


11-1961

Suspended Solids (1961)

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Recommended Citation

Walter A. Lawrance Androscoggin River Studies Nineteenth Annual Report, November, 1961, Androscoggin River Studies, Box 3, Folder 5, Walter A. Lawrance Papers, Edmund S. Muskie Archives and Special Collections Library, Bates College, Lewiston, Maine.

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PRESS REPORTS

LEWISTON DAILY SUN and
LEWISTON EVENING JOURNAL
etc.

OCTOBER 1960

to

OCTOBER 1961

Lewiston, Maine
November, 1961

NEWSPAPER REPORTS

October 1960 to October 1961

October 11, 1960

Portland Press Herald

Court-Appointed Monitor Keeps Androscoggin Pollution In Check

BOSTON--The Androscoggin River in Maine, apparently the only river in the United States which has a court-appointed monitor to control its pollution from human and industrial wastes, was put under scrutiny at the convention of the American Society of Civil Engineers here Monday.

No stream in the United States, according to E. Sherman Chase, a consulting engineer of Boston, has had so long a record of observations and analyses under private auspices for pollution as the Androscoggin. Chase is a consultant with the firm of Metcalf & Eddy, Boston.

Neither, he said, has there been any other stream, in his knowledge, where the pollution has been controlled by a court-appointed monitor, who was retained by the contributors of the major sources of the pollution.

Chase presented a paper giving a review of 20 years experience with the river, the pollution of which is from the untreated sewage of about 100,000 people, discharged along its 200 miles to tide-water at Brunswick, Maine, and its tributaries, along with the discharges from cotton textile plants and pulp and paper manufacturing.

The largest contribution of pollution, he said, comes from the pulp and paper mills in the area.

Back in 1947, Chase reported, the "rotten egg" odor of hydrogen sulfite from the paper mills had become so objectionable that Dr. Walter A. Lawrence, professor of chemistry at Bates College, was appointed administrator to regulate those activities of the mills which caused the undue pollution of the river. The legal action had been started by the state attorney general.

Also, there was another equally unpleasant smell, described as the "pig-pen" for lack of a definite appellation. The concentration of hydrogen sulfite in the atmosphere was sufficient to discolor paint on houses and to tarnish exposed metals.

Chase said that the experience with the Androscoggin River over the 20-year period had demonstrated, among other things:

1. The relatively long time it has taken to effect corrective measures of industrial pollution, irrespective of the legal measures involved.

2. The practicability of the unique method of monitoring the sanitary condition of the stream by a court-appointed administrator retained by the offending mills.

November 15, 1960

Lewiston Evening Journal

Pollution Nationwide

While Maine's water pollution problem has been the subject of much discussion the past two decades, we can be thankful our problem is not as serious as that in a number of states. This reason to be thankful should not lessen efforts to make progress

in cleaning up major waterways such as the Androscoggin, the Kennebec, the Saco and the Penobscot, and a number of smaller but highly polluted rivers and streams. At the same time it serves as a reminder that Maine has not been more remiss than many other states in attending to pollution problems.

Monday's Wall Street Journal included an article by Jonathan Spivak which should be read by all who are interested in seeing cleaner waters. The article points out the federal Public Health Service is engaged in a struggle currently to bring about a clean-up along the Mississippi River. St. Joseph, Mo., has refused to build a \$9½ million sewage treatment system ordered by the federal government and the government now has sued the city in order to force such action.

This court action will have much influence upon future pollution clean-up. If the city wins the legal battle the Congress may be expected to enact stronger legislation. If the federal government is the victor, then additional action by Washington may be expected against communities deemed guilty of dumping an unwarranted amount of waste and sewage into waterways which flow interstate.

Of course the problem of pollution is not confined to municipalities alone. Industries throughout the nation represent a significant contributing factor to our hundreds of seriously polluted rivers and streams. In addition to this there is the problem of various new chemical discoveries such as fertilizers, synthetic detergents and the like. Some of these defy existing techniques for treating water so it will be comparatively pollution free.

Pollution definitely will be a long-term problem. This fact actually stresses the need for advancement against it in all parts of the nation. Unless there is constant effort there will be no net gain made in efforts to promote cleaner waters.

Lewiston Evening Journal

December 13, 1960

Local League Of Women Voters To Attend Hearing

Representatives of both the Auburn and Lewiston League of Women Voters will attend the hearing being held tomorrow at the Lewiston City Hall concerning the Androscoggin River.

Representatives of both groups will be present each hour throughout the hearing being conducted by a corps of Army engineers concerning pollution in the river.

Mrs. Lawrence Ward of Lewiston, president of the state league, will make a statement and the local leagues will also have prepared statements.

They are also interested in the conference on water pollution being held December 12 to 14 in Washington, D.C. This first federally conducted conference has been called by Dr. Leroy E. Burney, surgeon general of the U.S. Public Health Service at the request of President Eisenhower and the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

Lewiston Daily Sun

December 14, 1960

PLAIN TALK URGED BY POLLUTION FOES

"Stink" Called Impact Word with Effectiveness

WASHINGTON (AP)-- The word "stink" was suggested Tuesday as a rallying cry to get more help from the public in the battle against pollution of the nation's lakes, rivers and streams.

The suggestion was made at a national conference on water pollution problems called by the Public Health Service, whose head, Surgeon General Leroy E. Burney has described the problems "a national disgrace."

The impact of the word "stink" in describing water pollution was put forth by R.G.Lynch, a columnist for the Milwaukee Journal, and an authority on conservation water and wildlife resources.

Then Mrs. Arthur E. Whittemore of Hingham, Mass., director of the League of Women Voters of the United States suggested that the word be used by community groups to rally public support in the pollution control fight. She was commenting on Lynch's speech.

Lynch said a public sense of urgency is needed to intensify the fight against water pollution, adding:

"Some people think it (stink) is not a nice word. To me it is a working word; it has impact. Nice words, like nice guys, as Leo Durocher once said, don't win."

But Lynch cautioned that "a lot of modern pollution doesn't stink and people can't see it, so they must be warned, because it is damned well a flood."

Mrs. Whittemore, taking up the ball, told the conference:

"..another tribute to the word 'stink'. The League of Women Voters of Beaumont Texas, found it effective some years ago when they were unable to get the community aroused about a particularly bad sewage disposal problem. In desperation they adopted the slogan 'Beaumont is beautiful but it stinks.' This shock treatment worked!"

Lewiston Daily Sun

(Editorial) December 14, 1960

The Androscoggin River Hearings

By a coincidence, the Army Corps of Engineers is holding hearings in the Androscoggin river basin on its flood and pollution problems at the same time a thousand persons or more are gathered in Washington for the first National Conference on Water Pollution.

The capital was aptly chosen for the nationwide meeting, since the Potomac is now one of the most heavily-polluted of American rivers. Yet from the viewpoint of local pride--or local disgust--we can point to our own Androscoggin and insist that it doesn't have to take a back seat to any of the riparian sewers that now criss-cross the United States.

There are all kinds of reasons why we should force the abatement of water pollution, wherever found, and today's Lewiston hearing by the Army Engineers will hear them catalogued by representatives of the Maine State League of Women Voters. Pollution, industrial and municipal, reduces the amount of our usable water supply, it discourages arrival of new industries, it injures all

types of recreation, which in this State is a big income-producer,

That aspect will be stressed at Washington, and we note that the list of speakers is heavily dominated by health and medical officials. The nation is now using 250 billion gallons of water daily; in 20 years this is expected to increase to 600 billion gallons. Water can be re-used, and thus stretch available supplies. But it cannot be reused if it is polluted, and the current discharge of vast amounts of refuse into our streams and lakes and other watercourses--even the ocean--is tremendously wasteful.

The problem in this State is already so serious that we are not going to be allowed to go on polluting while other parts of the country--as they must--clean up their rivers. Today's hearing may help impress this upon larger numbers of Maine voters and civic leaders, and especially upon the Legislature.

Lewiston Evening Journal

December 14, 1960

Jacques Slams 'Vested Interests'
That Use Androscoggin As Sewer

Wants Program To Restore River To Proper Use

Speaks at Army Hearing On Androscoggin Control

Lewiston Mayor Emile Jacques today, speaking before the U.S. Army hearing on the Androscoggin River Basin Flood Control, teed off on vested interests who use the Androscoggin River as a private sewer. He called upon those present to "abandon the outmoded token operations of the present and to embark upon a program to restore the Androscoggin to a point where it will be the servant of all."

The meeting held by the U.S. Army Engineering Department took place in the Lewiston Municipal Courtroom with Brig. Gen. Seymore A. Potter Jr., presiding. He was accompanied by engineers William Slagle and Alexander C. Stewart. All are from the USED headquarters at Waltham, Mass.

Pollution

About 50 persons attended the session at which flood control measures and recommendations were discussed. Although the meeting at times turned into more of a discussion of river pollution, it was brought back to the issue at hand by General Potter.

He pointed out on a couple of occasions that the Engineering Department is interested in hearing of pollution measures in-so-far as they can be accomplished as an integral part of a flood control program. He pointed out that this is as far as the Congress has authorized the Corps to go.

In his statement--handed to Gen. Potter to read--the mayor of Lewiston said:

"For a long time now, we have been annoyed by a filthy and foul river running between our cities of Lewiston and Auburn.

Every time that positive steps have been proposed to correct this bad situation, opposition in the form of scare propaganda and exaggerated appraisal has beaten-off those steps which must accompany common-sense progress in our day.

