

MC 82+8C21x

This document was produced  
by scanning the original publication.

Ce document est le produit d'une  
numérisation par balayage  
de la publication originale.

CANADA  
DEPARTMENT OF MINES  
AND  
TECHNICAL SURVEYS

---

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA

WATER SUPPLY PAPER No. 244

GROUND-WATER RESOURCES  
OF THE  
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BATTLE RIVER  
NO. 438  
SASKATCHEWAN

Records Collected by C. O. Hage  
Compilation by G. S. Hume and C. O. Hage



DISCARD  
ELIMINER  
LIBRARY  
NATIONAL MUSEUM  
OF CANADA

---

OTTAWA  
1947  
Reprinted 1953

C A N A D A  
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

---

MINES AND GEOLOGY BRANCH  
BUREAU OF GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

---

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
WATER SUPPLY PAPER NO. 244

GROUND-WATER RESOURCES  
OF THE  
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BATTLE RIVER, NO. 438,  
SASKATCHEWAN

Records Collected by C. O. Hage  
Compilation by G. S. Hume and C.O. Hage

---

OTTAWA  
1 9 4 7

## CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction .....	1
Publication of results .....	1
How to use report .....	2
Glossary of terms used .....	2
Bedrock formations of west-central Saskatchewan and east-central Alberta .....	4
Water analyses .....	9
Introduction .....	9
Discussion of chemical determinations .....	9
Mineral constituents present .....	9
Water analyses in relation to geology .....	11
Glacial drift .....	11
Bearpaw formation .....	12
Pale Beds .....	12
Variegated Beds .....	13
Ribstone Creek formation .....	13
Rural Municipality of Battle River, No. 438, Saskatchewan .....	16
Physical features .....	16
Geology .....	16
Water supply .....	17
Township 43, ranges 16 and 17, west of North Saskatchewan River, west 3rd meridian .....	17
Township 43, range 18, west 3rd meridian .....	18
Township 44, range 17, west of North Saskatchewan River, west 3rd meridian .....	18
Township 44, range 18, west 3rd meridian .....	18
Sweet Grass Indian Reserve, No. 113 .....	18
Township 45, ranges 17 and 18, west of North Saskatchewan River, west 3rd meridian .....	19
Township 45, range 19, west 3rd meridian .....	19
Township 46, ranges 18 and 19, southwest of North Saskatchewan River, west 3rd meridian .....	19
Analyses of water samples .....	20
Records of wells in the Rural Municipality of Battle River, No. 438, Saskatchewan .....	21

### Illustrations

Map - Rural Municipality of Battle River, No. 438,  
Saskatchewan;

- Figure 1. Map showing bedrock geology;
2. Map showing topography and the location and types of wells.

## INTRODUCTION

Information on the ground-water resources of east-central Alberta and western Saskatchewan was collected, mostly in 1935, during the progress of geological investigations for oil and gas. The region studied extends from Edmonton in the west to Battleford in the east, and from township 32 on the south to township 59 in western Alberta, township 63 in eastern Alberta, and in part as far north as township 56 in western Saskatchewan.

This region is crossed by North Saskatchewan and Battle Rivers, and includes other more or less permanent streams. Most of the lakes within the area, however, are alkaline, and water is obtained in wells from two sources, namely, from water-bearing sands in surface or glacial deposits, and from sands in the underlying bedrock.

A division has been made in the well records, in so far as possible, between glacial and bedrock water-bearing sands. In investigations for oil and gas, however, the bedrock wells were used to trace the lateral extent of geological formations, with the result that the records deal more particularly with this type of well. No detailed studies were made of the glacial materials in relation to the water-supply, nor were the glacial deposits mapped adequately for this purpose. In almost all of the region investigated in Alberta, and in all but the northeast part of the region studied in Saskatchewan, water can be obtained from bedrock. In a few places, however, the water from the shallower bedrock sands is unsatisfactory, and deeper drilling may be necessary.

