

Commission of Conservation

as a source of domestic supply, even for years after the installation of the purest public water supply possible. Not even the temptations of the modern bath-room will lure them from the wells, although Augean stables and privy pits innumerable pollute the crystalline contents of the uncleared depths and the daily quota of domestic slops from surrounding houses are offered up on the earth around as a libation to the goddess of ignorance, and incidentally, to the death and destruction of members of their own households.

In looking for and in deciding upon the source of any particular public water supply, the authorities concerned naturally seek for quantity sufficient to supply the demand for domestic and manufacturing purposes and fire protection, and for quality to satisfy the critical public with a bright, clear, palatable water, having in view that the former must be sufficient at all seasons of the year, not only for present needs, but for the ever-increasing demands consequent upon growth in population. The quality must be as nearly uniform as possible at all seasons, of reasonable hardness and yet not too hard to permit of the use of the water for manufacturing purposes, and of colour and taste to please the palate and satisfy the eye of the critical public who have to be reckoned with as the prospective consumers. These considerations, coupled with those of method of operation, financial questions, and others not of a sanitary character, have all to be considered.

The natural sources of supply generally in Canada must be the rivers and lakes. They may be divided into two classes for purposes of description and consideration, viz.: the non-navigable and the navigable:—