The existence of such conditions as are found in this river has tragic consequences on the social and economic life of the

entire area. Pollution, blight and their by-products are barriers to the growth of any community, and the notoriety of the Androscoggin River has damaged the reputation of our city.

While we welcome and co-operate with surveys and further studies, in all fairness it should be noted that the history of this filthy river makes any apprehensive citizen arrive at the conclusion that too much study and no positive action on actual clean-up means that all we have is stall, delays and 'study to death.'

The history of the fight to rid the Androscoggin of pollution will show that the present "water-perfuming" operation, as ordered by the court, at best is nothing but a dishonest attempt to appease the general public, but after all these years has not increased the quality of the water.

As mayor of Lewiston, I call for action based on the past and studies--immediate and positive action--to assure in a few years a river fit to be used for multi-purposes in which both industry and the public's welfare are served, as is the duty of any responsible leadership.

No one expects the river to be restored to its pristine clarity of pure, salmon-filled waters, but it is imperative for our future growth that the Androscoggin River be useful for business, industry and the recreational advantages that accompany boating, bathing and fishing for the rough or lesser species.

There is a lack of water for the use of industry in our community. This imperils the operation of our present industries and hampers the expansion we must plan if we are to meet the demands of the future.

It is time to abandon the outmoded token operations of the present and to embark upon a program to restore the Androscoggin to a point where it will be the servant of all--not the slave and private sewer of a vested few."

All It Can

Several persons present at the session took issue with the Mayor's statement in that they felt it applied to their own operations.

A representative of the Brown Paper Co. at Berlin, N. H., John W. Jordan, vice president and counsel, said he took issue with the mayor's statement and pointed out that the company is doing all it can to abate pollution of the Androscoggin. He said the Brown Co. is putting into the river only a small percentage of the pollution now entering the river. He said the mayor's statement was "irresponsible, at this time."

Dr. Walter Lawrence, head of the Bates College chemistry department, and Androscoggin River Master, said, "To say nothing has been done is false." He pointed out that by next summer the paper companies on the river will have spent about \$20-million to abate the problem of pollution.

Science

He said, "There has been a great deal of progress made through scientific procedure. The progress made on the Androscoggin River is greater than upon any other river its size of which I know."

Mayor Jacques interjected the comment, "Let those companies take care of their waste and Lewiston will take care of its own." He made this statement in response to a comment made by Lawrence that the amount of waste from the companies would be just about equal to that of the municipalities by next summer.

At this point General Potter again reminded the group that the discussion was held to consider means of effective flood control in the Androscoggin River Basin.

Mayor Jacques then pointed out that flood control might be hampered by the amount of solid waste being dumped into the river. He said, "The polluting material is filling the river from the bottom-up, raising the level of the water year by year." He pointed out that sooner or later there won't be any river bank--the water will spread everywhere.

General Potter said that if the pollutant is a solid it might affect works on flood control. However, Dr. Lawrance pointed out that although both solid and soluble forms of pollution are present, there isn't enough of the solid material to materially affect the flood control work.

Congressional representative-elect Peter A. Garland, present in the audience, was asked if he wanted to address the group. His comment: "I'm just listening."

11 Floods

Roscoe L. Clifford, Auburn planner, submitted to the Corps a copy of Auburn's flood control plan which is a part of the recently adopted zoning ordinance. He pointed out that the ordinance contains a flood plain zone and urged that the Corps study the ordinance for adequacy and pass it on to other communities if it is found adequate.

General Potter, in opening the meeting, spoke on the history of the river basin and pointed out that over the past 68 years there have been 11 general floods in the basin--the last of which came in 1953. He said that the damage done in the one before that, in 1936, amounted to \$4.4-million.

"According to today's prices," he said, "that same flood would do \$11.6 million damage." He said that within the basin there are two causes which combined to create flooding. They are heavy rainfall and melting snow. He pointed out that a combination of the two caused 10 of the eleven floods in the past 68 years. He reported that presently there are no federal flood control projects being worked upon in the basin.

According to Gen. Potter, the time required for study of the matter, including recommendations which have to go up the ladder to Congress and then back down to the engineers, can well be expected to be two or three years.

The League of Women Voters, represented by Mrs. Robert MacPherson of Auburn, submitted a statement, a part of which follows:

"As a result of its study, the League of Women Voters supports those policies and procedures which promote comprehension, long-range planning for conservation and development of water resources. We stress the need for coordinated administration, for regional and river basin planning, and for equitable financing.

In the development of any river basin, the projects to be considered must be tailored to all the needs of the region. Basing our opinion on our study of the Androscoggin River Basin, the League feels obliged to point out that while flood control should be considered in proposed multi-purpose projects, it is pollution which presents the most serious problem in the river basin.

An aggressive abatement program can attract the new industries which the state so desperately needs. It can provide for the expansion of our second largest industry, recreation. It will assure desirable residential, industrial, and recreational property

sites and increase land values along presently polluted waterways.

The many decisions that must be made in the water resources field come more and more to involve choices among various purposes. In conclusion, may we ask that citizens be given an early opportunity to discuss and consider alternative possibilities for the development of this river. May we hope that flood plain zoning as an alternative to flood control structures be investigated.

May we ask that the Corps develop plans to maximize the use of resources in this river basin to provide power development AND flood control AND increased water supply AND irrigation AND recreation uses AND stream regulation. And lastly, may we ask that all the various agencies--federal, state, and local--whose policies affect the Androscoggin, be coordinated to eliminate duplication of effort and funds.

General Potter read into the record statements from the Wayne selectmen and from the Brunswick-Topsham Water District. Speaking on behalf of his community was Rumford Town Manager Leo Morency who said that the problems of flood damage in Rumford are of great concern.

A representative of the Maine Central Railroad, James O. Bourne, asked that the railroad be given any information concerning changes which might affect his company and was assured that the Corps would pass on all information it can as soon as possible.

Edward von Wild, Shelbourne, N.H., a Brown Paper Co. employee attended the meeting and spoke briefly suggesting a river patrol which would prosecute people who dump waste into the river. He also asked that the USEC dredge portions of the river to get a greater flow.

Lewiston Evening Journal

(Editorial) December 15, 1960

Flood Control and Pollution

The public hearing Wednesday on the Androscoggin River valley flood control program proposed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers produced, as any discussion of the Androscoggin River is bound to cause, conversation about the pollution problem. Army representatives reportedly were not happy over the temporary shift to this subject, but discussed it was at any rate, with Lewiston Mayor Emile Jacques stressing the issue.

The League of Women Voters also emphasized pollution in a statement submitted by Mrs. Robert MacPherson of Auburn. The League's statement said this in part: "Basing our opinion on our study of the Androscoggin River Basin, the League feels obliged to point out that while flood control should be considered in proposed multipurpose projects, it is pollution which presents the most serious problem in the river basin."

We must agree with those who argue that pollution is the greatest single problem involving the Androscoggin River basin. At the same time one cannot ignore the impressive figures given by Gen. Seymour A. Potter Jr. of the Army Engineers. He pointed out that during the last 68 years there have been 11 general floods in the basin, or an average of approximately a general flood every six years.

The damage done by flood waters has been enormous. General Potter noted that the loss resulting from the 1936 flood totaled around \$4.4 million and would have resulted in \$11.6 million damage on the basis of current day prices. The frequency of general flooding along the course of the Androscoggin and the damage caused by these floods should be sufficient reason for Androscoggin valley communities to be interested in flood control.

While introducing the subject of pollution at yesterday's hearing may have seemed out of order, cities and towns along the river ought to be planning in terms of the varied uses to which the river is being put and may be put in the future. Planning by these communities definitely must include participation in more aggressive anti-pollution action.

Much stress has been placed--and properly so, we might add--upon the necessity of pulp and paper companies located on the Androscoggin abating their pollution of the river. These concerns have done a great deal in this direction, although it must be admitted the ideal situation of no further pollution has not been attained.

But if residents of the Androscoggin valley are insisting that pollution abatement be practiced by industry, they also must recognize the time is coming, and not far distant, when communities will be required to install their own sewage treatment plants. Realization of this fact is one reason why any discussion involving the Androscoggin invariably brings about discussion of pollution.

Gov. Reed's Inaugural address-Lewiston Daily Sun-January 6, 1961
Also Lewiston Evening Journal January 5 & January 6, 1961

Water Improvement

All of us who live and work in the State of Maine are grateful for the rich endowment nature has given us in the form of lakes, streams and coastal waters. We are unanimous in our desire to prevent their contamination and, in those instances where pollution has developed, to correct it.

The basic fact here is that our problem of water pollution is one that has been building up over many years. It is not the kind of problem that is going to be eliminated quickly or at small cost.

To meet this situation previous Legislatures established an orderly, fair, and certain program of pollution abatement through classification of waters under the administration of the Water Improvement Commission. With this plan we are moving toward clean waters without imposing an unjustified financial burden upon any municipality or private enterprise.

Lewiston Evening Journal

February 8, 1961

D Classification Sought For Kennebec River Section From Fairfield to Richmond

AUGUSTA (AP) -- A D classification--primarily for the transportation of waste--was proposed today for the Kennebec River from Fairfield to Richmond.

All other sections between Anson and the sea would be classified C or higher under a bill filed for the Water Improvement Commission by Rep. Harry R. Williams, R-Hodgdon.