The water records were obtained mostly from the well owners, some of whom had acquired the land after the water supply had been found, and hence had no personal knowledge of the water-bearing beds that had been encountered in their wells. Also the elevations of the wells were taken by aneroid barometer and are, consequently, only approximate. In spite of these defects, however, it is hoped that the publication of these water records may prove of value to farmers, town authorities, and drillers in their efforts to obtain water supplies adequate for their needs.

In collecting this information several field parties were employed. These were under the direction of Professors R. L. Rutherford and P. S. Warren of the University of Alberta, C. H. Crickmay of Vancouver, and C. O. Hage, until recently a member of the Geological Survey. The oil and gas investigations of which these water records are a part were undertaken under the general supervision of G. S. Hume.

### Publication of Results

The essential information pertaining to ground-water conditions is being issued in reports that in Saskatchewan cover each municipality, and in Alberta cover each square block of sixteen townships beginning at the 4th meridian and lying between the correction lines. The secretary Treasurer of each municipality in Saskatchewan and Alberta will be supplied with the information covering that municipality. Copies of the reports will also be available for study at offices of the Provincial and Federal Government Departments. Further assistance in the interpretation of the reports may be obtained by applying to the Chief Geologist, Geological Survey, Ottawa. Technical terms used in the reports are defined in the glossary.

### How to Use the Report

Anyone desiring information concerning ground water in any particular locality will find the available data listed in the well records. These should be consulted to see if a supply of water is likely to be found in shallow wells sunk in the glacial drift, or whether a better supply may be obtained at greater depth in the underlying bedrock formations. The wells in glacial drift commonly show no regional level, as the sands or gravels in which the water occurs are irregularly distributed and of limited extent. As the surface of the ground is uneven, the best means of comparing water wells is by the elevations of their water-bearing beds. For any particular well this elevation is obtained by subtracting the figure for the depth of the well to the water-bearing bed from that for the surface elevation at the well. For convenience both the elevation of the wells and the elevation of the water-bearing bed or beds in each well are given in the well record tables. Where water is obtained from bedrock, the name of the formation in which the water-bearing sand occurs is also listed in these tables, and this information should be used in conjunction with that provided on bedrock formations, pages 4 to 8, which describes these formations and gives their thickness and sequence. Where the level of the water-bearing sand is known, its depth at any point can easily be calculated by subtracting its elevation, as given in the well record tables, from the elevation of the surface at that point.

With each report is a map consisting of two figures. Figure 1 shows the bedrock formations that will be encountered beneath the unconsolidated surface deposits. Figure 2 shows the position of all wells for which records are available, the class of well at each location, and the contour line or lines of equal surface elevation. The elevation at any location can thus be roughly judged from the nearest contour line, and the records of the wells show at what levels water is likely to be encountered. The depth of the well can then be calculated, and some information on the character and quantity of water can be obtained from a study of the records of surrounding wells.

### GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED

Alkaline. The term "alkaline" has been applied rather loosely to some ground waters that have a peculiar and disagreeable taste. In the Prairie Provinces, water that is commonly described as alkaline usually contains a large amount of sodium sulphate and magnesium sulphate, the principal constituents of Glauber's salt and Epsom salts respectively. Most of the so called alkaline waters are more correctly termed sulphate waters, many of which may be used for stock without ill effect. Water that tastes strongly of common salt is described as salty.

Alluvium. Deposits of earth, clay, silt, sand, gravel, and other material on the flood plains of modern streams and in lake beds.

Aquifer or Water-bearing Horizon. A porous bed, lens, or pocket in unconsolidated deposits or in bedrock that carries water.

Buried pre-Glacial Stream Channels. A channel carved into bedrock by a stream before the advance of the continental ice-sheet, and subsequently either partly or wholly filled in by sands, gravels, and boulder clay deposited by the ice-sheet or later agencies.

Bedrock. Bedrock, as here used, refers to partly or wholly consolidated deposits of gravel, sand, silt, clay, and marl that are older than the glacial drift.

Coal Seam. The same as a coal bed. A deposit of carbonaceous material formed from the remains of plants by partial decomposition and burial.

Contour. A line on a map joining points that have the same elevation above sea-level.

