

# THE SANITARY REVIEW

## THE PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH AND TORONTO'S WATER SUPPLY.

The Provincial Board of Health of Ontario administers one of the best-equipped chemical and bacteriological laboratories in Canada under the direction of a renowned and most efficient health chemist.

Dr. Amyot is known not only in Canada but throughout the whole American continent for his research and experimental work in the causes and prevention of zymotic diseases. The laboratory has in connection with it an experimental station, where advanced and useful work is done in water and sewage purification.

For the past twelve months exhaustive research work into the character of Toronto's water supply has been made, as well as experimental work in filtering and disinfecting the water.

Dr. Amyot, of the Provincial Board of Health, has had in his possession during the last twelve months information and deductions of a practical character, which, if applied to the water supply of Toronto, would have ensured that not a single case of typhoid could possibly have arisen from the use of the water.

Dr. Amyot's expert knowledge has been available to every municipality throughout Ontario on application to the secretary of the Provincial Board of Health.

Dr. Amyot's expert knowledge has never been made use of by the city of Toronto during its present and recent period of infected water.

Only and not until there is proof of cases of typhoid in the Province being caused by visitors, during the Exhibition period, drinking Toronto water, is data relating to the city water made public by the Provincial Board of Health.

It may be concluded that if the evils resulting from Toronto's infected water were confined to the citizens of Toronto, then Dr. Amyot's data would have remained pigeon-holed in the archives of the Provincial Board of Health.

The purposes of the Provincial Board of Health, of its laboratory, and of its experimental station, are that the whole Province may benefit in advice and administration in health matters. Toronto is the capital of the Province, but Toronto receives no advice or benefit. Why?

If Judge Winchester is to have the scope of his enquiry enlarged in order to report upon the health administration of Toronto in connection with its impure water supply, he can easily obtain evidence which will allow him to answer the question. Points of interest which His Honor might take up:—

(1) Prior to hypochlorite being used as a disinfectant to Toronto water supply, for the first time last May, as advised and recommended by T. Aird Murray (a private consulting engineer), is it a fact that Dr. Amyot had already experimented with hypochlorite and found that it was an efficient method of disinfecting Toronto water?

(2) Is it a fact that, although Dr. Amyot had sufficient knowledge to enable him to advise Toronto's Health Department as to an efficient method of killing disease germs which were acknowledged to be in the water, that such information was never asked for or made use of?

(3) Is it a fact that the M.H.O. of Toronto, who is also the chairman of the Provincial Board of Health, telephoned to Dr. Hodgetts (the then

secretary of the Provincial Board of Health) as to the application of hypochlorite at Boonton, N.Y., and never asked for information as to Dr. Amyot's experiments with hypochlorite on the city water?

(4) Is it a fact that the city of Toronto's water engineer, Mr. Fellowes, consulted with Dr. Amyot at the Engineers' Club of Toronto in April last, and was then advised to use .5 parts in 1,000,000 of chlorine, as he (Dr. Amyot) had found that this amount was necessary to disinfect the city water?

(5) Is it a fact that, in spite of this advice, never was more than .33 parts in 1,000,000 of chlorine used, or a little more than half of the required quantity?

(6) Is it a fact that Dr. Amyot's experience was substantiated in the letter to Mayor Geary sent by Mr. T. Aird Murray, in which he also advised .5 parts of chlorine?

(7) Is it a fact that during the month of May, while the M.H.O. was on a holiday, that the city water was analysed regularly both before and after chlorination, and that the results showed an average reduction of 75 per cent. of bacteria during that month?

(8) Is it a fact that on the M.H.O. returning from his holiday, he at once ordered a reduction of the amount of hypochlorite, and that comparative analysis of the water ceased to be made?

(9) Is it a fact that Dr. Amyot had the information that during periods of turbidity, caused by east winds, that the water required more hypochlorite than otherwise, and that in spite of this well-known and understood information, the amount of hypochlorite applied to the city water was never varied with reference to turbidity?

(10) Is it a fact that when North Toronto made application to the Provincial Board of Health for permission to treat its water supply with hypochlorite, that the M.H.O. of Toronto, acting as the chairman of the Board, only gave such consent on condition that comparative analyses be made of the water on each and every day it was used during the whole period of its application?

(11) If such a policy was good for North Toronto, then why not for the city of Toronto? Are lives more valuable in North Toronto than in the city?

(12) Is it a fact that Dr. Naysmith (Dr. Amyot's assistant) has made tests with the city water which show that .5 parts in 1,000,000 of chlorine added to the city water produce neither taste nor odor, and yet the reduction of the amount of chlorine to .22 was ordered by the M.H.O. in order to prevent taste and odor?

(13) Is it a fact that in the case of all the samples taken by the Provincial Board of Health during August and September, even when infection was proved present, such was at once removed by the addition of hypochlorite so as to bring the total amount added to .5 parts in 1,000,000?