Class C water is suitable for recreation other than bathing and will support aquatic life. The classification proposal was the first for any of Maine's major waterways, although on the basis of mileage the classifying of the state's waterways is nearly 95 per cent completed.

The proposed classifications would require major upgrading for some sections.

The WIC reported last August, after a two year study, that the Kennebec had reached a nuisance condition between Waterville and Augusta--too polluted for even the D classification.

At least primary treatment of both domestic sewage and industrial waste would be required to raise the river even to D quality in that area, the engineers said.

The river already has been classified B-1 suitable for bathing and for drinking after minimum treatment from Moosehead Lake to Wyman Dam in Bingham. From there to the Anson-Madison line it is classified C.

The proposed classifications would start there and continue the C classification to Great Eddy in Skowhegan, which is now rated in class D.

Below that point:

Great Eddy to Fairfield railroad bridge, B-2; now C or lower.

Fairfield railroad bridge to Fairfield-Waterville line, C; now probably C.

Fairfield-Waterville line to Swan Island Richmond, D; now unclassifiable.

Swan Island to Abagadasset Point at the head of Merrymeeting Bay, C; now D.

Abagadasset Point to Bluff Head, Arcowsic B-2.

Bluff Head to Popham Beach, Phippsburg, B-1.

The present condition of the last two stretches has not been reported.

Water quality may be higher downstream than upstream because of the purifying action of natural addition of oxygen below a source of pollution.

Lewiston Daily Sun

March 31, 1961

ANTI-POLLUTION PLAN SEEN NEEDED ON MAINE STREAMS

Program Gets Strong Backing at Hearing;
Industry Spokesman Approves in Principle;
Main Opposition from City Officials Who
Fear Heavy Expense for Compliance

AUGUSTA (AP)--The time has come to take the first step in pollution abatement on a major Maine waterway--classification of the Kennebec River, the legislative Natural Resources Committee was told Thursday.

The classification bill was supported by the League of Women Voters, townspeople along the river, sportsmen's clubs and many individuals.

Industry Backs Principle

And although its initial cost is estimated at nearly \$9 million over a 15-year period, and some say more, the bill also drew support--in principal--from industry. Industrialists over the years have fought tooth and nail against more drastic methods of pollution abatement but have acquiesced to the more deliberate classification and upgrading method.

Industrial spokesmen argued against some details of the bill and some of the classification levels that would be imposed.

But one of them, Edward W. Atwood, counsel for the Keyes Fibre Co., said his company "would much rather see this bill passed than no bill at all."

City Officials Cite Cost

Most of the outright opposition came from municipal and sewer district officials of the larger cities along the river--Waterville, Augusta and Bath. They said the cost estimates given the committee for treatment plants do not include the much larger expense of rebuilding municipal sewer systems to feed the plants and separate storm drainage.

Rep. Harry Williams, R-Hedgdon, a committee member and sponsor of the bill, said that after the legislature upgraded a number of waters in 1957, in spite of dire predictions not a single industry closed.

Must Act or Die

"Industry does its share and expects to do its share," he said. "Now it is squarely up to the cities and towns. Each town must act or expect to end its days on the banks of an open sewer."

"Very Serious Pollution"

Engineer Raeburn MacDonald of the Water Improvement Commission said the proposed 15-year upgrading would set minimum standards for 100 miles of the river, from Anson to the sea. The survey was 3½ years in preparation, he said, and proved the existence of "very serious pollution conditions" in some areas. In Augusta, he said, nuisance conditions have existed and will again unless there is abatement.

What Classifications Mean

Basically, he said, the proposed classifications mean only that removal of solids from the waste will be required, plus disinfection of the effluent in some cases.

With the exception of the Waterville-Richmond section, which would be raised to the "D" classification--primarily for transportation of waste, the water quality would be raised to classifications suitable at least for boating and fishing recreation and in some places for swimming.

Mrs. Dana W. Childs

Mrs. Dana W. Childs of Portland made the main speech for the League of Women Voters, which has been studying pollution four years.

Up to now, she said, classification has been easy because larger population centers were not affected.

"Will Pay for Itself"

"We feel that pollution control will in time pay for itself, and that lack of pollution control will, on the other hand, exact a heavy price," she said.

First Big Step

Arthur Bucknell of Denmark, who spoke for the Cumberland County Fish & Game Clubs, told the committee that except for "naming water good, bad or indifferent, the Water Improvement Commission has tried but hasn't accomplished much toward abatement."

"Here is the first big step forward that this might come to pass," he said.

Backed by Ex-Gov. Sewall

Former Gov. Sumner Sewall of Bath supported the bill, saying, "The best argument for it is just plain decency."

Hutchins, Bath, Opposed

The first of the opposition came from Bath also.

Arthur Hutchins of the Bath city council said he recognizes the need for abatement but thinks the state is proposing to classify the Kennebec without full realization of the cost. The state should be committed to pay a larger share, he said, not only to distribute the burden but also to permit the fixing of higher goals.

Cost Estimate Questioned

Several spokesmen for industry questioned the cost estimate figures.

James L. Reid, speaking for Hudson Pulp & Paper Co. of Augusta said available figures conflict. He and Thomas Weeks, representing Scott Paper Co., asked for safeguards in the law to fix the 15-year time limit suggested by MacDonald.

The industrial spokesmen said their companies are willing to pay the amounts now estimated, but fear the estimates are too low. Officials of the Augusta and Waterville Sewer Districts said they favor abatement but that the cost in their cities would be much higher than the estimates, because of the need for the revision of existing systems.

Augusta Cost Put at Million

The figures estimated for the two districts were \$260,000 for Waterville and \$1 million for Augusta. Sherman Smith of Waterville said that includes only a part of the construction cost and that interest would be at least equal to the cost of the facilities.

Outhouse and Internal Problem

P. Edward DeBery of Phippsburg, president of the Maine Water Improvement Council replied:

"These people who object to the large cost of improving antiquated sewer systems within a town remind me of a man who objects to hooking up to a sewer line past his lot because of the high cost of installing a bathroom to replace a privy. How to handle internal problems shouldn't be of concern to the rest of the state."

Lewiston Evening Journal

(Editorial) March 31, 1961

Kennebec River Bill

A beginning must be made in cleaning up pollution along the Kennebec River, one of Maine's major waterways. This position was made definite by Engineer Raeburn MacDonald of the Water Improvement Commission at Thursday's hearing before the legislative Natural Resources Committee.

The classification measure urged by the commission was the result of a 3½-year study of the 100-mile length of the Kennebec from Anson to the sea. It is aimed at achieving certain specific results over a 15-year period. It received considerable backing, including that of the Maine League of Women Voters, an organization which has devoted great study to the state's overall water pollution problem.

There are sections of the Kennebec River which are in terrible condition. This is one of the basic reasons behind the call for an upgrading of the river between Waterville and Richmond to only

a Class D status. The river is so polluted in this sector that a proposal to establish a higher classification would be meaningless at this time.

It should be realized that once the major communities along the Kennebec have undertaken treatment of sewage there will be an almost immediate drop in the harmful coliform bacteria which have polluted valuable clam flats at the lower end of the river. We could not help but be disappointed to find opposition to the Water Improvement Commission's proposals regarding sewage treatment plants emerging from some municipal officials.

Admittedly the cost for municipalities will be high, but the elimination of harmful and potentially dangerous bacteria from the Kennebec certainly should be viewed as worth the cost. We are convinced that clean waters will pay off economically for Maine. Many desirable industries require a reasonable clean water supply, and if our state is to attract these industries it must improve water conditions along major inland waterways.

This newspaper is convinced that what the proposed bill demands of communities along the Kennebec represents the requirements which will have to be met by many cities and towns on the Penobscot, the Androscoggin, the Saco and other comparatively thickly settled river valleys.

Lewiston Evening Journal

April 6, 1961

MacDonald Urges Change In Pollution Law
to Curb Wastes That Cause Stench

AUGUSTA (AP)--The chief engineer of the Water Improvement Commission urged revision of the state's pollution control laws today to curb the discharge of odor-producing wastes that collect along the banks of rivers and streams.

Raeburn MacDonald told the Natural Resources Committee that the revision proposed in a bill sponsored by Rep. John L. Baxter Jr., R-Pittsfield, would permit his commission to take steps against companies that dump matter into streams that create a stench without necessarily violating water classifications.

MacDonald said the proposal is primarily aimed at controlling wastes that collect along river banks when waters recede and ferment, creating a nuisance.

Edward W. Atwood of Portland, representing the Associated industries of Maine and several paper companies said the paper industry is in favor of the principle but objects to the bill's language for not being more specific.

He submitted an amendment to strengthen the proposed revision. The amendment would trim such deposits nuisances as defined by present statutes.

Mrs. Dana W. Childs, representing the Maine League of Women Voters, also endorsed the bill.

There was no opposition to a bill designed to clean up the tidal waters around Phippsburg, West Bath, Georgetown and Arrowsic in conjunction with the proposed upgrading of the classification of the Kennebec river. In response to a question, Rep. T. Tarpy Schulten, R-Woolwich, the sponsor, said that although it is a companion measure to the Kennebec classification bill, it would still be "partially workable" if the Kennebec proposal is defeated.

The measure was supported by MacDonald, Mrs. Childs, Selectman Shirley E. Pratt of Phippsburg and Selectman Roland Patterson of West Bath.

