

Editorial

WATER WASTE.

In many of our cities and towns there appears to be little or no attempt at conservation of water. Those who are opposed to the metering of water, claim that it would not be in the interests of public health to do anything which would in any way cause consumers to economize in the legitimate use of water. That objection may appear to be well taken but, on the other hand, there is ample evidence, as disclosed by reports of not a few municipalities in Canada and elsewhere, that so long as there is water in the reservoir the profligate waste goes on unchecked. In fact, lack of judgment in this respect has frequently caused alarm and danger.

Considering that the majority of water supplies throughout the country have to be pumped once and sometimes twice, that many of them are filtered and some of them chemically treated, is it just fair that water should be regarded "as free as air"? Is it not in reality a manufactured product with manufacturing costs accompanying it?

In this connection it is interesting to note the results of an experiment which was carried on in Philadelphia some time ago. That city had for long been regarded as the most pronounced sinner among the larger cities, so far as wastage of water was concerned. An ordinance was secured permitting the installation of meters. A vigorous house-to-house inspection was inaugurated. Thousands of leaky fixtures were located and repaired.

This was followed by a very determined campaign for the detection and repair of leaks in mains.

By the elimination of this waste Philadelphia has been able to add materially to its water pressure both for fire and municipal purposes.

On a smaller scale many other municipalities are just as guilty as Philadelphia was before it tackled the problem in an aggressive and business-like manner.

The season of the year is upon us when there is a tendency to be more lavish in the use of water for sprinkling lawns, etc., and the problem of water conservation will no doubt force itself again upon the attention of municipal engineers and waterworks officials.

HOW LONG WILL THE WAR LAST?

A well-posted American, with a knowledge of German conditions, last month predicted the end of the war within sixty days. His judgment was based upon the acute financial condition of the Central Powers. The popular forecast, which has a habit of changing as rapidly as events move, is that the struggle will end in October. This has received a measure of support in the statement of the Right Honorable William Hayes Fisher, in an address in England last month, in which he said: "We did not intend to stand more than three years of war. Germany's idea was to starve us out before we could knock her out. What we want is to knock the enemy out this year, and we are beginning to do it."

In his latest book, Mr. H. G. Wells, who still believes "in the western push, if only we push it for all we

are worth," says the war may go on into 1918 or 1919. Food riots, famine, and general disorganization will come before 1920 if it does. Mr. Wells discusses his subject after a tour of Italy, France and Great Britain. It is the lack of public knowledge of actual conditions in Germany, however, which largely prevents everyone from making predictions of value as to the war's end. This deficiency is supplied to some extent by Oscar King Davis, for some months staff correspondent of the New York Times in Berlin. He returned with Ambassador Gerard. That there is practically complete solidarity in Germany concerning the war, is a fact which Mr. Davis claims is the main element in Germany's strength.

After analyzing the situation there, he says: "Germany may go on for a year or even a little more. Then it may be want of food, or money, or men, or all together that brings her down. Always provided that her foes are able to go along at the same speed they are now showing. I do not believe that Germany can last much, if any, more than another year. If the Entente Allies can outlast that, I believe they can bring Germany down. If Germany has bad crops this year, it will be comparatively easy. If she has good crops, it will be more difficult, but still I believe it will be done, for her financial needs are driving her even more inexorably than her food situation, and no help is in sight for that."

In short, the Central Powers are weakening rapidly; the Allies are increasing in strength, and have received an important additional reinforcement by the United States war declaration.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO.

In Ontario, there was a town of Berlin. Some of its residents are of British and some of German stock. Most of the German stock there are good Canadians. Some have German sympathies. Those sympathies were organized and active. So we had a Canadian town which, though it flew the Union Jack, harbored German sympathies and certain other characteristics which are not recognized in a British country. That this sentiment is widespread was evident whenever Berlin travellers went out to sell goods. They were told to get out of the buyer's office. A movement was initiated to change the name of the town to Kitchener. This was done after considerable opposition which, unfortunately, was slapped with a political hand instead of being stamped with a British foot.

Merchants know that Kitchener was once Berlin and they have boycotted the industries in that town. Being distant buyers, they could not always know who are the Kitchener firms believing in British ideals. So that these firms may not suffer for the acts of any pro-Germans who may still exist in Kitchener, there has been established the Kitchener Manufacturers' Association of the British League. Its members are manufacturers who fought for the city's change of name and opposed all efforts to retain the name Berlin. The new organization has its