Continental Ice-Sheet. The great ice-sheet that covered most of the surface of Canada many thousands of years ago.

Escarpment. A cliff or a relatively steep slope separating level or gently sloping areas.

Flood Plain. A flat part in a river valley ordinarily above water but covered by water when the river is in flood.

Glacial Drift. The loose, unconsolidated surface deposits of sand, gravel, and clay, or a mixture of these, that were deposited by the continental ice-sheet. Clay containing boulders forms part of the drift and is referred to as glacial till or boulder clay. The glacial drift occurs in several forms:

(1) Ground Moraine. A boulder clay or till plain (includes areas where the glacial drift is very thin and the surface uneven).

(2) Terminal Moraine or Moraine. A hilly tract of country formed by glacial drift that was laid down at the margin of the continental ice-sheet during its retreat. The surface is characterized by irregular hills and undrained basins.

(3) Glacial Outwash. Sand and gravel plains or deltas formed by streams that issued from the continental ice-sheet.

(4) Glacial Lake Deposits. Sand and clay plains formed in glacial lakes during the retreat of the ice-sheet.

Ground Water. Sub-surface water, or water that occurs below the surface of the land.

Hydrostatic Pressure. The pressure that causes water in a well to rise above the point at which it is first encountered.

Impervious or Impermeable. Beds, such as fine clays or shale, are considered to be impervious or impermeable when they do not permit of the perceptible passage or movement of ground water.

Pervious or Permeable. Beds are pervious when they permit of the perceptible passage or movement of ground water, as for example porous sands, gravel, and sandstone.

Pre-Glacial Land Surface. The surface of the land before it was covered by the continental ice-sheet.

Recent Deposits. Deposits that have been laid down by the agencies of water and wind since the disappearance of the continental ice-sheet.

Unconsolidated Deposits. The mantle or covering of alluvium and glacial drift consisting of loose sand, gravel, clay, and boulders that overlie the bedrock.

Water-table. The upper limit of the part of the ground wholly saturated with water. This may be very near the surface or many feet below it.

Wells. Holes sunk into the earth so as to reach a supply of water. When no water is obtained they are referred to as dry holes. Wells in which water is encountered are of three classes:

(1) Wells in which the water is under sufficient pressure to flow above the surface of the ground.

(2) Wells in which the water is under pressure but does not rise to the surface.

(3) Wells in which the water does not rise above the water table.

BEDROCK FORMATIONS OF WEST-CENTRAL SASKATCHEWAN AND EAST-CENTRAL ALBERTA

The formations that outcrop in west-central Saskatchewan are an extension of similar formations that occur in east-central Alberta. They are of Upper Cretaceous age, and consist entirely of relatively soft shales and sands, with some bands of hard sandstone and layers of ironstone nodules. The succession, character, and estimated thickness of the formations are shown in the following table:

<u>Formation</u>	<u>Character</u>	<u>Thickness</u> Feet
Edmonton	Grey to white, bentonitic sands and sandstones with grey and greenish shales; coal seams prominent in some areas, as at Castor, Alberta.	1,000 to 1,150
Bearpaw	Dark shales, green sands with smooth black chert pebbles; partly non-marine, with white bentonitic sands, carbonaceous shales or thin coal seams similar to those in Pale Beds; shales at certain horizons contain lobster claw nodules and marine fossils; at other horizons are abundant selenite crystals.	300 to 600 thins rapidly to the north-west
Pale and Variegated Beds	Light grey sands with bentonite; soft, dark grey and light grey shales with selenite and ironstone; carbonaceous shales and coal seams; abundant selenite crystals in certain layers.	950 to 1,300 in Czar-Tit Hills area; may be thinner elsewhere
Birch Lake	Grey sand and sandstone in upper part; middle part of shales and sandy shales, thinly laminated; lower part with grey and yellow weathering sands; oyster bed commonly at base.	100 in west, but less to east and south
Grizzly Bear	Mostly dark grey shale of marine origin, with a few minor sand horizons; selenite crystals and nodules up to 6 or 8 inches in diameter	Maximum, 100
Ribstone Creek	Grey sands and sandstones at the top and bottom, with intermediate sands and shales; thin coal seam in the vicinity of Wainwright; mostly non-marine, but middle shale in some areas is marine.	Maximum, 325 at Viking; thins eastward
Lea Park	Dark grey shales and sandy shales with nodules of ironstone; a sand 70 feet thick 110 feet below the top of the formation in the Ribstone area, Alberta.	950 to 1,100