MacDonald said the sewerage treatment facilities that would be required would not be on a municipal level unless a group of individuals formed a sewerage district instead of installing separate septic tanks.

Lewiston Evening Journal

(Editorial) April 6, 1961

Pollution Control Bills

There is no question but what Maine communities located along major waterways will have to do much more during the next decade with respect to pollution abatement than they have done in their entire history. The same holds true for a number of industries, although many of the larger industries already have taken progressive action in the direction of reducing pollution.

Since many Maine municipalities will have to consider installation of sewage treatment facilities, it will be advisable for a special study of state and municipal sewage problems to be made. The Appropriations committee of the 100th Maine Legislature heard a measure calling for a legislative research committee to make such a study Wednesday, and it was pleasing to learn that the bill won strong support.

Actually we would not be hostile to the suggestion of Rep. Louis Jalbert, Lewiston Democrat, that the Water Improvement Commission be charged with making the study. What is important is provision of adequate funds to assure that a survey of the problem is made. The bill calling for study by a legislative research committee included a \$25,000 appropriation figure.

It appears a study will be made as we cannot visualize the Legislature deferring such a seriously needed appraisal. Community sewage treatment facilities are inevitable for centers of population situated on the state's key rivers and streams, and it makes sense to undertake a study now so our municipalities and the state government will have a better idea of probable costs, the best system for handling the problem insofar as finances are concerned, the possible need for some kind of state sewerage authority and so on.

It also was good news to learn that a proposal to increase the state's share of costs for pollution abatement programs by municipalities won strong backing before the Appropriations Committee. The bill heard would raise the state's share to 30 per cent from the current 20 per cent, and would reduce the cost to communities from the existing 50 per cent to 40 per cent. The federal government assumes 30 per cent of the cost of municipal sewage treatment programs.

The major reason the state's share for such programs should be generous is the fact that all Maine communities will benefit from pollution abatement. Clean waters represent a tremendous selling point in interesting outside industry to establish plants in Maine, and similarly are important in the attraction of tourists.

Lewiston Daily Sun

April 19, 1961

HOUSE UNIT VOTES POLLUTION BILL

Aims at Cleaning Up Nation's Rivers and Streams

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The House Public Works Committee Tuesday approved a stepped-up federal program designed to clear up the nation's rivers and streams.

It would exactly double the amount of federal money presently authorized for construction of sewage treatment plants and other antipollution measures.

President Kennedy never fixed a price tag for his antipollution program although he recommended adoption of a bill along the lines of one introduced by Rep. John A. Blatnik D-Minn., calling for a boost to \$1.25 billion in the \$500 million anti-pollution fund established in 1956.

Committee aides said the bill approved Tuesday--which would raise the fund to \$1 billion--is in line with Kennedy's recommendation.

Lewiston Daily Sun

April 28, 1961

Federal Pollution Action

People who live by the shores of some of Maine's rivers know that spring and the approach of warm weather brings with them daffodils and lilacs, baseball and golf and many other pleasant things. They also know--we had our own experience on the Andros-coggin years ago--that summer's airs also carry odors that bear little resemblance to Chanel No. 5.

One of the newest offenders is the huge paper mill of S.D. Warren at Westbrook, on the Presumpscot. After some early reluctance, it is good to see the big company, so important to our economy, initiate measures that will curb air and water pollution between Westbrook and the sea. We think this is good business, whatever it costs.

Pollution is a problem in many other parts of the State, and progress toward its abatement, voluntarily and by State legislative action is slow. One of the handicaps is the expense, and those interested in clean waters will be watching congressional action at Washington on a bill strengthening the present Federal Law.

Mr. Henry Moore of the Boston Herald sports department described the bill briefly a few days ago. Noting that the annual Federal authorization for aid in building waste treatment plants had been doubled to \$100 millions, with Washington paying 30% of the first million dollars in costs, he said this:

"Federal pollution abatement enforcement is provided on all navigable and coastal waters where requested by a state or a municipality with state consent, regardless of interstate status. But states retain their primary rights and responsibility for pollution control."

This is a step toward the compulsory abatement that is certain to come, as the nation increases its need for clean water. That makes our own water resources increasingly more valuable and puts an obligation upon some legislature, if not this one, to take constructive action.

**Committee Unanimously Favors
Minimum Standards For
Kennebec River Waters**

AUGUSTA (AP)--A bill to fix minimum quality standards for the water of the Kennebec River was favored unanimously today by the legislative Natural Resources Committee.

The House tabled the measure until Tuesday.

The committee reported a redraft which made only minor changes in boundaries from the original recommendations of the Water Improvement Commission.

Although more than 95 per cent of Maine's waters have been classified, this is the first action to classify a major waterway passing through heavily populated areas.

The redraft adds a 15-year timetable for compliance with the standards. The bill would take effect Oct. 1, 1961. But no municipality, industry or person required by the terms of the bill to abate water pollution would be in violation if:

1. Preliminary plans and estimates were filed with the WIC by Oct. 1, 1964;

2. Arrangements for financing and administration were completed by Oct. 1, 1968;

3. Detailed final engineering plans were completed by Oct. 1, 1969;

4. Review of the plans with the WIC was completed and construction started by Oct. 1, 1970; and

5. Construction was completed by Oct. 1, 1976.

Classification of the Kennebec downstream to a point above Madison village already has been enacted.

Under the new bill, the classification from that point to just below Great Eddy in Skowhegan would be C--suitable for recreation other than bathing;

From Great Eddy to the power company dam in Fairfield, B-2--suitable for all recreation and for drinking if suitably treated;

From that point to half a mile above the southerly boundary of Fairfield and Benton, C;

From there to a line between Green Point and Swan Island, Richmond, D--primarily for transportation of waste;

From Swan Island to a line east from Abagadasset Point, Bowdoinham, C;

From Abagadasset Point to a line west from Bluff Head, Arrowsic, B-2;

And from Bluff Head to the sea, B-1.

Long-Departed Smells

We haven't had a report on how S. D. Warren is making out with its pine-scented paper-mill smoke at Westbrook, but it will be forthcoming, and the company's captive audience, sort of, may find out it prefers the cooked-cabbage odor after all.

But up in Bangor, after the city spends two weeks in its spring clean-up, we see the public works department is going to flush down the streets with pine-scented water, which will probably

surprise the pigeons if it doesn't startle the bar flies, who may wander out into the night and still think they're up on the East Branch.

This brings to mind the somewhat disturbing fact that modern living is determined to eliminate the odors that were once as commonplace as sleigh bells and passenger trains. Back some years ago, if you walked into a livery stable there was never any doubt where you were. General stores gave off a pleasantly blended aroma that would be impossible to synthesize and put in a bottle.

Nearly every home had a stable, and it was odd that no two stables smelled alike. Sometimes there scent crept into the adjacent kitchen, where it was soon routed by the fragrance of bread baking, but upon occasion it also got into the milk, which was a different matter altogether.

Maybe some people can remember what it smelled like when 30 kids trudged their way to school through a wet snowstorm and all hung mackinaws, mittens and caps on a clothesline half surrounding the stove in the one-room school. Teachers had to have strong constitutions in those days.

The best odors of all came from the family smokehouses in the fall, filled with hams, bacon and smouldering corncobs. Not far behind was grandfather's apple cellar, especially after the barrel of sweet cider had been rolled in and upended.

All that is past, and today you go to the super-market--which smells exactly like every super-market in the U.S. and A.-- and choose lilac, jasmine or heliotrope. Considering Bangor's rugged history, its piney streets are likely to make the statue of Paul Bunyan blush.

Lewiston Daily Sun

May 16, 1961

Water Pollution Bills

Among other bills signed by the governor are two on water pollution control.

One will permit the state to pay an amount equal to the federal subsidy for municipal abatement. Under present law the state can pay 20 per cent of the total cost or two-thirds of the federal share, whichever is less. The new bill raises the state share to equal the 30 per cent share, leaving the municipalities paying 40 per cent.

The other will permit the state to order abatement of odor causing pollution, whether or not the discharge lowers the quality of the water below the minimum standard.

Lewiston Evening Journal

May 16, 1961

Discuss Purchase Of River Shoreage

The possible purchase of 186 acres of Central Maine Power Company owned land on the Auburn shore of Gulf Island Pond, by the city of Auburn, for a long-range recreational development, was discussed last night by the Auburn City Council. The matter was referred to the Auburn Planning Board for study and recommendation.

The power company has offered the land for sale by sealed bids to be opened at 10 a.m. May 31. The land has a frontage of more than a mile on Gulf Island Pond and City Planner Roscoe L. Clifford informed councilmen last night that the real potential of the land probably would not be realized for some 20 years when finally the river is cleared of pollution.

Purchase of the land, if it ever became available, had been recommended by John T. Blackwell, the professional planner who made the Auburn comprehensive city plan.

City planner Clifford had recommended that the city enter a bid on the land, with the funds to be taken from sale of other city owned property.

Part of the area is open land and the other half timbered. Clifford said it would have recreational value once the pollution problem is solved. Clifford said 186 acres, owned by the power company since the dam was built, are part of the farms purchased by the power when the dam was constructed. He reported there is a right-of-way to the property from East Auburn.

He also told the council that Harry Coulter, Auburn recreation director, had viewed the property last week.

Councilmen had to take action last night or call a special meeting to empower City Manager Brackett to enter a bid on the property. The council decided to have the Planning Board look further into the matter and then if the board deems it advisable to bid on the property the council will meet in special session.

