

LONDON'S WATER SUPPLY.

Sir Melville Beachcroft, addressing a recent meeting of the First Metropolitan Water Board, referred to the great responsibility which lay upon the committee of maintaining works which were to provide an uninterrupted supply of water to nearly 7,000,000 of people, who consumed on an average something like 225 millions of gallons a day. These works were spread over an area of over 500 square miles, and reached from Hertford in the north to Westerham in the south, from Staines in the west to Southfleet in the east. Then again, the Committee were, and always would be, engaged in the execution of new works necessitated by increasing demands for water. Vast works were in actual progress; others, which would add to the storage capacity reservoir accommodation greater than that provided by the Staines reservoirs, had recently been ordered by the Board; and yet others would be required to meet the future wants. The present storage (including the Knight and Bessborough reservoirs, which were recently opened) amounted to 8,884 million gallons, and the reservoirs about to be constructed in the Lea Valley and at Molesey, would increase this volume by nearly 50 per cent.; yet even this would only provide for the immediate future. The great problem which lay before the Board—and a problem of the first importance and urgency—was the economical and efficient provision of works to meet the future needs of the Metropolis and to secure a continuance of the present excellent supply which it enjoyed. He commended this question to the earnest and careful attention of the next Board.

Some idea of the water supply system of the great metropolis is given in a paragraph from, "Popular Mechanics."

"If all the inhabitants of the earth were gathered into one place, surrounded by a wall 10 ft. high, and the annual water supply of Greater London were poured in, the reservoir would be filled to overflowing. In other words, each man, woman and child in the world could be supplied with 50 gallons a year from the city mains, which, put end to end, would cover nearly one-quarter of the earth's equator. Or, in other words, every person in London could take a 33-gal. bath daily, besides having plenty of water for drinking and other purposes. But that is just what they certainly do not do, so where does the flood of water go? Probably, as in other great cities, into breweries, slaughter houses, factories, hydraulic elevators and other industries, besides an enormous wastage. But it has to be paid for just the same—over 16 tons of gold a year is what it costs."

MUNICIPAL.

Ontario.

It is probable that extensions will shortly be made to the Chatham waterworks system.

Sir John Carling, one of the oldest residents of London, says that water for fire-fighting purposes should be taken from the river, and the drinking water from springs.

On September 14th the ratepayers of Toronto will be asked to vote on a by-law covering the expenditure of \$710,000 for a new pumping engine and other improvements to the waterworks system.

The law regarding the use of hose is to be more strictly enforced in Toronto, owing to the shortage of water during the summer months. City Engineer Rust says that indiscriminate use is made of the hose.

The net revenue for water for the Brantford waterworks for the year ending December 31, 1906, amounted to \$41,445, as compared with \$38,349 in 1905. The total expenditure amounted to \$17,871, leaving a surplus revenue for the year of \$28,994.

Manitoba.

The village of Abernethy contemplates extensive improvements during the summer, both in regard to water supply and fire protection.

The town council of Neepawa will submit a by-law to the ratepayers on July 9th to authorize the borrowing of

\$25,000 for the purpose of providing a water supply for fire protection.

The ratepayers of Brandon recently carried by-laws for civic improvements to the extent of \$129,000, including a by-law for a \$50,000 waterworks plant.

The Winnipeg Water Commission is considering the advisability of establishing a softening plant. Alexander Potter, engineer, of New York, expressed the opinion to the Mayor that a softening plant would be useless.

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy says that the two greatest problems that confront Winnipeg are the water supply and sewage systems. He stated recently: "Two problems which every great and growing city has to solve are to secure an abundant supply of pure water and to have an efficient sewerage system."

There is a movement on foot in the Winnipeg city council to delay the proposed construction of a civic power plant, the reason being given that the city cannot undertake this and the provision of a water supply at the same time, and it is held that the city is in greater need of water than of power at the present.

Saskatchewan.

A large trunk sewer is to be laid at Regina.

A concrete dam is being built at Snowy Springs, near Moosejaw.

J. D. Whitmore, city engineer of Moosejaw, is advertising for an assistant.

The town council of Indian Head has purchased the Brassey estate, by which all the section some eight miles south of Indian Head, in which are situated the excellent springs from which the water supply is drawn, passes into the ownership of the town. The price paid was \$25 per acre.

British Columbia.

The ratepayers of Victoria will vote on a by-law for \$50,000 to be expended in extensions to the sewage system.

Vernon is trying to secure an adequate water supply, and John Galt, C.E., of Toronto, is making investigations.

The municipalities of Burnaby, South Vancouver, and Richmond are considering the advisability of putting in a joint water supply for the three districts with an expert. The approximate cost of the installation has been placed at \$160,000 by Col. Tracy. A resolution was passed that each council would put a by-law before its ratepayers to enable each municipality to borrow \$100,000. It was pointed out that there was great necessity for a municipal water supply in all three districts.

Alberta.

During the summer the town of Raymond will install an electric lighting system and improve its water system.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Ontario.

Mr. James Crombie, of Hamilton, won the first prize at the joint convention of the International Railway Boiler Makers' Association and the Master Steam Boiler Makers' Association, held in the city of Cleveland, for his essay on "How to Heat and Drive Steel Rivets." Mr. Crombie is the foreman boilermaker at the works of the Sawyer & Massey Co.

Mr. K. L. Aitken, of Toronto, an electrolysis expert, has finished making his tests in Hamilton, and his report will be in the hands of Mr. Barrow, city engineer, shortly. He has found many places where there is a large flow of current in the pipes, but in the excavations so far made no material damage has been discovered. Advice will be given Mr. Barrow as to what precautions are to be taken in connection with the matter.

Quebec.

Mr. Thomas Britt, chief clerk of the fuel department of the Canadian Pacific Railway, has been appointed acting general fuel agent, with office in Montreal.

New Brunswick.

Mr. Robert Donaldson, who has operated a locomotive on the Fredericton branch of the C.P.R. for over a quarter of a century, has been pensioned. He will receive \$25.35 per month for the remainder of his life.