

By Mr. Steele:

Q. How would our winter weather affect that?—A. I have here in my hand the answer to that. Birmingham was mentioned the other day, (and we all know what English weather is) and I have here a report on their large filter beds, together with a picture. I think this picture (showing land covered with snow) will answer your question.

The CHAIRMAN.—They have but little frost there.

The WITNESS.—If they have such difficulty in a comparatively mild English winter, what trouble would we not have in our Canadian climate!

By Mr. Steele:

Q. Our severe weather practically puts beds out of consideration?—A. Unless in many instances they are covered. In Germany, which has severe winters, they are experimenting along that line in the treatment of sewage in a few small towns at present, but it is only in the experimental stage. We will have the experience of Saskatchewan cities before long, as to how their plants are working out, but I am satisfied that in many parts of Canada there will have to be a certain amount of protection for the beds. In some places, even in Great Britain, they have gone so far as to warm the beds in the experimental plants they have installed there, so that the treatment of sewage can go on despite the frost. That, I think, is another evidence that the whole question of sewage treatment has not reached a finality. Sanitary science, both in chemistry and bacteriology, like any other branch of science, is progressive, and that is evidenced in every plant that you visit. Take the city of London, England, which treats its sewage to-day with lime. It is now carrying on experiments to see whether they cannot get a better purification of their sewage.

Q. Would you say that up to the present any practical method of treating sewage that would be within the means of a small Canadian municipality has been found?—A. So far as I know, the plants in Saskatchewan have been working satisfactorily. In that connection, I might refer to the *Public Service Monthly*, published at Regina by the provincial government, which contains an article on the work that is being done in connection with the pollution of streams in Saskatchewan.

Q. What method are they pursuing there?—A. I will just read from the report:—

“The Bureau of Health has continued to impress on all municipalities the grave lesson to be learned from the lack of foresight of older communities, and our towns and cities have been quick to realize that a system of sewage is not a convenience but a sanitary necessity, and that the very object aimed at in its installation, namely, the protection of the public health, may be defeated if some efficient treatment is not provided to render the effluent incapable of supporting the germs of disease.

As a result of this policy, there are at present eight sewage disposal plants in operation in Saskatchewan.”

I think that is splendid work for such a Province.

“In seven of these installations, the sewage is treated by biological filtration, in addition to sedimentation, and a filter is being added to the remaining plant this year.”

That is to say, after sedimentation had removed the grosser part of the sludge, the sewage was further treated by biological filtration.

“Further, plans for ten additional sewage disposal installations for various towns, have been submitted to the Bureau, and these works should be in commission before the end of the year.

This means, that at the close of the present year, the sewage from all the cities and thirteen towns in the province, representing about one-third of the total