In another matter, the council went against the Planning Board recommendation and authorized Manager Brackett to issue---

Lewiston Daily Sun

May 25, 1961

House Approves Plan To Clean Up Kennebec River

Now Goes to Senate - First Move in Decade
to Set Standards for Major Waterway-
15-Year Program Entails Considerable
Expense-Reject Sunday Business Bill

AUGUSTA (AP) -- Minimum quality standards for 100 miles of the Kennebec River were approved in a bill enacted Wednesday by the House and sent to the Senate.

The bill had been on the table but was taken off and passed without debate, dissent or a record vote.

It is the first attempt in a decade of an anti-pollution program to set standards for a major waterway through heavily populated areas. More than 95 per cent of Maine's waters are classified now, but these are largely lakes, smaller rivers and streams and coastal waters.

Expensive Project

The Kennebec bill will require considerable expense for installation of waste treatment plants by municipalities and industries. At least settling of solids will be required in most communities on the river.

15-Year Program

But the bill includes a 15-year timetable for progress toward pollution abatement. At the end of that time the water quality will have to be suitable at least for boating and fishing--and in some areas for bathing--between Madison and the sea with the exception of the Waterville-Richmond stretch.

In that area a D classification will be set--primarily for transportation of waste but without objectionable solids or scum or the creation of a nuisance. The Water Improvement Commission reported that the water between Waterville and Richmond is below even the D classification now, with a nuisance created from time to time in the area just above Augusta.

Once treatment is operating, natural recovery will produce a relatively high quality from Bath to the sea.

Lewiston Evening Journal

(Editorial) May 25, 1961

Kennebec River Bill

The Maine House took a constructive stand on the problem of pollution by its vote Wednesday approving a measure setting minimum standards for around 100 miles of the Kennebec River. The Kennebec River bill will call for installation of waste treatment plants by municipalities and industries in line with minimum standard requirements recommended by the Water Improvement Commission.

It is expected that the 15-year timetable set up under the bill will make the river suitable for fishing and bathing above Waterville and below Richmond. Similarly, carrying out provisions of the measure would convert the highly industrial Waterville-Richmond section of the Kennebec to a D classification. The Class D condition means a waterway is used principally for transportation of waste, but without objectionable solids or scum or the creation of a nuisance such as unpleasant odor. Currently this 100-mile stretch of the Kennebec is below a D classification at some points.

Raising the Waterville-Richmond stretch of river to a D rating is expected to result in a comparatively high standard water from Bath to the sea, which in turn would assure the return of healthy clam flat areas around the mouth of the Kennebec.

Presuming the bill is passed by the State Senate, the first effort in Maine's ten-year anti-pollution program to establish basic standards for a major waterway will have been voted as a law. Since the House voted the Kennebec bill without debate or dissent, it would seem likely the measure will be approved by the Senate.

It is logical to anticipate that the measure aimed at cleaning up serious pollution of the Kennebec River will be followed in future legislative sessions by similar legislation designed, to improve conditions on a number of other major state rivers and streams.

Lewiston Daily Sun

May 27, 1961

Legislating On Pollution

Another illustration of the confusing thinking at the 100th

Legislature is shown in its policies toward abatement of water pollution.

It is wonderful news, and the State is entitled to boast about it, to see the Legislature enact, and dispatch to Gov. John Reed for his signature, a comprehensive bill "classifying" the Kennebec river.

The Legislature has now decreed that over a 15-year period, the river must be made suitable, in all but one section, for drinking, bathing, boating and fishing. The Waterville-Richmond section, which includes Augusta, has been set aside for waste disposal. Even in this area there will be rising pressure for treatment plants and beds that ultimately will upgrade the river's purity, while in other sections the law will compel construction of these facilities. This is a step ahead, of the right sort, and we applaud it.

But the lawmakers did not do so well in disposing of a bill that, as originally written, would have given the little St. George river, near Thomaston, a "D" waste-disposal classification.

After the bill came out of committee with a divided report, with four members insisting on a B-1, or high quality classification, the House rejected both minority and majority reports. This action, if adhered to, would have left this stream in its present pure "A" class.

But the lobbyists have been busy, regardless of the fact that no Maine water has so far been down-graded, and the result is House-Senate action giving the St. George a "C" rating which means it can be opened to pollution. This was a mistake; we hope there is still time to rectify it and show other States and our summer people that we are determined to clean up Maine's waters.

Lewiston Daily Sun

May 27, 1961

ANTI-POLLUTION BILL IS
SIGNED BY GOV. REED

Fixes Standards for Kennebec from
Sea Up to Madison

AUGUSTA (AP)--Gov. Reed signed Friday an act fixing minimum standards of water quality in the lower 100 miles of the Kennebec River, from Madison to the sea.

The governor also approved an emergency bill to limit billboard advertising on the Interstate highway and qualify for federal-aid construction bonuses.

The Kennebec classification act is the first set of standards to govern water quality in a major Maine river passing through heavily populated industrial areas. It includes a 15-year timetable for achieving the standards.

The first step is to complete preliminary plans and engineers estimates of waste treatment requirements and submit them to the Water Improvement Commission by Oct. 1, 1964.

The act will require considerable upgrading in some sections, although the standards are not high.

At least primary treatment of wastes will be required of all municipalities and industries on the river.

The WIC reported after a two-year study that the section from Waterville to Richmond was below even the minimum class D -- primarily for waste transportation.

Eventual Goal

Once the standards are in full force, the water in the Waterville-Richmond stretch must meet the D classification--removing existing nuisance conditions. In all other stretches the water will have to be at least class C-- suitable for boating and fishing--and in some cases B-1 and B-2 which is suitable for bathing and for drinking after proper treatment.

Reed also signed a bill exempting industrial waste disposal systems from the property tax.

Lewiston Evening Journal

(Front Page) June 6, 1961

\$22 Million Private Funds Spent On River Clean-Up

Twenty-two million dollars has been poured into the Androscoggin River, figuratively speaking, in the past 18 years, in the successful effort to rid it of offensive odors, and not one cent has come from public funds, the Androscoggin River Technical Committee was told today at a luncheon meeting at the DeWitt Hotel, Lewiston.

The huge investment has been that of three large Maine paper-making concerns--Brown Co., Oxford Paper Co., and International Paper Co.--and it has brought about an 85% reduction in the "sulphite pollution load on the river," the meeting was informed by Dr. Walter A. Lawrance of the Bates College faculty, river master.

Lawrance, addressing a group of industrialists, state and local officials, and newspaper editors, pointed to four major accomplishments of the drive on river nuisances.

1--Elimination of the severe odor nuisance along the river and especially in the Lewiston-Auburn area.

2--Reduction of the sulphite pollution load to the river for the summer of 1961 to an estimated five per cent of that discharged 20 years ago.

3--Reduction of the biochemical oxygen demand to such an extent that anaerobic conditions due to sulphite waste liquor will not occur in the future.

4--Increase of the dissolved oxygen content to the river water to "much safer levels."

In review, Dr. Lawrance said the sulphite pulping process was invented in 1867 and first was put into commercial use in 1885. During the next two decades, sulphite pulp mills were built on the Androscoggin at Berlin, Rumford and Chisholm. Growth of this industry was rapid and by 1941 mills on this river were producing about 5,800 tons of sulphite pulp per week, said Dr. Lawrance.

Attention to the polluted condition of the Androscoggin River grew through the years until in 1930, the results of a survey of the river revealed "that while the Androscoggin River was heavily

polluted, the situation was not serious at that time."

In the summer of 1941, the Twin Cities of Lewiston and Auburn and the surrounding area experienced an especially serious and prolonged nuisance caused by hydrogen sulphide and other odors emanating from the river.

The combination, in 1941, of very low river flow, hot weather and heavy discharges of sulphite waste liquor gave rise to an intolerable situation which very properly aroused public indignation to the point where remedial action was sought, the chairman pointed out.

This is the year when the river stench caused discoloration of some houses in the Twin City area, but its degree was not considered enough to pose a threat to public health.

It was seen at that time that the key to avoidance of odor was the maintenance of at least some dissolved oxygen in all parts of the river.

Dr. Lawrance then outlined the steps which were taken in subsequent years to a point where today the river stench has been eliminated.

Caption under the Front Page Picture--

At River Pollution Control Meeting--These members of the Androscoggin River Technical Committee, water pollution experts and Twin City officials, took part today in the 20-year anniversary meeting. The committee noted a successful pollution war in the river's waters. Left to right are Mayor Paul F. Brogan of Auburn; Joseph Knox, of the New England Interstate Water Pollution Compact; Dr. Walter A. Lawrance, court appointed river master and chairman of the committee; Charles L. Ferguson, mill manager of the Oxford Paper Company of Rumford; Raeburn MacDonald, chief engineer of the Maine Water Improvement Commission; and Lewiston Mayor Emile Jacques.

Lewiston Daily Sun

June 7, 1961

NUISANCE FROM RIVER IS ZERO

Dr. Walter Lawrance Expects No More Bad Odors

Reports on 18 Years of Control
Work; Mills Spent \$22,000,000

Dr. Walter A. Lawrance of Bates College, Androscoggin River master and court-appointed administrator of the Androscoggin River Technical Committee, reported Tuesday at a meeting of the committee that treatment of the river water and technical developments over the last 18 years in which the paper industry have reduced the pollution to the extent that it never again should be a source of any nuisance.

