

abounding energy and manufacturing industry of the country which expands itself on water powers and water privileges, throwing upon the rivers and streams the irresponsible onus of getting rid as best they may of the injurious and worthless products of their chemical and cleansing operations. Now, after many years of stream and river pollution, after actions for damages which have turned into the pockets of landowners and lawyers, the accumulation of profits of years of manufacturing industry, a Royal Commission is proposed to take the whole subject into consideration, and to place limits on the rights of individuals and communities to use or abuse the streams and flowing waters which flow past their land, and to enable the State to hold these in trust for the benefit of the community at large.

If, as a Dominion, we are wise, we shall, as good and intelligent children, avail ourselves of those great moral and social lessons which our parents in the Old Country have learned at a large cost, both of expense, annoyance, and personal ruin.

The law is as simple as Divine revelation can make it. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." If individuals, or companies, or corporations, seize upon common property and undertake public distribution of the benefits derivable therefrom, they are bound by every moral principle to see to it that in serving themselves and their communities they are doing no injury to any one—and if the moral instinct is blind, deaf or halt, the State is bound to step in to the rescue of the citizen.

"I buy meat or vegetables the municipal law protects me, and I have a remedy against the seller if the meat be bad. If I buy milk, I am supposed by some occult by-law of the City Council to be protected from buying milk and water, (how this works I am not prepared to say) but as Dogberry says "It is the law." But if I buy water, the Corporation is the seller and the law-maker too, and I must hold my peace and pay my taxes. I get water, more or less, generally more. More by sand and sediment, more by consequent plumber's repairs. More by fish, alive and dead, "*en gros et en detail*." More on "*de tail*" when they stop by their fragments the water-taps. More on "*de gros*" when they breed and multiply in the fish-pools of Heshbon, near Raven's Crag, where nets would break if we vainly attempted to capture them therein.