

## MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

### THE VANCOUVER B. C. SEPTIC TANKS.

The Vancouver septic tanks are three in number, and were designed to treat the sewage from districts having populations of 5,000, 3,000 and 2,000 respectively. They were constructed in 1900 from plans furnished by the Septic Tank Syndicate, and the first was put in operation about the beginning of the current year, the others being started a week or two later. The effluent is discharged into salt water without further treatment. The city scavengers have been dumping nightly into one of the tanks five or six loads of night soil, and although this was the last tank to be put in service, its effluent is the clearest.

The general type of the tanks is shown in the accompanying sketches. Some changes were made in the original plans to avoid the use of wood covering for the inlet and effluent channels, the walls being carried up and arched over, leaving only the necessary manholes appearing on the surface. The masonry is a concrete of two parts of portland cement, three of sand, two of fine gravel and four of broken stone. After the concrete was well rammed, it was finished with a half inch coat of 1:2 portland cement mortar. The finish was put on both sides of all walls and arches, and also on the floors of the tanks and other compartments. Earth has been filled over the tanks, graded and seeded, so that there is nothing offensive or unsightly about them on the surface of the ground.

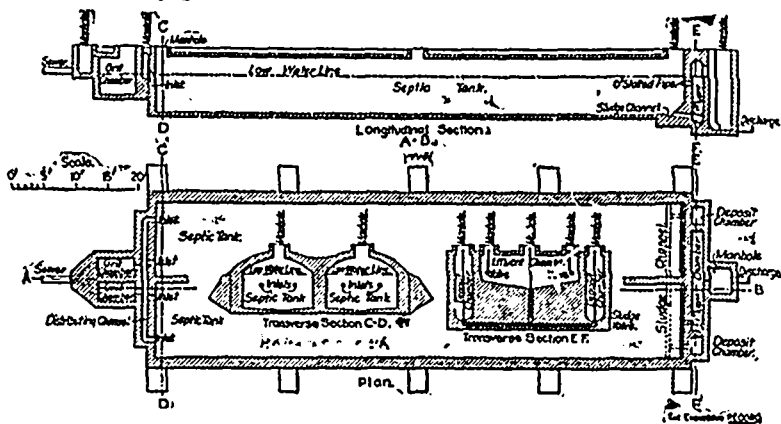
No analyses of the sewage or effluent have yet been made, but the practical results of the septic action are apparent. In a recent letter Col. Thos. H. Tracy, city engineer, stated that the tanks had then (September) been in use about eight months, and their operation was quite satisfactory. The scum on the surface increased rapidly during the warm weather, and the bacterial action became more decided. Only one complaint had been made of any odor, which, on investigation, was traced to the odor from an outlet manhole of one of the tanks, due to the backing up of the tide. There was not the slightest odor from the tank itself

when the manhole covers were taken off. "Our experience here would go to prove," Colonel Tracy writes, "what might naturally be expected, that the best results will not be obtained until the tanks are in operation at least six months, including part of the summer season."—Engineering Record.

The proposal of the Fire, Water & Light Committee of Winnipeg, Man. to submit a

cost of such a plant, and the city solicitor are preparing a draft bylaw for submission to the ratepayers in the matter, both of which will be submitted at the meeting of the Council.

Mr. Charles Baillarge, city engineer of Quebec, met with an accident in Toronto recently while boarding a street car. It was taken to the emergency hospital and subsequently to his home in Quebec where he is rapidly becoming convalescent.



VANCOUVER SEPTIC TANK SYSTEM.

bylaw for the inauguration of a municipal gas plant for general use of the citizens has created considerable interest. Commissioner Stuart, who has had great experience in connection with the gas business, is busy preparing an estimate of the

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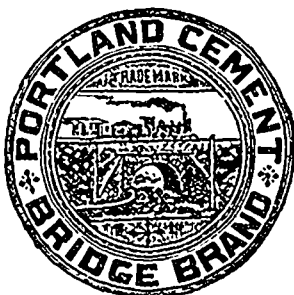
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