

WATER SUPPLY OF TORONTO.

We are glad to be able to publish herewith a number of articles or portions of articles on the subject of the water supply for the City of Toronto. This is a subject of great interest, not only to Toronto, but also to all the towns situated on Lake Ontario. It is, of course, well known that such experts as Drs. Bryce, Hodgetts and Amyot, Prof. Shuttleworth and others, have given the subject much consideration.

It is satisfactory to find that members of the City Council realize fully the vast importance of the various questions involved. We note with pleasure that one of the Controllers, Dr. Harrison, the only physician in the Council, has given the matter much study, and is able to express his intelligent opinions in a common sense way.

Most people will probably agree that the intake pipe should be carried farther out into the lake. The intake is now less than half a mile from the island, and should be carried out half a mile farther. It is said, however, that the City Engineer doubts the feasibility of such extension. We are told by practical men that it is possible to extend the intake pipe one half mile beyond its present position, because the water at the intake is comparatively shallow and the lake bed from this point slopes downwards very gradually for a considerable distance. It would not, however, be feasible to extend a pipe far from the eastern gap because there is in that region a sudden drop in the lake bed of about three hundred feet a short distance from the shore. Many are in favor of the establishment of a filtration basin on the island before any water comes through the new tunnel. The establishment of another reservoir in the west end of the city in the neighborhood of Wells Hill is worthy of careful consideration. It is thought by many that there is not so much urgency for the construction of a trunk sewer or a plant for the disposal of sewage.

It is fortunate that the City Engineer and Medical Health Officer are likely to come to a definite agreement in the near future, if they have not already done so. These two officers, together with the Waterworks Engineer, seem inclined to propose the establishment of septic tanks and possibly bacteria beds for the treatment of sewage, situated between the foot of Greenwoods Avenue and the Woodbine. The officers would probably also recommend some sort of filtration of the water.

Toronto is not like other cities, such as Chicago, Duluth, etc.,