The nuisance level of the river was reported by Dr. Lawrance to have dropped to a zero level for the past three years. This represents a drop in the pollution factors resulting from sulphite liquor from 5.0 points in 1941 to 0.49 points in 1960, or a decrease of 85% in the sulphite pollution load.

The report of Dr. Lawrance was presented at a meeting of the committee yesterday at the DeWitt Hotel. It showed that the entire expense of some \$22,000,000 had been borne by the paper mill interests with no public money being utilized in this clean-up.

Oxygen Level Higher

Other accomplishments noted by Dr. Lawrance over the span of years was the reduction of the bio chemical oxygen demand to such an extent that these nuisance conditions due to sulphite waste liquor will not occur in the future and the increased dissolved oxygen content of the river water has been raised to much safer levels.

All of these things, the large investments by the three major paper companies: Brown Co. of Berlin, N.H.; Oxford Paper Co. of Rumford; and International Paper Co. Livermore Falls; in lagoon construction and other technical developments have resulted in the elimination of the severe odor nuisance conditions in the Lewiston and Auburn area.

During the hot weather months of 1961 the discharge of sulphite pollution load into the Androscoggin River water will be an estimated 5% of that discharge into the river 20 years ago.

In his report Dr. Lawrance went into great detail setting out the problem which in the summer of 1941 reached such a high nuisance level in Lewiston and Auburn that something had to be done.

Started In 1941

It was in the summer of 1941 that the heavy hydrogen sulphide content of the river caused paint to turn dark. This resulted in a public clamor for something to be done and the Metcalf & Eddy firm of Boston was called in to make field surveys and recommendations on what should be done to correct the condition.

The Metcalf & Eddy report was published by the Maine Sanitary Water Board early in 1942. The engineers found that of the total pollution load of the river, 96% was from industrial waste and that of this 92% was from pulp and paper mills, with 71% originating as sulphite waste liquor which could be separated from other wastes and impounded in storage lagoons, to be released under more favorable conditions.

The Androscoggin River Technical Committee was formed in May 1942 and Dr. Lawrance has been river master and administrator since 1947. He first became a consultant in 1943.

The studies commenced by Dr. Lawrance in 1943 have been continued through the critical period of each year, with daily odor observations being made at eight stations in the Lewiston and Auburn area.

Control Factors

In his report to the committee, Dr. Lawrance noted the chief elements in the control of river pollution are river flow rate, water temperature, and rate of sulphite waste liquor discharge. An auxiliary control was the addition of nitrate to provide oxygen to the water in Gulf Island Pond. He said the rate at which sulphite waste liquor can be discharged without complete loss of dissolved oxygen is a function of river flow rate and water temperature. The faster a river flows and the lower the water temperature, the greater is its capacity to transport wastes without nuisance.

In general discharge rate is controllable only by lagooning the strong portion of the liquor, by evaporating and burning most of the liquor, or by reducing mill production rates.

The Androscoggin River travels 53 miles from the Brown Co. mills at Berlin, N.H., to the Oxford Paper Co. mills at Rumford, then 27 miles to the International Paper Co. mill at Livermore Falls. It is 13 miles then to the upper Gulf Island Pond at North Turner bridge, 14 miles to Gulf Dam, and then four miles to the heart of Lewiston.

Dr. Lawrance's report covers a wealth of technical information on the Androscoggin River and what has been done to abate the nuisance condition.

Lewiston Evening Journal

(Editorial) June 7, 1961

Well Done, Industry!

Industry has done its job. Now it remains for the municipalities to do theirs.

This observation is appropriate in light of the report made Tuesday at the 20-year anniversary meeting of the Androscoggin River Technical Committee by Dr. Walter A. Lawrance of Bates College. Dr. Lawrance became a consultant member of the committee in 1943 and was named river master in 1947 by the Maine Supreme Court.

While residents of the Androscoggin River valley undoubtedly have been aware of the great improvement that has occurred since the year of 1941 when conditions were intolerable, especially in the Lewiston-Auburn area, the report covering the two decades still must have surprised many people. We doubt if a majority of valley residents has been aware of just how tremendous a victory has been won over industrial pollution insofar as the Androscoggin is concerned.

The Lawrance report spelled out the triumph. The combined efforts and expenditures of the Brown Co., the Oxford Paper Co., and the International Paper Co., have brought about an 85% reduction in the "sulphite pollution load on the river," and have eliminated the odor nuisance completely. This year the sulphite load discharged into the Androscoggin is expected to be about five per cent of the load discharged 20 years ago.

The three big pulp and paper companies operating on the Androscoggin watershed deserve hearty citizen commendation for their effective, expensive clean-up of the river. Dr. Lawrance deserves special credit for working out the program which has led to the satisfactory condition of the river which exists today with respect to industrial pollution.

But the job on the Androscoggin is not yet finished. The next task faces the larger centers of population along the waterway. Additional pollution control must come in the shape of municipal sewage disposal treatment plants. We are convinced the next 10 to 15 years will find such plants operating in the more populous communities of the valley.

This is the time for city and town planning boards, city councils, boards of selectmen and the like to start planning for what will prove an expensive, yet necessary undertaking. It just is not within the concept of modern civilization to permit the

Androscoggin or any other key waterway within the state to remain little more than a huge sewer.

Industry has done its job on the Androscoggin. The remaining challenge faces the river valley's key cities and towns.

Daily Kennebec Journal

June 7, 1961

Androscoggin Odors Tamed,
Bates Professor Reports

By E. H. Carlson

LEWISTON -- It still has its smelly sections and seasons-- but the Androscoggin River today is a tamed creature compared with the stream whose noxious gases peeled paint off riverbank dwellings 20 years ago. And river valley paper companies called attention Tuesday to the \$22 million they have spent since 1941 to overcome the worst of the polluted Androscoggin's stench.

Facts and figures presented to members of the Androscoggin River Technical Committee, by Bates College Chemistry Prof. Walter A. Lawrance, indicated there had been a virtual elimination of odor from the stream at Lewiston-Auburn and an 85% reduction in sulphite pollution load over the past 18 years.

The Lawrance report said the odor elimination had been accomplished through the combined investment of more than \$22 million in that period by the Brown Co., Oxford Paper Co., and International Paper Co.

Twenty-one dams, Dr. Walter A. Lawrance of Bates College told a Lewiston audience Tuesday, interrupt the Androscoggin River's flow in the 136 miles of its course between Berlin, N.H., and Merrymeeting Bay. So many dams, in so short a course, it seemed to the speaker, make the Androscoggin "the best dammed river in New England.

Dr. Lawrance said river odor intensities have been reduced from a nuisance level here in the early 1940's to a zero level in this area for the past three years. A comparison of pollution factors resulting from sulphite liquor shows a decrease, the Bates chemist said, of 5.0 points in 1941 to 0.49 in 1960.

"Your committee," Dr. Lawrance told the group, "has solved the major problem but others, though smaller, will arise in due course of time. Some of these will center around proposals for eventual classification of various sections of the river."

He concluded: "Although the nature of the problems change, the goal should remain the same: To make as much progress as possible within a sound economic frame of reference."

Attending the river Technical Committee meeting Tuesday were Mayors Emile Jacques of Lewiston and Paul H. Brogan of Auburn, officials of the three paper companies, and representatives of the State Water Improvement Commission and the New England Water Pollution Compact.

Bangor Daily News

June 7, 1961

Three Paper Firms Cut Pollution

LEWISTON (AP)--In 18 years at a cost of \$22 million, three paper companies have cut sulphite pollution of the Androscoggin River by 85 per cent, Dr. Walter A. Lawrance said Tuesday.

Dr. Walter A. Lawrance, court-appointed river master, noted in his annual report to the Androscoggin River Technical Committee that the pollution control was accomplished without spending a penny of public funds.

The Bates College faculty member, who is chairman of the Technical Committee, said the major accomplishments are:

Elimination of a severe odor nuisance; reduction of the sulphite pollution load; increase of the dissolved oxygen content of the water to much safer levels, and reduction of the biochemical oxygen demand.

The three firms involved are the Brown Co. of Berlin, N.H., the Oxford Paper Co. of Rumford and the International Paper Co., which has a mill at Chisholm.

The Lewiston Daily Sun

June 8, 1961

Androscoggin Abatement

Tuesday's luncheon here in Lewiston, marking the start of the 20th year of pollution control along the Androscoggin river from Berlin, N.H. almost to the sea, was an event of more than ordinary significance.

We hear a great deal nowadays about riparian pollution, and methods of abating it. In most instances there is government involved. Here in Maine we have legislative sanction for classification of water resources by the Water Improvement Commission, while the commission itself is a creature of the Legislature. From Washington comes generous matching aid for construction of sewage and waste treatment plants. The conclusion to be drawn is that the polluters do not act on abatement without governmental action of some kind, and it is true.

The Androscoggin river program, too, was "encouraged" by outside intervention, but in this case it was judicial action and not action by government. The distinction is not so fine as it might appear. Twenty years ago the Maine Law Court directed the pulp and paper companies creating the odorous nuisance along the river to correct it. The plan worked out with Dr. Walter Lawrance of Bates College as "river master" may be unique, and in any event it has been highly successful.

During the period, with only occasional friendly intervention by the courts, the Brown Company of Berlin, the International Paper Company in the town of Jay, and the Oxford Paper Company at Rumford, have accumulated a total liability of over \$20 millions, in building abatement facilities, paying for Dr. Lawrance's services, purchasing sodium nitrate as a "booster" of the water's dissolved oxygen content, and reducing their optimum pulp-paper production in the critical warm-weather months.

