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Vancouver Health Department,

September 20th, 1918.

Dr. F. T. Underhill,  
Medical Health Officer,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:-

Re Inspection of Seymour Creek Watershed.

In accordance with instructions and in company with Mr. Vance, City Analyst, and Mr. Snodgrass, Caretaker of Seymour Intake, I beg to state that on the 14th instant I made a careful inspection of the stream and its principal creeks on the West side of the Intake to the Falls, and have the honour to report as follows:-

1. The Iron Stream:-

At the foot of same, which is approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles above the Intake, there is a camping ground some 200 feet square and only slightly above the river, consequently, in wet weather would be covered.

This camp had been used just recently and refuse of almost every kind was lying around. There was also evidence of excreta.

I would point out that this stream, being a favorite camping ground for fishermen, makes it absolutely necessary that the greatest of care be taken by campers or any persons using this ground, as the danger exists not only in the refuse and excrement but also the habit of washing personal clothing; and owing to the shaded conditions existing along most of the whole of the watershed banks, deposits of any nature whatsoever do not become decomposed in a natural way but remain almost inert until washed into stream by rainfall to be carried down stream towards settling basins.



*Miss Hare*

2.

About half-way between the Intake and the Falls, there is a small island in the main stream upon which near a log jam on the East side, I found a camp with four persons occupying a small tent 4' x 8' - two males and two females, who gave their names first of all as Mr. & Mrs. Griffin and Mr. & Mrs. Sargeant, but a little later the younger of the two females gave her name as Miss Hare and the male as Rae Sargeant, all of North Vancouver. On making further inquiries I was informed that they had occupied said camp for some two years, periodically, sometimes from ten days to a fortnight, and during the camping season nearly every week-end.

This camp was in a serious condition - excreta at the back of the logs in the dry stream bed spread over an area of some 20 feet; particles of food, fruit and tins had been dumped into stream, and they had been washing underclothing at time of inspection, the same being spread out on logs to dry.

Two of these four campers came down on Sunday evening and two on the evening of the evening of the 18th, having demolished their camp.

3. At the Falls and just beyond, are two fairly large areas which have been used extensively by campers and although these camps had been cleaned up somewhat, there was still a large quantity of refuse, old clothing, tins, etc., lying around and several portions of the camps had been used as sanitary conveniences. We saw quite a lot of tins lying at the bottom of the Creek.

4. Inspection was also made of creek known as "Still Creek" - from its source to where it enters the Seymour, which is approximately 1500 feet below the waterworks intake and consequently does not effect the City's water supply.



On completing inspection conditions were found to be not nearly so bad as that mentioned by Mr. Snodgrass on his inspection some two weeks previous. This we found was owing to the fact that he had warned parties camping of the proposed visit of your Inspector to the Creek, consequently the purpose of the inspection was made partially useless for camps were partially cleaned up and refuse, etc. dumped into Creek. This would not have happened, perhaps, if warning had not been given.

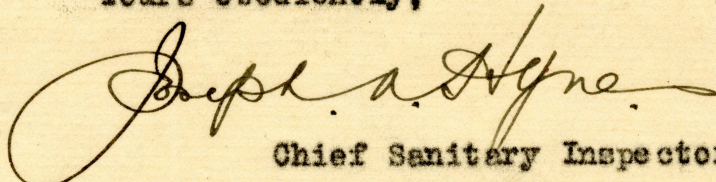
I would beg to point out that there are some eight large creeks between Intake and Falls, West bank, which eventually find their way into the Seymour Creek from which the City is supplied, and above the Intake these streams are crossed by the new Government trail which - being a fairly good one - will no doubt be extensively used by campers, in addition to miners and others, and great care will have to be taken to prevent or minimize the contamination from this source.

It is my opinion as a Sanitary Inspector that immediate steps should be taken to have all refuse, excreta, etc., removed from camps by some reliable person and the whole burned before any rain falls; also that no person whatsoever should be allowed above the Intake without first producing a properly certified medical certificate, and also proving to the satisfaction of the person in charge that he or she is conversant with the requirements and fulfilling the conditions of the Health Act Governing Watersheds.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours obediently,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph A. Hyne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Chief Sanitary Inspector.