

over the Rivers Pollution question, and while laws are being enacted to prevent further pollution, meetings are being held and committees appointed to enquire into the best means of purifying rivers. The marvel is that the polluting process has been permitted to go on for so long a time. Will Canada benefit by the lesson conveyed?

Furthermore, not only is this mode absolutely and directly injurious to the public health, but the soil is impoverished, and the means of obtaining our daily bread is thereby rendered less efficacious, because we do not return to the soil those ingredients taken from it by our crops.

Probably the earliest traceable attempts at utilizing sewage by applying it to the soil, are those of the Israelites at the period when Jerusalem was a prosperous and flourishing city. Their large and costly aquaducts, still extant, provided abundance of water with which to flush their sewers and convey their sewage to large tanks, whence the liquid part could be drawn to be used for irrigation, and the solid sediment employed to fertilize in another form.

The great fertility of China has been largely attributed to the care with which the inhabitants return to the soil that which they have taken from it.

The following fundamental laws of national economy laid down by Professor Thudichum, are exceedingly important and should be universally carried out.

"1. The basis of human life, the very root of all society, is to produce food in such quantities, that a surplus of it may be exchanged for commodities resulting from the labours of other people unable to produce food.

"2. This capacity to produce food must be rendered permanent by a strict observance of the laws of nature regulating vegetable life, the knowledge of which is the basis of agricultural science.

"3. The first and most important of these laws is, that we must return to the soil the mineral ingredients we take from it in gathering our crops. The atmosphere furnishes the nutritive elements, and the soil the minerals, out of which vegetable fibres, vessels and structures containing food are built up. Without these mineral ingredients no harvest can possibly flourish.