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TORONTO WATERWORKS.

The water works department of the city of Toronto, Ontario, seems to be in a very unsatisfactory state, notwithstanding the vast amounts of money which have been spent and still being spent on it. How Toronto, with such a fine location, contiguous to Lake Ontario, should be so circumstanced, it is difficult to imagine or explain.

It seems that this department has been bungled from the very beginning, and instead of the citizens profiting by the sad experience of the past, they are unaccountably clinging to a similar policy, which, to say the least of it, is quite unworthy of the Queen City of the West and inconsistent with a go-ahead progressive people.

The citizens of Toronto must either be a careless, long-suffering people, or held in political aldermanic bondage, otherwise such a deplorable state of affairs would not be permitted by any ordinary free and enlightened community such as they are. The water for city purposes is obtained direct from the Lake Ontario by means of pumping; and in this alone we believe the correct plan has been adopted—notwithstanding all that may be said at present in favor of bringing water from Lake Simcoe, by Granby, a distance of about 40 miles.

The methods and appliances in detail for the procuring of a suitable supply of water direct from Lake Ontario in most respects appear to be singularly defective and inefficient, while in point of economy they are ruinous in the extreme.

How long such a state of matters will be allowed to continue it is impossible to say, because at present there are no indications of carrying out reform or even improvement, excepting the one fact that the present Mayor and some few members of Council, among whom is included the Chairman of Water Works

Committee, seem desirous of investigating matters with a view to elaborate a scheme for the better control and management of this most important department.

We sincerely trust they may be successful and that they will be honestly supported in Council in rectifying matters before it is hopelessly too late.

Part of the scheme is to appoint a water works' superintendent and manager, which in most other cities seems to work well. We believe if an energetic and conscientious gentleman, possessing practical knowledge and experience with professional engineering ability, is appointed, a very marked improvement would gradually show and far more than pay for the extra outlay of a few thousand dollars.

If any other considerations than the above should influence and enter into the appointment of a water works' manager, the results will be disappointing and wrecked by non-fulfillment.

With a constantly changing Council it is impossible to keep the official machinery in a high state of efficiency, without having able and conscientious heads in each department, and the water works department requires more professional ability than most people imagine. There should be no rule of thumb, work and guessing, but facts, figures and calculations rather than dogmas ought to prevail.

The present pumping appliances have hardly capacity enough to cope with the growing demands of the city, and the winter which has just closed confirmed the wisdom of a former Council's action in contracting for the immediate construction and erection of new pumping engines.

The absolute necessity and importance of having at once additional pumping power was more than fully established during the cold spells of January and February, 1885.

The new engines contracted for are being built by a local engineering firm to designs made up and furnished by a mechanical engineer in Cleveland, Ohio, in conjunction with the engineer in charge of pumping station and the contracting engineering firm in Toronto.

With such a combination the citizens are led to expect good results, and pumping engines of no inferior merit, not only as regards pumping the desired quantity of water, but distributing it to the citizens at a