

Senator STAMBAUGH: None of it is used for irrigation at all?

Mr. RICHARDSON: Not so much from the reservoirs but a lot of farmers use plenty of it for irrigation in the tobacco-growing counties, particularly Norfolk county. In fact it is becoming quite a problem when everybody puts the nozzle of his pump into the stream and pumps out water for irrigation. They can quickly pull all the water out of it. The Authorities have power to control that but they have not done too much about it. Yes, there is a lot of water used for irrigation.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Richardson, is there likely to be a shortage of water in southern Ontario in the foreseeable future?

Mr. RICHARDSON: Not if we practise conservation. We have a long way to go, mind you. After all, large quantities of water are wasted in the spring in these rivers and if we could just hang on to it until the summertime it would help the situation.

Senator McGRAND: Is the deep water table lowering in southern Ontario? Have any studies been made in regard to that?

Mr. RICHARDSON: The Water Resources Commission is studying that. I think it has some data on it but to determine it accurately long-time studies have to be made. Wells are being used for testing.

Senator GOLDING: In the district where I come from, Huron, it is found that farmers have to go deeper to bring water into their wells. In fact they are now talking about bringing water in from lake Huron.

Mr. RICHARDSON: They did speak of bringing it in from Lake Erie. It is a fact that farm wells have to be drilled deeper than before.

Senator McGRAND: Is this lowering a lowering of the surface water table or a lowering of the artesian basins?

Mr. RICHARDSON: This severe lowering of the water table is more noticeable near the big cities where they are drawing a lot of water from wells. After all you can only take so much water out of the ground. Many of the methods used by conservation authorities are intended to put that water back into the ground. At one of these reservoirs which I mentioned, near the city of London, on the Thames, they have been carrying out a very successful operation on what is called water spreading. There is a permanent lake at the bottom of this reservoir and the city of London pumps this water from the lake and spreads it over a gravel bearing area, and the water sinks into the ground. They have a big pump running practically all the time. That supplements the wells from which water is drawn for the city of London. But by and large I would say the records show that the water table has receded.

Senator TAYLOR (Wesmorland): I think that condition is true in most parts of the United States, particularly in central areas.

Mr. RICHARDSON: They do a lot of water spraying especially in and around New York.

Senator TAYLOR (Westmorland): Mr. Chairman, this may seem an elementary question but what is the difference between a municipality and a county in Ontario?

Mr. RICHARDSON: A county is a municipality. Starting, say, from the bottom, the township is the basic rural area.

The CHAIRMAN: How many acres comprise a township?

Mr. RICHARDSON: They vary in size. Some may contain 10,000 or 15,000 acres and some 60,000. The next unit in size is the village, then the town and finally the city. In most cases the towns and villages—there are exceptions of course—send their reeves and deputy reeves to make up the county council.