

*(For the most serious consideration of the Members of Lords and Commons  
in Parliament assembled.)*

SESSION 1911.



“WATER IS THE BEST.”

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## A Warning to London.

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A deed, if done, how monstrous  
The proud Metropolis,  
To doom to drink for ever  
Thames water such as this!

When Banbury and Bicester  
And Oxford's learned town,  
And Abingdon are pouring  
Their streams of Sewage down!

When Cirencester and Swindon  
Pollute the Thames the same:  
And smaller Towns around them,  
Like Wallingford and Thame!

From Reading, growing larger,  
A larger stream will grow,  
And Maidenhead and Henley  
Add to the foul-stained flow!

And from our Royal Windsor—  
It is no idle dream—  
There lurks a real danger  
To our great London Stream!

One Terror more! The Valley\*  
Through which flows Watford's Colne,  
With Sewage Farms abundant,  
Has dangers of her own!

And it is even chances,  
When near the Thames you stand  
At Hampton Court or Staines Bridge,  
And take a cup in hand.

And dip it in Thames water,  
And then that cup out pour,  
You find that human beings  
Have used that stream before!

\* Berkhamstead, Hemel Hempstead, Watford, St. Albans, and Chesham are populous and increasing manufacturing Towns in the Colne Valley, and are all provided with Sewage Farms, more or less effective.

# What have other great Towns done ?

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## THE LESSON !

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Birmingham fled to the Elan,  
In the very centre of Wales,  
And Liverpool to the Vyrnwy  
Amid her mountains and vales.

Cardiff and Swansea have hastened,  
Their minds firmly bent on the change,  
Hurrying up quickly to seize on  
The sheds of the great Beacon Range !

The vast Cotton City still earlier  
Sought out the great Cumberland Hills,  
And gathers the water at Thirlmere,  
That flows from their thousands of Rills.

Are these Towns wiser than we are,  
Or are we ourselves not too wise,  
The lessons thus taught us by others,  
And their well proved success to despise ?

Forget not the faults of our fathers—  
Remembered for many a-day—  
When old Father Thames smelt so badly,  
You scarcely on the Terrace could stay !

We shut down Committee Rooms windows,  
That looked on the foul flowing stream !  
That is actually what then did happen,  
Told in Blue Books, no fable or dream !

The plans now before you are faulty,  
Yes, grievously faulty, I say,  
You are giving the Water Board power  
To pump the whole River away,

And leave by old Westminster Palace  
At every ebb low water time  
\*A dry river channel, with foul shallows,  
Or some flowing mixture of slime !

And the new London Parliament yonder  
Across the Bridge over the way  
Will blame you for hasty legislation  
That has given their very birthright away !

\* For safety to London, it should be provided, that the minimum flow of water should be never less than 150 millions in 24 hours through Westminster Bridge. A few years ago, throughout the month of September, the old Water Companies reduced, by pumping operations, that flow to 70 million gallons !

## AN INVITATION.

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Come with me to the Land of the Cymry.  
Where the Beacons lift up their lofty heads,  
Two to three thousand feet in the cloudland,  
Where a Shepherd and his flock only treads !

The purest of water is there waiting  
On the famous Old Sandstone Red,  
Pure as from a well, clear as crystal,  
Free from stain of peat or peat-bed !

And the cost of one hundred millions\*  
Of Gallons daily sent you shall be  
One hundred thousand capital sterling  
For every million gallons brought free !

The Thames then flowing in full volume  
Will carry through the long estuary  
By Gravesend and through the Sea Reaches !  
Its heavy burden of filth to the Sea !

Should trouble of Plague or epidemic  
In years to come find out our shores,  
London then will have done all it could do,  
To ward off the Fiend from her doors,

And her Citizens true and unshaken  
By panic, will act like brave men,  
And, London water being pure, will be conscious  
That serious harm can never come then !

\* This, the first 100 million gallons, would be provided by 1920, the second hundred millions by 1930 and the third hundred millions by 1940, alike at the same cost of £10,000,000 each hundred millions.

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### CONCLUDING NOTES.

The proposals of the new London Water Board, representing the Ratepayers of this great Metropolis and adjacent suburban districts to construct a series of large Reservoirs in the Lower Thames Valley to store therein the Flood waters, are founded upon the recommendation of the Royal Commission presided over by Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

Circumstances were different at that date from those of to-day, in two important respects:—

1. A Conservative Government was in power.
2. The Water Companies had not been purchased.

I would respectfully advance this request to those in power, who read this paper, that under these altered circumstances, and in view of greater experience since gained, Parliament, in its wisdom, will consent to recommend the appointment of another Royal Commission to re-examine the whole question of the London and District Water Supply ! The interests at stake are enormous, present and future !

JOHN LLOYD,  
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*April 18th, 1911.*