

COAST TO COAST.

Montreal, Que.—The claims of ship owners, confirmed to a certain extent by records, that the level of the river and great lakes is being constantly lowered, principally by drainage operations, is about to be subjected to a practical test which should prove convincing to the most skeptical. According to information obtained to-day, the gauges between Port Arthur and Quebec, which are to be used in making the test, are now all in position by a special commission consisting of Prof. Haskell, of Cornell University, V. W. Forneret, chief engineer of the ship-channel and W. J. Stewart, chief hydrographer to the marine department. As the United States minister of-war did not grant the application made by the Chicago drainage authorities last year for permission to increase the quantity of water they are entitled to take from Lake Michigan, the results of the tests are awaited with interest in shipping circles.

Victoria, B.C.—“The most important thing which the forestry convention did when it met at Winnipeg recently, was to pass a resolution urging upon the various provincial governments the importance of making provision for the teaching of forestry in the new universities.”

That is the opinion of Mr. H. G. McMillan, the chief forester of the provincial government, who has just returned to the city after making an extensive visit of the forestry station in the interior, in company with Mr. O. W. Price, consulting forester to the government, who is here in connection with his engagement to assist in the establishment of the new department.

“What the future will demand in this province is forestry engineering and the university must provide the men and the methods. We have to develop trained forest rangers and make a study of forest engineering, for by the present look of things it appears inevitable that the logging of the future will be done by machinery. That I think was the most important thing the convention did, at all events so far as this province is concerned. There were two notable subjects discussed, namely, the extension of the civil service idea as applied to forestry and the encouragement of tree planting on the prairies. The prominence given to the last mentioned subject is perhaps best explained by stating that the convention took place in Winnipeg, where tree planting is a business.

“Since attending the convention I have been making a round of the interior stations, including Vernon, Cranbrook, Nelson, Kamloops and Vancouver and I must say that everything appears to be in good shape. The fire period is now upon us; the vegetation is extremely dry in places and the danger imminent. It will require the very closest application to business to prevent losses. Pretty good work is being done all along the line in the making of permanent improvements. You must understand that our trouble does not end at this season with merely telling people that they must not light fires. Fires will exist and it is our business to keep as close to them as possible in order to prevent them from spreading over large areas. Communication is our best weapon in this work and during the past few months we have been perfecting as far as possible our system of communication.”

Quebec, Que.—After many complaints of the poor condition of the road, leading from the city to Lake Beauport, the Hon. J. E. Caron, Minister of Roads and the Hon. C. Delage, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, have gone over the road with a view of securing some improvement. Lake

Beauport is a beautiful spot, but the wretched roads prevent the extensive use of carriages or motors.

Vancouver, B.C.—For the purpose of taking up the question of a municipally owned power plant, Ald. McSpadden and Ald. McMaster were appointed by Mayor Baxter to act on a joint committee of representatives from the municipalities in Greater Vancouver.

The latest of numerous resolutions from ratepayers' associations, urging civic action towards a municipal power plant, came before the city council recently, from Kerrisdale Ratepayers' Association. It suggested a committee to gather information as to the operation of such a plant and the profits that might be derived from it, from cities which had made the experiment. Ald. Crowe favored a similar commission to that taking care of the sewerage system. He later, proposed the motion that the mayor appoint two delegates to a joint committee. Ald. McSpadden was chosen as chairman of the British Columbia Electric committee of the council.

At the last meeting of the city council, when a similar resolution came in from a ratepayers' association, it was referred to Mayor Baxter, who had intimated that the government was making a survey and a record of the water powers of the province. It was said that Mayor Baxter might look out for one for Vancouver.

Calgary, Alta.—Ald. M. C. Costello has signified the intention of proposing that the city take steps to investigate the question of filtering the water so that it will be pure and clean all the year around.

“Though the medical health officer tells us that even when the water is muddy the bacteriological count is very low, it seems to me that it is a bad thing to have muddy water at all. It must make a bad impression on visitors who come here and bad impressions are bad advertising. When we were in Saskatoon at the convention of the union of Canadian municipalities we had an opportunity to look over the filtration plant of that city and it struck us as being a most excellent scheme.

“A filtration scheme is greatly needed in Calgary, I think,” he continued. “There is nothing like getting pure water. Though I hardly think there is any danger from the muddy water we have at times, it is my opinion that we should take no chances. The clearer and purer the water is, the better. The dirt should be taken out. Dirty water does not look pure and visitors to the city who turn the tap and are rewarded by a flow of dirty water, carry away a bad impression. It would pay the city in a great many ways to establish a filtration plant.

“In Saskatoon they have a small plant of small capacity, but Calgary would need one five or six times as large. Calgary needs eight or ten millions of gallons of water per day, while they get along in Saskatoon on one-fifth of that.

“I believe the very best possible system should be installed, if the scheme is viewed favorably. What that system is would have to be found out. Sand, charcoal, gravel, etc., are used in such systems.”

Calgary, Alta.—City Water Engineer A. Ellison Fawkes reported to Commissioner A. G. Graves that the survey which the city is running to determine the cost of a pipe line for a mountain water supply has now been completed to within two miles of the present intake on the Elbow River. Mr. Fawkes estimates that it will require about two weeks more for the survey gang to get down to the present city reservoir, when the survey will be complete.

The work of compiling the data to secure estimates of the cost of the line is already under way and when finished will be most voluminous and complete.