

Upon consulting the standard works on water analysis, I was unable to find any reference to the presence of starch in water otherwise than as a consequence of contamination by sewage proper, kitchen refuse, or the waste of industrial establishments. On the other hand, all the other results of my analysis were strongly opposed to the theory of contamination of the water.

Being myself unable to identify the grains satisfactorily with any of the known starches, I consulted Prof. D. P. Penhallow, of McGill University, who examined them carefully and called my attention to the fact that they corresponded in size and shape and structure to corn starch grains, and were much larger than any of the starch grains found in aquatic plants.

He stated that, in his opinion, the only starch bearing aquatic plants at all likely to lead to dissemination of starch grains in the water were the yellow and white water lillies (*Nymphaea* and *Nuphar*) the starch grains of which, however, never exceeded 13 microns in diameter, and were readily distinguished, by their form and arrangement, from the granules under consideration.

If the grains were corn starch then they must have come from some starch factory or grist mill.

There were, however, no starch factories or large milling industries along the banks of the Ottawa, and though some starch factories are situated upon the St. Lawrence, none of the grains had been found by me in that water.

Upon estimating the number of starch grains per cc., I obtained the following results, for different seasons of the year, from samples of the water which happened to have been preserved :

Month.	Mar.	Aprl.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Sample.									
Reservoir.....	*	pr.	*	2	*	*	*	3	2
Settling Basin.	0	*	*	pr.	*	1	*	2	2
St. Canegonde.	0	*	0.8	4	4	*	*	5	2
St. Lawrence..	*	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	0

* Not examined.