Edmonton Formation

The name Edmonton formation was first applied to the beds containing coal in the Edmonton area, and later to the same beds in adjoining areas. The formation has a total thickness of 1,000 to 1,150 feet, but is bevelled off eastward and the east edge of the formation

follows a northwest line from Coronation through Tofield to a point on North Saskatchewan River about midway between Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan. No Edmonton beds occur northeast of this line, but the formation becomes progressively thicker to the southwest due to the fact that the beds incline in that direction and the surface bevels across them.

The Edmonton formation consists of poorly bedded grey and greenish clay shales, coal seams, and sands and sandstones that contain clay and a white material known as bentonite. This material when wet is very sticky and swells greatly in volume, and when dry tends to give a white appearance to the beds containing it. Such beds are relatively impervious to water, and at the surface produce the "burns" of barren ground where vegetation is scanty or absent.

Water is relatively abundant in the Edmonton formation, which contains much sand, commonly in the form of isolated lenses distributed irregularly through the formation. Consequently, there is little uniformity in the depth of wells even within a small area. Water also occurs commonly with coal seams and, unlike the sand lenses, these beds are much more regular and persistent. In contrast with the water from the bentonitic sands, which is generally "soft", water from the coal seams, as the water from the shallow surface deposits, may be "hard". The basal beds of the Edmonton formation usually contain fresh water, but this may become brackish locally where the underlying Bearpaw beds contain highly alkaline or salty water.

#### Bearpaw Formation

In southern Alberta, where the Bearpaw formation is thickest, the beds composing it are mainly shales that have been deposited in sea water. In the area north of township 32 the formation thins to the northwest and becomes a shoreline deposit composed of shales containing bentonite, impure sands, and thin coal seams. In some areas, as at Ryley and near Monitor, and in the Neutral Hills, the Bearpaw contains pebble beds. At Ryley these are consolidated into a conglomerate, but mostly the pebbles are loosely distributed in shale or sandy beds.

In the area immediately north of township 32 the Bearpaw occupies a widespread belt beneath the glacial drift, but farther northwest the belt narrows, and at Ryley and northwestward it is only a few miles wide. This belt crosses North Saskatchewan River about midway between Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan. Bearpaw beds form the main bedrock deposits of the Neutral Hills. Farther south, where they have an exposed thickness of at least 400 feet, they contain green sands, and beds of marine shale interfinger with the bentonitic shales and sands of the underlying formation. To the north, on the banks of North Saskatchewan River, the division between the Bearpaw and the overlying and underlying formations is indefinite, and the thickness of beds of Bearpaw age is relatively small.

The water in the Ryley area is from the Bearpaw formation, and is salty. In other areas to the south the marine Bearpaw formation carries green sand beds that yield fresh water, but commonly a much better supply is found by drilling through the Bearpaw into the underlying Pale Beds.

In Saskatchewan, Bearpaw beds occur southeast of Maclin and south of Luseland and Kerrobert. Only the basal beds are present, and these contain green sands that are commonly water-bearing.

#### Pale and Variegated Beds

Underlying the Bearpaw formation is a succession of bentonitic sands, shales, and sandy shales containing a few coal seams. The upper part of this succession, due to the bentonitic content, is commonly light coloured and has been described as the Pale Beds, whereas the lower

part is darker, and is known as Variegated Beds. In part, dark shales are present in both Pale and Variegated Beds; others are greenish, grey, brown, and dark chocolate, carbonaceous types. The sands may also be yellow, but where bentonite is present it imparts a light colour to the beds. Both Pale and Variegated Beds are characterized by the presence of thin seams of ironstone, commonly dark reddish, but in part purplish, Selenite (gypsum) crystals are, in places, abundant in the shales.