This is no small contribution, and the firms involved, and Dr. Lawrance, are entitled to proudly state that this endeavor has not involved the spending of a penny of public funds. The result is genuine abatement of what would otherwise have been an intolerable nuisance.

We thought the fact, together with our own acclamation of this public service, deserved to be recorded.

Daily Kennebec Journal

June 8, 1961

Time, Money, And Rivers

When the 100th Legislature enacted a law classifying Kennebec River waters, Augusta and other river communities were confronted immediately with a clean-up task that will require several years and the expenditure of vast sums of money to complete. Riverside industries, as well as municipalities, will be compelled to foot this bill.

Already, acting with commendable speed in the wake of the classification law's enactment, the Augusta Sewerage District has applied for \$416,000 in federal and state assistance funds to finance the first phase of a long-range modernization program for its sewer system.

The law gives Augusta--and other pollution sources--15 years in which to bring each classified section of the river up to specified standards. The standard set for the river from Waterville to Swan Island is Class D--a carrier of waste--but, at least, an appreciable notch above its present nuisance status.

Over in Lewiston the other day, a report on 20 years of effort to reduce the effects of river pollution in the Androscoggin Valley was given to the Androscoggin River Technical Committee by Dr. Walter A. Lawrance of Bates College. The report was a reminder of the fact that it takes a lot of time and a lot of money to make even a beginning on cleaning up a badly polluted river.

After 20 years of work on the Androscoggin, and the expenditure of \$22 million by the Brown Company, the Oxford Paper Company and the International Paper Company, the report showed the river has been improved to this extent: It no longer gives off gases which, in 1941, stained the paint on riverbank buildings. And, in the last three years, it has ceased to cause any noticeably objectionable odor in the Lewiston-Auburn area.

But the Androscoggin has still to be studied for eventual classification. In one sense, then, it can be said that the recently-classified Kennebec Valley is ahead of the Androscoggin: This valley has now been told by the Legislature that a wholesale start has got to be made toward cleaning up the river.

In another sense, the Androscoggin could be described as being 20 years ahead of the Kennebec--because the Androscoggin in 1941 gave off odors so unbearable as to stir a storm of protest in Lewiston and Auburn. Out of that storm was born the Technical Committee for which Dr. Lawrance, in the years since, has done such valuable and effective work, with industry's cooperation.

The Brunswick Record

June 8, 1961

On Androscoggin

Paper Mills Cut River's
Sulphite Pollution By 85%

As efforts toward improvement of water conditions in the State of Maine have come into sharp focus during the past year, the important contributions made in this direction by three paper mills along the Androscoggin River are most significant.

The virtual elimination of odor from the Androscoggin River and an 85% reduction in the river's sulphite pollution load have been achieved over the past 18 years. This was accomplished through the combined investment of over \$22 million by the Brown Co., Oxford Paper Co. and International Paper Co.

This achievement was pointed out this week by Dr. Walter A. Lawrance, member of the chemistry department of Bates College and the committee's river master, in his annual report to the Androscoggin River Technical Committee.

These and other significant facts on pollution abatement were contained in a 20-year summary of operations made to the members of the Technical Committee, executives of the three paper companies and state and municipal officials including the mayors of Lewiston and Auburn. Dr. Lawrance, court-appointed administrator of the river is chairman of the Technical Committee which since 1941 has been working to eliminate the odor nuisance and to reduce the pollution load on the Androscoggin.

According to Dr. Lawrance, river odor intensities have decreased from a nuisance level in the Lewiston-Auburn area in the early 40's to a zero level in the same area for the past three years. In addition, a comparison of what Dr. Lawrance calls pollution factors resulting from sulphite liquor shows a decrease from 5.0 points in 1941 to 0.49 in 1960. This decrease represents an 85% reduction in the sulphite pollution load on the river.

These results, according to the report, stem exclusively from the major expenditures by the paper companies for mill processing alterations and for the building of lagoons which permit the storage and scientifically regulated discharge of mill liquor wastes during noncritical periods on the river.

Commenting on the early history of the Androscoggin River, Dr. Lawrance pointed out that "it is doubtful if the Androscoggin water was ever pristine pure." This thought is based on the fact that the river drains a vast forest area of Maine and New Hampshire and each year sweeps down thousands of tons of woodland debris and silt.

He also noted the establishment of the pulp and paper mills late in the last century and traced the growth of the odor and sulphite liquor pollution problem. In 1942 a court-inspired agreement was arrived at and the paper companies involved began formal studies and expenditures toward the abatement of the situation.

In 18 years the sum of 22 million dollars has been spent on this work and, most important, no public funds have been spent in achieving these better conditions along the Androscoggin. All costs have been paid by the Brown Company, Oxford Paper Company, and International Paper Company.

Portland Sunday Telegram

(Editorial) June 11, 1961

The Androscoggin Today

There are plenty of lessons to be drawn from the fact that in a manner of speaking the chief industrial polluters of the Androscoggin River have just "celebrated" 20 years of upgrading the purity of its waters from Berlin, N. H., to Lewiston-Auburn.

The greatest of these is that 20 years have been needed to achieve an 85 per cent reduction in sulphite pollution load and the concomitant elimination of river odor which provoked public outcry and court attention to the matter in the first place. The river smells better because it IS better, but it has taken 20 years and some \$20 million of private business funds to bring off the improvement.

Those who suppose pollution can be abated overnight, and there are still some such around, will do well to contemplate this. And so will those who drag their feet at getting started on pollution control measures on other streams. It all takes time and the sooner a start is made the better.

Essentially what happened was that pursuant to a court directive the Brown Company, the International Paper Company and the Oxford Paper Company supported and cooperated with a river master, Dr. Walter Lawrance of Bates College, in conceiving and carrying out a program of controlled sulphite discharge through lagoon construction coupled with treating the river water itself with sodium nitrate in order to increase dissolved oxygen content critical to control of odor-making conditions. Government was in the act through the judiciary. But otherwise the expense was borne by those private operators whom earlier surveys had shown were responsible for 96 per cent of river pollution. It is a monumental achievement which it is a pleasure to credit to the industries involved although it is fair to say than an even earlier beginning would have been better.

In any event improvement of the Androscoggin is well on the way and still moving. Dr. Lawrance, in his 20-year report to the Androscoggin River Technical Committee presented last week, said that by the end of 1961 the sulphite discharge percentage would be down to about five per cent of the 1941 tonnage.

All this is something for other river polluters to shoot at, both industrial and municipal. There is no race, of course, but it is plain enough that the industries are more in earnest about improvement than municipalities, in part to be sure because they have a more evident money stake in clean water. But the benefits of clean water are in fact indivisible. They accrue to all who live on a stream's banks. It is time for laggard municipalities to act as though they realized this,

The Rumford Falls Times

June 15, 1961

The newspaper printed almost verbatim the Special Report made public on June 6, 1961, therefore, it is not reproduced here.

Portland Sunday Telegram

June 18, 1961

Cleanup Job Paying Off

Androscoggin May Draw Fishermen

By Larry Colton
Staff Reporter

LEWISTON--Long range effort to rid the Androscoggin River of

pollution may someday restore parts of the big stream as likely fishing areas.

That's the view of Dr. Walter A. Lawrance, head of the Bates College chemistry department. He's the court-appointed river master of an 18-year program originally aimed at eliminating an obnoxious odor which existed along the river in the early 40s.

THE PROGRAM has been conducted with funds provided by the Oxford Paper Co., Brown Paper Co. and International Paper Co. The firms already have spent \$22,000,000 on it.

In his annual report to the Androscoggin River Technical Committee, Dr. Lawrance notes several major accomplishments. Two are of prime interest to the public. One is the elimination of the odor nuisance. The other is the increase of the river's dissolved oxygen content to much safer levels. This in turn could lead to increased habitation by fish.

Fishing along the Androscoggin is an eventuality, Dr. Lawrance predicts. But it will take time to eliminate conditions which existed along the river for some four decades prior to the clean-up program.

These included the sulphite pollution load, now only about five per cent of the amount discharged by the mills 20 years ago. The stream, below Lewiston, still carries untreated sewage. And it's only recently that a reduction of the biochemical oxygen demand has been accomplished which will assure that anaerobic conditions caused by sulphite waste liquor will not occur again.

IT'S DR. Lawrance's guess that no worthwhile fishing has been possible along most of the river's length since the turn of the century when the big upstream mills were built.

It's his further guess that it still will be some time before edible fish will be able to exist in sections conducive to good angling. However, he notes that some of the hardier, unedible fish species are being spotted above Rumford.

Just as pollution has made the survival of fish impossible, so it has destroyed or stunted the vegetation they would need as for food, Dr. Lawrance points out.

"There's not much vegetation yet," he says, "but like everything else connected with the purification of the river, it should improve. A year from now we should have an idea of how much annual improvement to expect."

One scenically attractive area that figures some day to be a fishing likelihood is the so-called Gulf Island Pond, a large pool created by the Central Maine Power Co.'s big Gulf Island Dam just north of Lewiston. The pool backs up to the Turner Center bridge some seven miles north of the dam. And beyond the bridge, the river is several times its original width.

Dr. Lawrance offers at least a little encouragement to enthusiasts who see the pool as a potential fishing area.

