

Commission of Conservation

in order to give a pure supply, is equally well known. What then is the situation? Briefly this: If the municipalities bordering on these lakes must take their water supply from some point therein, they must include in the system some means for ridding the water of the contamination which is deposited there mainly by themselves; otherwise they cannot guarantee to the public that which it has a right to demand—pure water.

In other words, the cities and towns adjacent to the Great Lakes are the chief agents in wantonly polluting the water which the inhabitants must drink. How long this condition of affairs is to continue, it is incumbent upon the Governments, whose duty and right it is to prevent such unrighteous acts and thus protect its citizens generally, to carefully consider and determine. It is clearly the duty of the Governments concerned to make adequate and proper laws, and when these are made, to systematically enforce them by providing the machinery to see that they are regularly lived up to by the municipalities affected; for failure to maintain a constant oversight means municipal neglect and indifference, particularly as regards sewage purification. If this is not done, the public will be uselessly paying for plant, etc., intended to produce a sewage effluent free from disease producing organisms.

It is generally conceded that a large percentage of all sickness happening in cities and towns is due to impurity of the water supply, sewage contaminated water being an important cause of diarrhœa, typhoid fever, cholera, and probably of a number of other diseases of which at present we cannot speak with certainty.