The best sections of Pale Beds exposed in the region are in the Tit Hills, southwest of Czar. These hills carry a thin capping of Bearpaw shales, beneath which, and around Bruce Lake, more than 200 feet of Pale Beds are exposed. The total thickness of Pale and Variegated Beds in the Tit Hills area is about 970 feet. Variegated Beds outcrop near Hawkins on the Canadian National Railway west of Wainwright, but no area exposes the complete succession, which is considered to comprise about 200 feet of beds.

Records of wells drilled into the Pale and Variegated Beds do not, in general, indicate lateral persistence of sands for long distances, nor any uniform average depth to water-bearing sands in a local area. This points to the conclusion that the sands are mainly local lenses, but as such lenses are numerous, few wells fail to obtain water. In the Cadogan area many flowing wells have been obtained from sands about midway in the succession. In western Saskatchewan Pale and Variegated Beds occur over a wide area from Maclin and Kerrobert northeast through Wilkie to the Eagle Hills, south of Battleford. Numerous outcrops occur in the area south of Unity at Muddy Lake, but south and east around Biggar these beds are almost wholly concealed by glacial drift.

The water from the sands of the Pale and Variegated Beds is generally soft. The supply, apparently, is dependent in part on the size of the sand body that contains the water and in part on the ease with which water may be replenished in the sand. Small sand lenses surrounded by shales may be filled with water that has infiltrated into them, but when tapped by a well the supply may be very slowly replenished. In many instances such wells yield only a small supply, although this is commonly persistent and regular.

#### Birch Lake Formation

The Birch Lake formation underlies the Variegated Beds, but in many areas the division is not sharp. The type area of the formation is along the north shore of Birch Lake south of Innisfree, where a section 65 feet thick, composed mostly of sand, is exposed. The total thickness of the formation in this area is about 100 feet, and although this is dominantly sand a central part is composed of alternating thin sand and shale beds. At the base of the formation, in a number of places, is an oyster bed, and this is exposed in a road cut in a section 73 feet thick on the east side of Buffalo Coulee in sec. 3, tp. 47, rge. 7, W. 4th mer. In both upper and lower parts of the formation the sand is commonly massive and outcrops tend to consolidate into hard, nodular masses from a foot to a few feet in diameter. Apparently these are formed through the deposition of salts from the water that finds an outlet at the outcrops. In fact, in some areas the sand may be traced along the side of a hill by the presence of small springs or nodular masses of sandstone.

The Birch Lake formation occurs under the drift and in outcrops in a large area south of North Saskatchewan River and northeast of a line from Willingdon to Innisfree and Minburn. East of this area the southwest boundary is more irregular, but outcrops are persistent on the banks of Battle River from a few miles north of Hardisty to and beyond the mouth of Grizzly Bear Coulee in tp. 47, rge. 5. It is believed, too, that a large area near Edgerton and Chauvin is underlain by the Birch Lake formation and that it extends southeastward into Saskatchewan around Manitou Lake and southeast to Vera.

It is thought that the Birch Lake formation thins eastward from its type section at Birch Lake, and that it loses its identity in western Saskatchewan. Deep wells drilled at Czar, Castor, and elsewhere no longer show the Birch Lake as a clearly recognizable sand formation, so that its southern limit beneath younger formations is unknown. Wherever it occurs as a sand, however, it is water-bearing, although in some areas the sand is apparently too fine to yield any considerable volume of water. In other areas, however, it persistently yields good wells. There is no apparent uniformity in the character of the water, which is either hard or soft in different wells in the same general area. Direct contact with surface waters that contain calcium sulphates may in time change a "soft" water well to a "hard" water well, and many wells are not sufficiently cased to prevent the percolation of water from surface sands into the well, and hence into the deeper, soft water producing sands. In part this accounts for the change in character of the water in a well, a feature that has been noticed by many well owners.

