

## Water Supply

While law and order may be considered as the first essentials of a civilized community, the supply of water is the prime necessity of any settled collection of human dwellings, a necessity that becomes more insistent as the number of consumers increases, dwellings are crowded together and fresh air is vitiated. Dr. Starkey's article in this issue is not only interesting as showing that the water works question is as old as the settlement of humanity, but also as proving the absolute necessity of filtration for all surface waters before they are used for drinking. The vast bodies of water in our wide-spread country tend to make us shirk filtration, as it is easy to sooth the public conscience by expressing a belief in the natural purification, when even indefinite dilution only lessens the dangers, but does not destroy them. As Dr. Starkey points out, cholera has been banished and typhoid nearly conquered by water filtration in cities which have tried it; and there is no reason why Canadian cities should not have the same experience. While mismanagement in most civic services leads only to pecuniary loss, which may be recovered, an impure water supply means the destruction of human life, which is of the greatest economic value.

Surely Canadians in this advanced age should be as alert in this matter as the ancient Romans. And it must be remembered that this question confronts every village, however small, as well as the large cities. The water supply is indeed the first question to the isolated farmer on the prairie as well as to the tenement-dweller in a crowded yard. We would urge our readers to think over the article and the deductions from it, for the writer is an expert of high standing with experience in Europe and India, as well as in Canada.

## The Menace of Cities

In England a Royal Commission has been studying the condition of the poor. The evidence is so bulky that even when all the volumes are issued, they will never be read.

The Chairman, Lord George Hamilton, states that "the serious feature of the report", is the

"deliberate statement that the conditions of life in London and other big towns are such as to produce a degenerate race, morally and physically enfeebled."

While it did not require three years' work of a Royal Commission to prove this, the report of such a body may give powerful help to those who, realizing it years ago, have been fighting it with all their strength.

And while it is true that large cities tend to moral and physical dwarfs, yet large cities are an essential part of modern civilization. Therefore the wise man will not merely deplore what cannot be helped, but will strive to alter the existing conditions so as to uplift the dwellers in cities to be morally and physically sound.

This question may seem of small importance to us in Canada, but we already have a few fairly large cities, and shall have more. So it should be part of our programme to avoid the errors of the old-world cities, and so to arrange that when our Canadian cities have grown great, the citizens—of every class—can live decent and healthy lives.

## A Loyal Citizen

Winnipeg ought to be grateful to Controller Cockburn, and other cities may well wish for such public-spirited citizens. When the question of securing the Point du Bois Falls for a power site came up, Mr. Cockburn managed, after some difficulty, in securing the property for himself. When the City was ready to take it, Mr. Cockburn turned it over without any cost to the city.

## Montreal Winter Carnival

Montreal has had a Winter Carnival which has been made a success in spite of the refusal of the railroads to give special rates. Previous Carnivals not only benefitted Montreal during their existence but led to the annual visits in the winter of people who had learned what a pleasant and exhilarating time can be had in the season of ice and snow.

The cry was that a Winter Carnival, with its advertisements of ice castles, toboggan slides and snowshoeing would tend to check immigration. This might be true twenty years ago when Canada had no other form of advertizing, and outsiders believed that winter was the only season Canada had. But to-day, when Canadian fruit takes prizes everywhere; when Canadian wheat, butter and cheese are so widely known; when not only the Federal Government, but every Provincial one, has an army of agents—why any intending immigrant who knows nothing of Canada save its winter, had better stop at home. We do not want the poor and ignorant to-day.

Montreal has, in a Winter Carnival, an asset that is peculiar to herself, and will find that it pays to exploit it. The climate is "frosty, but kindly". The tremendous snow-fall lends a picturesqueness to the city and mountain and offers facilities for winter sports. The temperature, though low, is bearable because of the dry air, and strangers can hardly be convinced that the mercury is really where it is, because they cannot feel the cold. People do not stay indoors in the winter, but get out to the toboggan slides, or go snowshoeing or skiing over the lovely Mount Royal, where the pine trees are frosted and jewelled, and the City, white in its snow mantle, lies under the clear moon.

Montreal is an annual miracle. In July, one sees the river, crowded with ocean and inland craft, the workers sweltering in an almost tropical heat. In winter the St. Lawrence lies dead in a pure white shroud, and the only signs of life are the strings of *habitants'* sleighs bringing in hay and produce over the roads marked across the ice by little fir trees.

The Carnival Committee worked hard with too much of criticism and too little of support. Next year they will succeed better, especially if they include a Summer Carnival along with a Winter one.

If the railways remain obdurate, let the Committee hold a Convention; let them issue tickets of membership at say a couple of dollars; then the members can claim the usual single fare terms to attend the "Ice Palace Convention", and every one will be pleased. Besides saving the visitors in the matter of railway fares, it would be a source of revenue to the Committee.

Locally, the Committee might induce retailers who benefit by visitors to contribute, by printing a list of the supporters in the Official Programme, and asking visitors to purchase from these firms.

## Municipal Housekeeping

The Woman's Municipal League of New York City, which is now 14 years old, having been founded in 1904 by Mrs. Charles Russell Lowell, has a very admirable motto to live up to—"We are Municipal Housekeepers". The purpose of the League is "to promote among women an intelligent interest in municipal affairs, and to aid in securing permanent good government for Greater New York without regard to party or sectional lines."

Such a purpose is one which deserves success, and the League can look back with pride upon what it has been able to accomplish, and with confidence to the battles which lie before it for the improvement of the great city.