

## YORK TOWNSHIP HAS NEW WATER SUPPLY.

York Township is situated north and west of the City of Toronto, occupies an area of about 54,725 acres, and has an estimated population of about 34,000. The portions contiguous to the North and West City limits, covering an area of approximately 5,500 acres and constituting the water supply sections, have a population of about 25,000, and this is rapidly increasing. The total taxable assessment of the Township in 1918 amounted to \$24,204,934, of which about \$11,000,000 was on property included in the water supply areas, extending from the vicinity of Avenue Road on the West to the River Humber and from Weston to the Lake Front.

As there was no municipal water supply available in the urban parts of the Township, excepting for a short distance on a few streets adjoining the City of Toronto, house owners had to sink wells. The large number of such wells, more or less shallow in depth, and the location of cess-pools in a populous district, rendered the sanitary conditions to be unsatisfactory, and a menace to the inhabitants of the Township. Furthermore, there is an intimate inter-communication between the Township and the City, by virtue of the fact that a large number of workpeople who dwell in the Township are employed in the City, and moreover, many are engaged in munition works or in different vocations allied to munitions.

As there was a danger of contamination due to the proximity of cess-pools to the water wells, and owing to the serious handicap and expense of having to dig wells which often proved to be inadequate and had to be abandoned, the inhabitants during the last three or four years became most insistent that a comprehensive scheme of water works should be installed by the township. The Council gave this matter every consideration and endeavoured to find a satisfactory and economic solution. They succeeded by negotiations with the Toronto City Corporation to obtain the necessary supply from the city system; terms were agreed upon and special legislative powers from the Ontario Parliament were applied for and obtained in 1916 and 1917.

After receiving the necessary authority, plans and specifications were prepared by the Engineer, Mr. Frank Barber, of Toronto, for the more essential trunk mains, these were approved by the Provincial Board of Health, the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board, and the City Commissioner of Works, Toronto. The city authorities have the right to inspect the works as they progress, as it is anticipated that some day the limits of the City of Toronto may be extended to include parts of these areas.

Contracts were let and mains were laid in 1917 and 1918, made up of 13,800 feet of 24-inch and 42,529 of 12-inch, or 10½ miles.

The 24-inch trunk main constitutes the principal artery of the system so far as it applies to Section A. and had to be constructed before it was possible to obtain a permanent supply in that Section. The 12-inch mains are neces-

sary to afford the foundation of a satisfactory distribution and circulation of the water supply. Consequently, it was expedient to construct these in the first part of the programme of construction. The cost of the 24-inch trunk main is to be raised by a special rate on all the rateable property in Section A. The cost of the 12-inch mains is to be divided; 55 per cent of the entire cost of the mains together with the entire cost of the measuring equipments on the same is to be raised by a special rate on all rateable property in the two Sections, whilst the balance of 45 per cent is to be raised on local improvement basis and specially assessed on lots fronting and abutting directly on the works.

The Council undertakes to lay water mains, only where it considers that they are urgently required and can be of immediate use to the residents, so as to improve the conditions already referred to. The six-inch mains are laid as local improvements, that is, the Council finances the work and will be refunded the cost by the property owners in annual installments during a period of ten years. Building operations for about four years have been reduced to very small dimensions, compared with the needs of the district, because of the war and the difficulty of obtaining materials and labor at a reasonable price. There is a demand for houses, and when peace is declared the demand will be much intensified. It is therefore deemed expedient, as far as possible, to prepare facilities to home builders, and to organize for future employment of the returned soldiers.

During the season of 1918 about forty 6-inch reticulation or distributing mains were laid extending over a total length of about ten and a half miles.

The entire work was carried out under the direction of Mr. R. O. Wynne-Roberts, C.E., who is associated with Mr. Frank Barber.

## A CHANCE FOR CANADIAN CONSUMERS.

Consumers of Canada have now an opportunity of ascertaining whether the prices they pay for foodstuffs are reasonable and fair or possible extortions by alleged profiteers. All they have to do in each municipality in Canada is to ask their municipal council to appoint a Fair Price Committee to investigate the prices asked by retailers and to draw conclusions as to whether these prices are fair and reasonable. These Fair Price Committees will then publish their findings in the form of lists.

In this way the consumers will make sure whether they are paying prices which are unreasonable and unfair or not. It may be that the prices which the Committee considers to be fair and reasonable will not be any lower than the present prices charged by retailers. In some cases they may be higher. But that need not bother the consumer so long as he is satisfied through the investigation of the impartial Fair Price Committee within his own municipality that the prices published indicate a fair and reasonable standard to guide both consumer and retailer, having in mind war conditions and the unsettling of pre-war prices.

If there is a desire on the part of the consumers to find out just where they stand in regard to prices which they have to pay for foodstuffs, they now have a golden opportunity to have the matter dealt with once and for all under the provisions of the recent Order-in-Council, fathered by the Department of Labor, relative to the appointment of municipal Fair Price Committees.

In some quarters it is said that Fair Price Committees will not solve the food problem present in most households. It may be pertinent to suggest that municipal Fair Price Committees first should be given a chance to show that they can find a solution before the principle of municipal Fair Price Committees is condemned out of hand. It is a good rule to support measures that seem to tend in the right direction. A similar program has been effected in the United States.

The virtue of this Order-in-Council, giving authority to municipalities to appoint Fair Price Committees to investigate the prices consumers have to pay, lies in the publicity that will be given to the findings. In this way public opinion will be informed, and enlightened public opinion may be trusted to co-operate in all national food efforts if it knows the facts. You can always give anything a thorough trial once.

## A NATIONAL DEBT.—(Continued).

flowers and perpetuate their memory. In France (where patriotism is closely associated with religion, and understood in a very literal sense), we find they have the most profound respect for the dead of their allies as well as their own, and have already formed a powerful association headed by the President of the Republic, to tend with the deepest respect the graves of all allies' soldiers whose mortal remains rest in French soil, and it can be confidently assumed from the tone of a letter sent out by this association to "The Fathers and Mothers, of our departed heroes" throughout the North American Continent, that no ex-soldier of her allies will reach an unknown grave, in France.

Turning our attention to our Ally on the South — the United States—we find that it is the one and only nation in the world whose Capitol and State Governments make provision for the contingency of death of their ex-soldiers and sailors, and to prevent abandonment in the last extremity each and every State in the Union makes a money grant ranging from \$40 to \$75 for funeral expenses, with a grave in one of the National Cemeteries.

Is it not high time that we in Canada should rise to the occasion and in support of our repeated profession of loyalty to our boys at the front, see to it that when they return, many of them doomed to a shortened period of life, they will not be the objects of charity at death.