#### Grizzly Bear Formation

The type locality for the Grizzly Bear formation, which underlies the Birch Lake beds, is near the mouth of Grizzly Bear Coulee, a tributary of Battle River with outlet in tp. 47, rge. 5. The formation is mainly composed of dark shales that were deposited in sea water. At the mouth of Grizzly Bear Coulee two shale sections, each about 100 feet thick, are separated by a zone of thin sand beds. It is now recognized that the upper section is the Grizzly Bear shale, and that the lower one, very similar in character and also deposited in sea water, occurs in the next lower formation, the Ribstone Creek. The Grizzly Bear shale contains a thin nodular zone about 50 feet above the base, that is, at about the centre of the formation. This zone is sandy, and is believed to yield water in various wells. Other thin sands, in places water-bearing, are also present. The impervious nature of the Grizzly Bear shales makes the overlying Birch Lake sand a strong aquifer, as water collects in the sand above the shale. The contact of the Birch Lake and Grizzly Bear formations can be traced in some places by the occurrence of springs issuing from the base of the Birch Lake sand even where this is not exposed.

Grizzly Bear shales occur in a road cut on the south side of Battle River near the highway bridge at Fabyan. The shales in this area are about 100 feet thick. It is thought they extend as far west as the Viking gas field, where they have been recognized in samples from deep wells. It is probable, however, that the shales thin westward and thicken eastward so that their general form is a wedge between both higher and lower sand beds. The position of the thin edge of the wedge to the west is unknown, but evidently the Grizzly Bear marine shale underlies a large area in east-central Alberta extending into Saskatchewan mainly in the area south of Battle River.

#### Ribstone Creek Formation

The type area of the Ribstone Creek formation is on Ribstone Creek near its junction with Battle River in tp. 45, rge. 1, W. 4th mer. At this place the lower sand beds of the formation are well exposed. The upper part of the lower sand member of this formation outcrops on the north side of Battle River, in the northeast part of sec. 26, tp. 47, rge. 5, near the mouth of Grizzly Bear Coulee. Above it, higher on the bank and at a short distance from the river, there is a 12 foot zone of carbonaceous and coaly beds in two layers, each about 2 feet thick, separated by 3 feet of shale. Above this are 90 feet of dark shales that are thought to have been deposited in sea water, that is, they are marine shales. These marine shales in turn are overlain by a sandy zone about 20 feet thick containing oysters in the basal part. This sandy zone is the upper sand member of the Ribstone Creek formation.

It thickens to the east and west from the Grizzly Bear area but is probably at no place much more than 50 feet thick.

The lower sand member of the Ribstone Creek formation also varies in thickness from a minimum of about 25 feet. On the banks of Vermilion Creek, north of Mannville, the basal sand is at least 60, and may be 75, feet thick. It is overlain by shaly sand and sandy shale beds, which replace the shale beds in the central part of the formation as exposed at the mouth of Grizzly Bear Coulee. In the Wainwright area, where the formation has been drilled in deep wells, the basal sand is 60 feet thick, with the central part composed of shale containing sand streaks. The upper sand member is about 20 feet thick in this area. The total thickness of the formation in the Wainwright area is 180 to 200 feet, but this increases to the west and in the Viking area exceeds 300 feet.

The Ribstone Creek formation is widely exposed in a northwest-trending belt in east-central Alberta. The southwest boundary of this northwest-trending belt passes through the mouth of Grizzly Bear Coulee in tp. 47, rge. 5, and beyond to the Two Hills area in tp. 54, rge. 12, whereas the northeast boundary crosses North Saskatchewan River southwest of Elk Point and extends northwest to include an area slightly north of St. Paul des Metis and Vilna to tp. 60, rge. 14. Within this belt water wells are common in the Ribstone Creek sands, which are almost without exception water-bearing in some part of the formation. The limits of the belt to the northeast determine the limits of water from this source, but to the southwest of the belt, as here outlined, water may be obtained in this formation by drilling through the younger beds that overlie it. The Ribstone Creek sands are a prolific source of water in many places and hence the distribution of this formation is of considerable economic importance. Where the formation consists of upper and lower sands with a central shale zone only the sands are water-bearing, although thin sand members may occur in the shale. Where the formation is largely sand the distribution of water may be in any part of the formation, although the upper and lower sands are perhaps the better aquifers. To the east of Alberta, along Battle River and Big Coulee in Saskatchewan, the Ribstone Creek sands are marine. Marine conditions apparently become more prevalent to the southeast and it is believed that in this direction the sands are gradually replaced by marine shales. Thus at some distance southeast of Battleford the Ribstone Creek formation loses its identity and its equivalents are shales in a marine succession.

