

INTERIM REPORT OF COMMISSION OF ENGINEERS APPOINTED TO  
REPORT UPON THE PRESENT AND FUTURE WATER SUPPLY  
FOR TORONTO.

Toronto, April 29th, 1911.

*To His Worship the Mayor and Members of the Board of Control:*

GENTLEMEN,—We, your Commissioners, appointed to consider the present and future water supply of the City, have been gathering definite facts upon which to base our recommendations both for present measures of relief and security of supply, and for the larger and more complicated work of permanent supply for Greater Toronto, on a scale commensurate with that inevitable accession of population which will give the City rank among the great cities of the western world. We have, under date of March 24th, made an interim report recommending a measure for immediate relief which you then adopted, and which, under your orders, has been successfully carried out.

We now supplement that interim report with further recommendations which are precautionary and are designed to safeguard the supply which you must use until the greater work which we shall recommend as the final outcome of our studies and deliberations can be carried out.

A view of the water supply records in the years since Toronto, in 1878, assumed the responsibility of furnishing its citizens with water for potable and domestic uses, reveals a number of vexatious and costly accidental interruptions which resulted in great known inconvenience to the people and in detriment to health, the extent of which will never be known. The present interruption to flow through the main connecting the shore crib with the lake intake, has continued already nearly three months, and no definite date can be set for its restoration. The cost already incurred would go a long way toward the laying of an alternative intake from the filtration plant to the lake intake.

We consider that the installation of the filtration plant will insure a pure water supply up to its capacity, and has determined a conclusion that Toronto will continue to obtain at least a portion of its water supply from this location in the lake. The weakness of the situation lies in the fact that the supply of lake water to the plant depends upon one intake pipe only, which has clearly proven its liability to failure. We, therefore, recommend that a second intake pipe be laid from the new pumping station at said filtration plant. We recommend that this new intake be laid in a trench of suitable depth to be made by the use of a hydraulic dredge or sand sucker, and that a covering of concrete be deposited upon the pipe so laid; the purpose of this concrete being to load the pipe sufficiently to prevent it rising from its bed in the event of it by any mischance becoming empty; and beside, the concrete will serve to strengthen the joints and prevent leakage thereat. The use of Long Pond affords an alternative supply during the period of open water, but in winter it may be impossible to keep the inlet