

THE OTTAWA RIVER STORAGE SYSTEMS

A SCHEME TO STEADY THE FLOW FOR THE PRODUCTION OF POWER—TO INCREASE THE DEPTH FOR PURPOSES OF NAVIGATION AND TO IMPROVE THE POTABILITY OF THE WATER.

By J. A. MACDONALD

HYGIENIC experts agree that the extreme low level of the Ottawa River at certain times in the year is a big contributing force, not only to the diminution of the capacity of the scores of water-powers on the river, but also, and probably to a more serious extent, to the health of the people living contiguous to the river. It is conceivable that with the subsidence of the full flow of the stream, deposits of deleterious matter are scoured by the shallow currents, and car-

It is now over four years since work was begun on a scheme of conservation of the waters of the Ottawa by means of reservoirs created by the construction of dams at the outlets of several of the large lake expansions on the upper reaches of the river. The first, upon which considerable progress has been made, is situated at the foot of Lake Timiskaming. To store the waters of the Kipawa, a tributary of the Ottawa flowing into Lake Timiskaming, another dam is being built, and about fifteen miles above

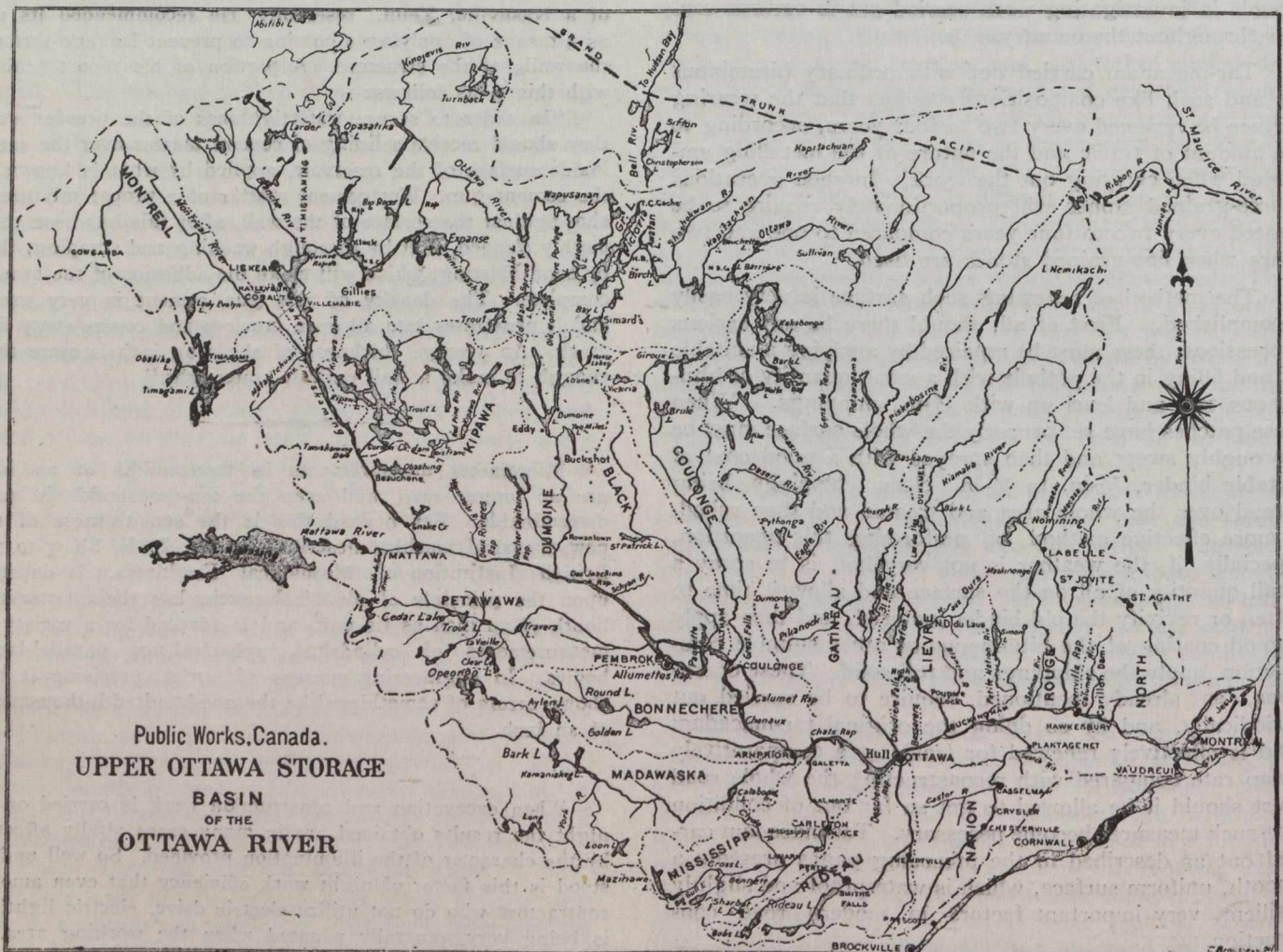


Fig. 1.

ried into the intake pipes of the various waterworks systems drawing their supply from the Ottawa. At all events, the sedimentary pollution would be delivered in a more concentrated form under such conditions than if a normal level had been maintained. And it is an observed fact that, the occurrence of sickness due to impure drinking water synchronizes with the periods of extreme low water in the river. This is particularly true of the city of Ottawa.

the head of the Timiskaming on the reach of the Ottawa, known as the Quinze, a third dam is in course of construction. This dam will store the waters of the Quinze and Expanse Lakes. The execution of these important works has been placed by the late Minister of Public Works in charge of Mr. C. R. Coutlee, C.E., a leading authority in hydraulics, who has made an exhaustive survey of the drainage areas of the Ottawa and its tributaries, and who has been given direction of the entire storage scheme.