

In his report of 1899, the Engineer informs us that "The quality of the water would improve vastly were the remainder of the roots, sunken trees, and other rubbish removed from this pond. It has an area of 46 acres, varying in depth up to 20 feet, and fully half of this is merely a submerged forest. It can not be thoroughly cleaned so long as it remains our only service reservoir. The operation of two years ago had a magical effect in cleansing the water; whereas, in the last sample of water examined under the microscope prior to the cleaning, 470 bacteria were found in the cubic centimetre, now there are only 60." He also repeats his statement that "The lands surrounding the lake should all be acquired."

Can better evidence be required than the above report to establish the fact that the so-called reservoir is nothing but a "settling basin" for the debris and germs that flow down the river? And it would be interesting to learn why the "magical effect" produced in the water, by the little cleaning the pond received in 1897, was not repeated until this year; and why the authorities would assume the responsibility of ignoring the advice of their Engineer upon a point so vital. Surely, when money can be found for exhibitions, etc., it should be forthcoming to prevent sickness. I am very glad to learn that the land surrounding the pond has been purchased, thereby preventing such an exhibition as existed in 1898.

This state of affairs is not new. In my report as member of the Provincial Board of Health in 1888, I brought this subject under the notice of the authorities. I said the colour of the water is more brown than it should be. This colour is produced by the decomposition of leaves and stumps of dead trees allowed to remain in the reservoir, which should be immediately removed; a fence should be placed round it, and it should be carefully protected from drainage of all kinds. Yet nothing was done since that period until 1897. If my appeal was considered worthless, another opinion should have been obtained.