

Pollution of Water Supplies

NON-
NAVIGABLE
WATERS.

First, Non-Navigable Waters:—These include the many small lakes and streams upon which vessels do not ply, and which, either directly or indirectly, are tributary to the larger bodies of water. Where they flow through an agricultural district, they are subject to pollution from the cultivated fields where manure is used as a fertilizer, and by the drainage from barn yards and the cattle themselves. It is into these bodies of water we frequently find that factories discharge their waste and sewage in an untreated state and often into them the raw sewage of inland municipalities is poured regardless of consequences. Fortunately, these bodies of water are rarely selected as the source of a public water supply and the discharge of a relatively small amount of sewage into them brings about no serious conditions. But with the gradual increase in the amount discharged consequent upon the increase of population and the extension of sewers, the waters become discoloured, the bed of the stream or lake becomes befouled, while upon the surface a scum appears and conditions which may be styled offensive and dangerous are established. In short, a nuisance is created, and if allowed to continue it becomes impossible for the water to be used either for man or animal. And further, the streams discharging into larger bodies of water are often a menace to municipalities taking their supplies from the larger bodies of water to which they are tributary. These smaller bodies of water more frequently lie within provincial boundaries and, as a rule, can be dealt with by provincial laws administered by provincial boards of health. It happens now and again that they are