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Fort William first attained prominence within modern times when in 1874 it became an important base of operations during the construction of a portion of the first Canadian transcontinental railway by the Dominion Government. Shortly afterwards, this portion of the line was handed over to the Canadian Pacific Railway, and only a small settlement survived the activity of the construction period.

The Lake terminals and elevators of the Canadian Pacific Railway were consolidated at this point in 1890, and formed the nucleus of the present city. In 1896 the population had reached 2,500, and the first waterworks system was installed. The supply was taken from the Kaministiquia River and delivered to the mains, unfiltered, by two Northey duplex compound pumps, each of a rated capacity of 750,000 imperial gallons per 24 hours.

In 1905 the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway selected Fort William as the terminus of its Lake Superior branch, over which it expects to handle the major portion of its grain and freight traffic during the season of navigation. This fact, combined with an immediate increase of population, foreshadowed the necessity of increased pumping capacity, or the utilization of some other source of water supply.

Six miles south of the city, beyond the Kaministiquia River, set in the midst of high basaltic hills, is a lake of 10 square miles in area, with a watershed of 30 square miles, named by the Chippewas, Kazazeekeegewalgamag, "The high lake that is always overflowing," but a patriotic Scotsman of the Northwest Company thought it sufficiently like the original Loch Lomond, and so it is named to-day.

Loch Lomond is 332 feet above the level of Lake Superior, and is surrounded by bold, rocky hills, varying from two to nine hundred feet above the level of the Loch, forming a portion of the northwest coast range of Lake Superior. Its shore line is, for the most part, steep and rugged, with occasional sheer cliffs of from one to five hundred feet in height.

The Loch probably averages about 75 feet in depth. Some soundings exceeding 350 feet have, however, been made.

The water is soft, of a good white colour, and the analysis of many samples by Dr. John A. Amyot, the Provincial Government bacteriologist and chemist, has failed to reveal any sign of chemical pollution or the presence of harmful bacteria. It contains one part of chlorine per million.

The Loch has one natural outlet on the east side, about two miles from its northern extremity, through which the overflow is discharged into Lake Superior by the Carp River, one and a half miles in length.

The water is shut off from which end precipitous

There the main the drain

The water formerly ravages of the original poplar.

The normal level of the lake recorded by Arthur, is 15 inches above the 6,500,000 gallons per 24 hours three years ago the Lake normal. The spring time of greater than 70,000,000 gallons per a population bounds of served for

In proportion of the city than one makes the even consumption

The Loch Lomond supply, but a mile in length for many years, since 1903, brief