HE NOTES, however, that part of its environs is a game preserve, and a section directly above the dam is CMP property. What's more, the water in the pool moves so slowly--three fourths of a mile a day--that there might not be an abundance of fish even when the river becomes purer.

Shores of the pool would have to be made more accessible, he

points out, while agreeing that some parts of the area might well become favorites with fishermen. He adds that fishing the waters directly above the dam by boat would be hazardous.

In any event, fishermen in this region of Maine can at least look hopefully to the Androscoggin as a future stream for their favorite sport. As Dr. Lawrance says: "We're definitely headed in the right direction."

Caption Under Picture

Future Home For Fish

This large pool, formed by Androscoggin River water backed up from the Central Maine Power Co.'s Gulf Island Dam, lower center, may become an excellent fishing area in the future, experts believe. The river, once badly polluted by pulp waste and sewage, has gradually been made purer as the result of a long-time state program. (Gannett Air Photo by Gardner M. Roberts)

Le nettoyage de l'Androscoggin a
coûté \$22,000,000 jusqu'à date.

A l'occasion du 20e anniversaire de l'établissement du Comité Technique de la rivière Androscoggin, les officiers des usines de papier de la Brown Company de Berlin, N.H., de la Oxford Paper Company de Rumford, et de la International Paper Company de Livermore Falls, ont invité les éditeurs des journaux de Lewiston, de Rumford et d'autres endroits le long du parcours de la rivière, pour entendre le rapport des succès obtenus jusqu'à date dans le domaine d'éliminer les odeurs désagréables de la rivière et de diminuer la pollution de l'Androscoggin.

Ce rapport fut rendu d'une manière artistique par le Dr. Walter A. Lawrence membre du personnel enseignant du Bates College, et le "Maître de Rivière" nommé, il y a vingt ans, pour faire l'étude et trouver les moyens de diminuer les conditions désagréables que causaient la rivière en 1941.

Comme tous et chacun le savent, les villes de Lewiston et Auburn ont été tout spécialement affectées par ces odeurs qui émanaient des eaux de l'Androscoggin et c'est pourquoi les membres du Comité ont jugé bon d'organiser le dîner pour les Éditeurs locaux dans cette ville même de Lewiston, dans le but de transmettre la bonne nouvelle directement.

Un grand nombre d'officiers des trois companies manufacturières de papier étaient présents et ont dû faire un trajet de plusieurs milles pour rendre possible cette réunion intéressante.

Voici un résumé du rapport du Dr. Lawrence, tel que rendu par M. Fred A. Clough, Jr.:

L'élimination virtuelle de l'odeur émanant de la rivière Androscoggin, et une réduction de 85% du contenu de la pollution de sulphite de la rivière ont été accomplies durant les 18 années écoulées. Cela a été fait par l'entremise du placement financier conjoint de plus de \$22 millions de dollars par la Brown Company, la Oxford Paper Company et la International Paper Company.

Cet accomplissement a été mis au point mardi par le Dr. Walter A. Lawrence, Maître de Rivière, dans son rapport annuel au Comité Technique de la Rivière Androscoggin, à l'assemblée qui avait lieu à l'Hôtel DeWitt à Lewiston.

Ces faits et d'autres que sont très significatifs au sujet de la diminution de pollution étaient dans un sommaire de 20 ans d'opérations présentés aux membres du Comité Technique, aux chefs des trois companies de papier, aux officiers d'Etat et municipaux, y compris les maires de Lewiston et Auburn. Le Dr. Lawrence, administrateur de la rivière, nommé par la cour, est le chairman du Comité Technique qui depuis 1941 est au travail d'éliminer la mauvaise odeur et de réduire le contenu de pollution dans la rivière.

Selon le Dr. Lawrence l'intensité des odeurs de la rivière a diminué du point de nuisance dans la région de Lewiston-Auburn durant la quarantaine, au point de disparition totale durant les trois années écoulées. De Plus, une comparaison de ce que le Dr. Lawrence appelle les facteurs de pollution qui surviennent des liqueurs de sulphite, montre un déclin de 5.0 points en 1941 à 0.49 en 1960. Cette diminution représente un déclin de 85% dans

le montant de pollution causée par le sulphite dans la rivière.

Le rapport a aussi fait remarquer que le contenu d'oxygène dissout qui existe dans l'eau de la rivière a été augmenté à un niveau beaucoup plus élevé, ce qui a eu pour résultat de diminuer grandement la nuisance des senteurs désagréables.

Ces résultats, selon le rapport, sont dérivés exclusivement des dépenses majeures encourues par les companies de papier pour des altérations de procédés d'usines, et pour la construction de lagunes qui permettent le remisage et la décharge scientifiquement contrôlée des résidus de liqueurs durant les périodes non critiques à la rivière.

En faisant des commentaires sur l'histoire primitive de la rivière Androscoggin, le Dr. Lawrence a fait remarquer que "c'est douteux si la rivière Androscoggin ait jamais été naturellement pure." Cette idée est basée sur le fait que la rivière sert d'écoulement d'une vaste région de forêts du Maine et du New Hampshire, et que chaque année elle emporte des mille tonnes de débris et de limon des forêts.

Il a aussi signalé l'établissement des moulins de papier et de pulpe à la fin du siècle dernier, et est monté à la source de la croissance du problème de l'odeur et de la pollution de liqueurs de sulphite. En 1942 un accord inspiré par la cour a été conclu, et les compagnies de papier concernées ont commencé des études et des dépenses formelles dans le but d'alléger la situation. En 18 ans la somme de 22 millions de dollars a été dépensée à ce travail, et, ce qui est le plus important, nuls fonds publics n'ont été utilisés pour atteindre ces conditions améliorées le long de l'Androscoggin. Tous les frais ont été payés par la Brown Company, la Oxford Paper Company, et la International Paper Company.

Dans son sommaire du rapport, le Dr. Lawrence a mis en évidence quatre points majeurs d'accomplissement du Comité Technique de la Rivière Androscoggin: (1) L'Élimination de la nuisance sévère de senteur le long de la rivière, et spécialement à Lewiston-Auburn; (2) La réduction du contenu de pollution de sulphite dans la rivière pour l'été de 1961 à un point estimé à 5% de ce qu'elle contenait il y a vingt ans; (3) La réduction de la demande d'oxygène biochimique à un tel point que les conditions anaérobiques causées par la liqueur de sulphite ne surviendront plus à l'avenir; et (4), le contenu augmenté d'oxygène dissout de l'eau de la rivière à un niveau de beaucoup plus grande sûreté.

N.D.L.R.--Tout ceci se somme au grand succès du contrôle de la rivière pour que jamais les villes de Lewiston-Auburn ne soient encore les victimes des odeurs très désagréables qui existaient autrefois. Le problème que tous les citoyens des Villes-Sœurs croyaient presque impossible à résoudre, a été conquis, et certainement ces résidents des rives de l'Androscoggin, sont très reconnaissants des efforts de ces companies, et sur tout que ces companies aient eu la bonne fortune d'engager un homme aussi capable et aussi dévoué que l'a été le Dr. Lawrence à ce travail ingrate.

Lewiston Daily Sun

July 4, 1961

NO NITRATE NEEDED
FOR ANDROSCOGGIN

Oxygenation is taking place in the Androscoggin River at a much better rates than usual this year, thus reducing considerably the need for supplemental nitrogen to keep down any summer stench.

Dr. Walter Lawrance, Androscoggin rivermaster, said last night that for some reason the adding of the nitrates will not be necessary this year.

Nitrates are used to release more active oxygen in the water, thus aiding the decomposition of the waste materials which cause the unpleasant odor, characteristically present during the warmer weather.

Lawrance said that he and his staff will still be making the usual analyses on the river content to determine the amount and the nature of any changes which may be taking place in the river water chemistry. These tests are expected to last all summer.

Lewiston Daily Sun

August 12, 1961

RIVER IS BEHAVING
WELL THIS SUMMER

The Androscoggin River has been on its best behavior so far this summer--at least as far as the traditional summer stench is concerned.

Dr. Walter A. Lawrence, Rivermaster, said last night that he hasn't had to add any odor-killing nitrates to the water and that he doesn't anticipate any need for them, even if the hot, humid weather continues for some days longer.

Dr. Lawrence said that the river is down slightly below normal, but no more than is usual for this time of the year. He listed heat and dry conditions as the main reasons for the slackening flow of water.

Lewiston Evening Journal

August 12, 1961

City Locals

The Androscoggin River has been on its best behavior so far this summer as far as the traditional summer stench is concerned. Dr. Walter A. Lawrence, Rivermaster, said last night he hasn't had to add any odor-killing nitrates to the water and doesn't anticipate any need for them.

Lewiston Daily Sun

September 20, 1961

ANDROSCOGGIN BEHAVIOR GOOD
DURING SUMMER

Rivermaster Walter A. Lawrence said last night that conditions on the Androscoggin River during the summer months have been the best in 20 years.

Dr. Lawrence, in making his assertion, said that absolutely no nitrates or other additives has to be put into the water. The water level remained fairly stable, declining only slightly toward the end of the summer when dry weather hit the area.

Lawrence, when asked about the traditional odor associated with the river, said that, instead of getting the usual calls about the stench, he had been getting many calls wondering why the odors had been absent. But no calls of complaint, he added.

Lawrence said that, in view of the very dry months of August and the early part of September, the river is still holding up much better than had been anticipated.