is sapping the vitality and vigour of our people by the slow, insidious method of polluted water, doing its deadly work more thoroughly than an invading army could do. And this, Sir, in the face of the scientific fact that with a proper law on the Statute Book of this country and a thoroughly trained and equipped staff of sanitary engineers to enforce it, the enemy, Typhoid, can be defeated and driven from our land.