

cloths are put in place and carefully adjusted there is a powerful screw with a long wrench by means of which these plates are screwed together and rigidly held, and the water entering into the filter has to pass through the cloths in order to get out of the filter. Each one of these plates within itself is a small compartment, the walls of which are cloth, and as the water is under pressure of about seven pounds, and the cloth is not water proof, the water passes through the cloth and deposits on the surface whatever small amount of chalk or carbonate of lime, together with a small amount of magnesia, the water may contain. The cloth is of such close texture that it is impossible for any sediment or precipitate in the water to get through, therefore, the water coming from the filters is absolutely clear and bright.

These filters run two or three days before it is necessary to clean them. The cleaning is done by unscrewing the press and taking out the cloths which are then dropped into a small tank, and the bulk of the precipitate or chalk which clings to the cloths is immediately washed off. The cloths are then taken from the tank and placed in an ordinary rotary washing machine run by power from a shaft in the lime room. The washing machine holds about twenty-five or thirty cloths and takes about five minutes to thoroughly wash this number. The cloths are then removed and hung on a rack, and are soon ready to be put back into the filters. There are a large number of cloths provided so that as soon as those having the precipitate upon them are taken out, clean cloths are put in.

The water which comes from the filters passes into a concrete reservoir about 45 feet wide, 75 feet long and 15 feet deep. There is a pipe located in the bottom of this reservoir, which connects with the large engine and through this the softened water is drawn to be pumped to the city.

On account of the large volume of cold water in the building the temperature of the air either in winter or summer, varies only from about 55 to 65 degrees. The exposure of the water in the softening plant is of such duration that it leaves the plant practically as cool as it enters it.

The saving in soap and the fact that water-backs of ranges will not become clogged up at all or out slightly, and that the boilers throughout the city which use the city water will gradually become clean and stay clean, should fully repay the citizens for the additional cost, which will probably not exceed three cents per thousand gallons.

The plant is the largest water softening plant in the world, and is the first in the western hemisphere for a municipal waterworks. The first plant of this kind for municipal waterworks was built at Southampton, England, and has a capacity of 600,000 gallons per day less than the Winnipeg plant. There was far more trouble experienced in getting the Southampton plant running and in proper shape than was ever experienced at Winnipeg, notwithstanding that the problem of softening water in Winnipeg was far more difficult.

MUNICIPAL COAL DEPOTS.

Mayor Howland, of Toronto, has sent the following letter in reply to the circular sent out by Mayor Morris, of Ottawa, regarding the establishment of municipal coal depots:

"I am in receipt of your circular letter of the 16th, for which I thank you. It is evident that you reach the possibilities of Canadian monopolies. The question raised by you is an important one, and will be a proper subject for discussion soon or later. The only question of policy is whether we should not endeavor to limit the business of the first meeting to one or two pressing and important points upon which there may be expected to be considerable unity, so that they may be disposed of in an effective manner. Other suggestions may, perhaps, be received from other quarters, and in due time I propose to submit a programme for the present meeting about which I shall be glad to consult you. I may say that there every appearance that the conference will be successful as a representative meeting, favorable replies having been received from Galt, Brockville, Berlin, Perth, Westmount, Brampton, John, N.B., New Westminster, B.C., London, Cornwall, Port Arthur, Fredericton, William, Winnipeg, Chatham, and other places."

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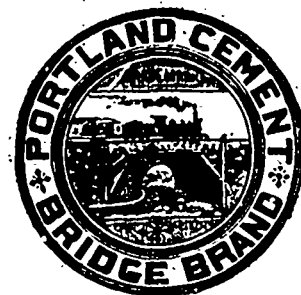
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