

Criminal Code

department of health, sanitary engineering division, on the pollution of the Ottawa river and its tributaries, a copy of which I have in my hand. As the house will see, it is an exceedingly detailed document with many charts and tables setting forth the samples which were taken from different parts of the river or different parts of its tributaries. This is a document prepared with great skill, and it is a document of great interest.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): You refer to Dr. Berry's report?

Mr. Bell (Carleton): It is prepared under the direction of Dr. Berry, one of the most skilful sanitary engineers on this continent.

Without trying to follow the detailed evidence which is here presented I should like to refer to a few of the statements which are made and the conclusions which are drawn in this report. I should like to quote, in the first instance, from page 22, under the heading "Metropolitan Ottawa Area from Aylmer to Green creek". It reads:

The raw sewage discharged to the Ottawa river from Aylmer, Deschenes, Hull, Ottawa, Eastview, Rockcliffe Park, Gatineau Point, Gatineau Mills and Rockcliffe Airport-Manor Park district causes extensive bacterial contamination to the river which persists for almost forty miles downstream.

The resulting pollution is not difficult to imagine. At the Rideau locks sewer outfall, tourists taking the sightseeing tour down the Ottawa river on pleasure boats first have to pass through a patch of water where floating faeces, toilet tissue, condoms, oil, soapy water and other debris can be seen.

Then the report goes on to speak of the discharge from the various sewers in the area. At page 23 it discusses the discharge of industrial wastes into the Ottawa river in this particular area. I quote:

In addition to the municipal sewage, heavy contamination results from the discharge of industrial wastes to the Ottawa river.

Nine sewer outfalls from the E. B. Eddy Company carry waste sulphite liquor, fibre, wood particles and small amounts of bark. The quantity of waste discharged is estimated to be greater than the combined effluent from the Ottawa sanitary sewers. Although samples were not made available, it is estimated that the biochemical oxygen demand of the waste is equivalent to the domestic sewage from a population of one million.

Then it speaks of other industries in the area and proceeds to go on to speak of the Canadian International Paper Company, Gatineau Mills, which has seven trade wastes sewer outfalls discharging into the Ottawa river. It states as follows:

The total waste flow from the seven sewers is approximately forty seven million gallons per day....

The total waste effluent from this plant has a biochemical oxygen demand equivalent to the sewage effluent from a city of one and one-half million persons.

In fairness to the pulp mills I have mentioned I think it should be said that no industry has spent as much on research in an endeavour to reduce and neutralize the contaminating effect of the waste from these plants. On this matter I hope to have an opportunity later to say a word. But the conclusion of this section of the report is this:

It is estimated from the analysis of the industrial waste samples collected, the population of the metropolitan area of Ottawa and Hull and assumptions made on the waste from the E. B. Eddy Co., waste that the combined biochemical oxygen demand of all the pollutants discharged to the Ottawa river in this area is equivalent to the B.O.D. of the sanitary waste from a city of three million persons.

I should now like to refer to one or two further statements on page 29 of the report under the heading "Ottawa River at Ottawa". It states:

The remainder of this section of the Ottawa river from the Chaudiere falls to Green creek consistently showed a heavy coliform index, with each sampling range showing points where the number of coliforms per 100 millilitres reached the hundred of thousands, indicating that conditions of gross pollution existed.

I repeat those words "indicating that conditions of gross pollution existed". Further on it states this:

Taken altogether, the results of the analyses conclusively indicate that the Ottawa river below the Chaudiere falls was quickly transformed into a heavily polluted river.

Then at page 30 this report deals with the situation from Ottawa to Pointe Fortune and states as follows:

The Ottawa river below Ottawa as far as the last sampling range at Pointe Fortune on the Ontario-Quebec border showed extensive bacteriological pollution over the entire distance. Each sampling range gave high coliform counts, and at no point in this section of the river did the analyses indicate that the bacterial contamination had abated.

This shocking analysis of the condition of the Ottawa river—and how could one describe it other than shocking?—must point up in vivid fashion the necessity of decisive and drastic action. The report of Dr. A. E. Berry was, as hon. gentlemen know, before the joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons on the federal district commission at the session of 1956. It is not surprising that the first recommendation of that committee, the joint chairman of which was the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Dumas), dealt with this problem. From the report as it appears at page 1052 of the minutes of proceedings of the committee, I read the following:

(1) We think that a project of basic importance to be undertaken and completed in the national capital area should be the elimination of the causes of pollution in the Ottawa river. It seems to your committee that the purpose of the beautification