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A NEW WATER SUPPLY FOR THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, B.C.

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(To be read before the General Section, 8th December, 1910.)

The city of Vancouver, B.C., has heretofore depended on Capilano Creek for its water supply. This creek empties into the northerly side of Burrard Inlet at a point about a mile and a half from the city. The supply has been adequate up to the present time, but owing to the recent rapid increase in the population, the necessity of securing water from another source was apparent for the following reasons:

(1) Capilano Creek at its extreme low water stage would not afford a sufficient supply for the future population.

(2) Owing to the rapid fall of this creek and its narrow valley it would be impossible to create storage reservoirs at a permissible cost.

(3) The crossing of the supply main under the First Narrows (being the entrance to Vancouver Harbour) made a dangerous point in the system, several of the submerged pipes having already been broken by ships' keels.

The City Council therefore decided to secure an additional supply from Seymour Creek. This new system is now almost completed, and the following is a description of its chief features.

Seymour Creek empties into the northerly side of Burrard Inlet at a point about three miles east of the city. It is a beautiful, clear mountain stream (except once or twice annually, when it becomes a raging torrent), and has a fall at the lower part of about 65 to 70 ft. per mile. Its drainage area is about 80 square miles, and its mean annual run-off about 500 ft. per second. The extreme low water flow is about 80 cu. ft. per second. The source of the stream is a lake of from 400 to 500 acres, at an elevation of 3,200 ft. above sea level. In this neighbourhood there are also two glaciers, which help to maintain the supply of water during the summer months.