#### Lea Park Formation

The Lea Park formation is largely a marine shale, and only in the upper 180 feet is there any water. In the Dina area south of Lloydminster the upper beds of the Lea Park consist of silty shales about 110 feet thick underlain by silty sands 70 feet thick. Below these sands are marine shales only, and these yield no fresh water either in east-central Alberta or west-central Saskatchewan. The sand in the upper Lea Park formation is thus the lowest freshwater aquifer within a very large area. The extent of this sand in the Lea Park, particularly to the northeast, is not known, but as the strata in east-central Alberta have a southwest inclination, progressively lower beds occur at the surface to the northeast. Thus at a short distance beyond the northeast boundary of the Ribstone Creek formation, as previously outlined, the sand in the upper Lea Park reaches the surface, and represents the last bedrock aquifer in that direction. Farther northeast water must be obtained from glacial or surface deposits only. In Alberta this area without fresh water in the bedrock includes the country north of North Saskatchewan River in the vicinity of Frog Lake and a large area extending to and beyond Beaver River. In this area, however, more fresh water streams are present than farther south, and bush lands

help to retain the surface waters. The area northeast of North Saskatchewan River in Saskatchewan is almost wholly within the Lea Park formation, where water can be found only in surface deposits.

## WATER ANALYSES

### Introduction

Analyses were made of water samples collected from a large number of wells in west-central Saskatchewan. Their purpose was to determine the chemical characteristics of the waters from different geological horizons, and thereby assist in making correlations of the strata in which the waters occur. Although this was the main objective of the analyses, it was also realized that a knowledge of the mineral content of the water is of interest and value to the consumer. The analyses were all made in the laboratory of the Water Supply and Borings Section of the Geological Survey, Ottawa.

### Discussion of Chemical Determinations

The dissolved mineral constituents vary with the material encountered by the water in its migration to the reservoir bed. The mineral salts present are referred to as the total dissolved solids, and they represent the residue when the water is completely evaporated. This is expressed quantitatively as "parts per million", which refers to the proportion by weight in 1,000,000 parts of water. A salt when dissolved in water separates into two chemical units called "radicals", and these are expressed as such in the chemical analyses. In the one group is included the metallic elements of calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), and sodium (Na), and in the other group are the sulphate (SO<sub>4</sub>), chloride (Cl), and carbonate (CO<sub>3</sub>) radicals.

The analyses indicate only the amounts of the previously mentioned radicals, thus neglecting any silica, alumina, potash, or iron that may be present. It will be noticed that in most instances the total solids are accounted for by the sum total of the radicals as shown by the analyses. Actually, the residue when the water is completely evaporated still retains some combined water of crystallization, so that the figures for the "total solids" are higher than the sum total of the radicals as determined. These radicals are also "calculated in assumed combinations" to indicate the theoretical amounts of different salts present in the water. The same method was followed in each analysis, so that the table presents a consistent record of the different compounds present.

### Mineral Constituents Present

Calcium. Calcium (Ca) in the water comes from mineral particles present in the surface deposits, the chief source being limestone, gypsum, and dolomite. Fossil shells provide a source of calcium, as does also the decomposition of igneous rocks. The common compounds of calcium are calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) and calcium sulphate (CaSO<sub>4</sub>).

Magnesium. Magnesium (Mg) is a common constituent of many igneous rocks and, therefore, very prevalent in ground water. Dolomite, a carbonate of calcium and magnesium, is also a source of the mineral. The sulphate of magnesia (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) combines with water to form "Epsom salts" and renders the water unwholesome if present in large amounts.

