Editorials.

A TRUNK SEWER FOR TORONTO.

It seems that at last the citizens of Toronto realize the chief need of the city is a trunk sewer. One of our Controllers recently expressed his surprise that the city had not been indicted long ago for maintaining a nuisance. Three methods are proposed for the disposal of the city sewage, but each one of them involves the building of a trunk sewer nine or ten miles in length.

The first proposal is to pour the sewage, after screening it, into the lake. The City Engineer and some others favor this method, and give a positive opinion that such a procedure cannot possibly contaminate the city's water supply. On the other hand, Dr. Sheard, the Medical Health Officer, who is also chairman of the Provincial Board of Health, all the other members of the Board of Health, the late Board of Health which went out of office a few months ago, and many others are decidedly opposed to such a method.

The second method proposed is to pass the sewage through septic tanks and then pump it over certain farm lands. The City Engineer suggested at one time as an alternative proposition in the treatment of the sewage, to pump it upon 600 acres of land north of Danforth Avenue. It has recently been decided, however, that this plan would not prove satisfactory.

The third proposition is to pass the sewage through septic tanks and thence into bacteria beds. The establishment of such tanks and beds would add materially to the cost.

It has been decided to go on with the building of the main sewer which is likely to occupy not less than three years. It seems not improbable that by that time there will be improvements as to methods in the treatment of sewage, and the Council can then select the method deemed best.

At the meeting of the Provincial Board of Health held Nov. 15th, the general plan of the sewer itself as explained by the Engineer was approved of, while the question of the outfall and the sewage disposal system was allowed to stand for consideration at a future time.