

mond water supply for six hours. At 4.15 a.m. fire broke out in the heart of the business centre. There was no pressure in the water mains, the C.P.R. were requisitioned to start all their pumps and the valves between their Kaministiquia water pipe system and the city's pipes were thrown open about 5 a.m. Owing to the largeness and numbers of the city mains in comparison to the capacity of the C. P. R. pumps, or to frosted pipes partly closed with ice, the water at first, scarcely flowed out of the end of the fire nozzles. Then a fire engine requisitioned from the neighboring city, was attached several blocks from the connecting valve of the two systems and a useful stream obtained. The C. P. R. pumps maintained 80 pounds pressure in their water pipes, and the fire engine forced out dirty water. Therefore, Kaministiquia water presumably got freely into the city mains.

Owing to the hopeless plight the firemen were in for over an hour, many special alarms were given, most of the inhabitants were awakened and brought to their windows. Once at their windows they saw the cause of alarm. There fortunately was an absence of wind, but in spite of this an enormous conflagration was making headway. Upon calling up the central telephone exchange, they informed me that Loch Lomond water was shut off. One immediately concluded that the C. P. R. water was or would be forced into the city mains. Upon interviewing the fire chief personally at 5.30 a.m. he assured me Kaministiquia water had passed through the city mains. This authentic information led to the following steps being taken (with the consent of the Chairman of the Board of Health): I.—The office of the morning daily paper was visited and there it was learned that a special fire addition was being run off, for sale on the streets only. A large space on the front page was reserved for a "Boil the water before using" announcement, and the reason for the same given, namely, that filthy Kaministiquia water had been forced into the city mains. II.—Two thousand five hundred copies were bought and arranged to be delivered to every English-speaking home in the city by their circulation boys before 9 a.m. Contract price, \$75.00. III.—5,000 red paper notices—"Boil water

before using and why," were printed for distribution by 9 a.m.

Then a visit to the telephone central was made, and 1,500 city users were notified immediately by 'phone, that filthy Kaministiquia water had been pumped into the clean city mains, and that the Health Department desired that the water be boiled before using. This was all that could be accomplished before 7 a.m.

At 8 a.m. four foreign interpreters were obtained and instructed to visit every house in the foreign sections, allotted to them, and give a copy of the red notices to the householders and interpret for them, what had happened and why we wished them to boil the water. This was important, because we have nearly 7,000 foreign inhabitants out of a population of 21,000. Next the schools were ordered to shut off all tap water supplies for drinking purposes—Separate, Public and High Schools. Finally, the red notices were sent to all three classes of schools and the teachers requested to verbally warn the children of the dangers of drinking unboiled water, and to ask them to take home a notice to their guardians and tell those at home to be careful, and why they should be.

Advertising space was taken in the evening daily papers and all the precautions taken by the Health Department, as recited here, were placed under the large type heading at the top, "Boil all water for domestic use," and these sentences added: "Please carry out this precaution diligently and conscientiously, even if you doubt the necessity. Insist on it being carried out until Sunday next."

Fort William during the next two months had two cases of typhoid fever, probably traceable to its water as the cause, but one of these might have been traced to other causes. Fort William had no typhoid deaths from this episode. It cannot be said that there were no extra cases of diarrhoea, but the head office gained no knowledge of any epidemic of same.

Knowledge or suspicion that civic water supplies may be infected with pathogenic organisms, warrants immediate action by the officers of health. Every resourceful avenue should be used of conveying quickly to the users of water the fact that it is contaminated. The dangers to life resulting from the contamination, if stated, will