Sodium. Sodium (Na) is derived from a number of the important rock-forming minerals, so that sodium sulphate and carbonate are very common in ground waters. Sodium sulphate (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) combines with water to form "Glauber's salt" and excessive amounts make the water unsuitable for drinking purposes. Sodium carbonate (Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>) or "black alkali" waters are mostly soft, the degree of softness depending upon the ratio

of sodium carbonate to the calcium and magnesium salts. Waters containing sodium carbonate in excess of 200 parts per million are unsuitable for irrigation purposes<sup>1</sup>. Sodium sulphate is less

---

1

"The extreme limit of salts for irrigation is taken to be 70 parts per 100,000, but plants will not tolerate more than 10 to 20 parts per 100,000 of black alkali (alkaline carbonates and bicarbonates)" Frank Dixey in "A Practical Handbook of Water Supply", Thos. Murby & Co., 1931, p. 254.

---

harmful.

Sulphates. The sulphate ( $\text{SO}_4$ ) salts referred to in these analyses are calcium sulphate ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ ), magnesium sulphate ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), and sodium sulphate ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ).

Chloride. Chlorine (Cl) is with a few exceptions, expressed as sodium chloride ( $\text{NaCl}$ ), that is, common table salt. It is found in all of the analyses, most of the waters containing less than 200 parts per million, but some as much as 2,000 or 3,000 parts. These waters have a brackish taste.

Alkalinity. The alkalinity determined in these water analyses is based on the assumption that the only salts present in the samples that will neutralize acids are carbonates, and that, consequently, the degree of alkalinity is proportional to the amount of the carbonate radical ( $\text{CO}_3$ ) present.

Hardness. The hardness of water is the total hardness, and has been determined by the amount of a standard soap solution required to form a lather that will stand up (persist) for 2 minutes. Hardness is of two kinds, temporary and permanent. Temporary hardness is caused by calcium and magnesium bicarbonates, which are soluble in water but are precipitated as insoluble normal carbonates by boiling, as shown by the scale that forms in teakettles. Permanent hardness is caused by the presence of calcium and magnesium sulphates, and is not removed by boiling. The two forms of hardness are not distinguished in the water analyses. Waters grade from very soft<sub>2</sub> to very hard, and can be classified according to the following system :

---

2

The "Examination of Waters and Water Supplies", Thresh & Beale, page 21, Fourth Ed. 1933 .

---

- A water under 50 degrees (that is, parts per million) of hardness may be said to be very soft.
- A water with 50 to 100 degrees of hardness may be said to be moderately soft.
- A water with 100 to 150 degrees of hardness may be said to be moderately hard.
- A water with more than 200 and less than 300 degrees of hardness may be said to be hard.
- A water with more than 300 degrees of hardness may be said to be very hard.

Hard waters are usually high in calcium carbonate. Almost all of the waters from the glacial drift are of this type, especially those ~~not~~ associated with sand and gravel deposits that come close to the surface.

In soft water the calcium carbonate has been replaced by sodium carbonate, due to natural reagents present in the sand and clays. Bentonite and glauconite are two such reagents known to be present. Montmorillinite, one of the clay-forming minerals, has the same property of softening water, owing to the absorbed sodium that is available for chemical reaction<sup>1</sup>.

---

1

Piper, A. M. "Ground Water in Southwestern Pennsylvania",  
Penn. Geol. Surv., 4th series.

---

If surface water reaches the lower sands by percolating through the higher beds it may be highly charged with calcium salts before reaching the bedrock formations containing bentonite or glauconite. The completeness of the exchange of calcium carbonate for sodium carbonate will, therefore, depend upon the length of time that the water is in contact with the softening reagent, and also upon the amount of this material present. The rate of movement of underground water will, consequently, be a factor in determining the extent of the reaction.

The amount of iron present in the water was not determined, owing to the possibilities of contamination from the iron casings in the wells. Iron is present in most waters, but the amount may be small. Upon exposure to air a red precipitate forms, the water becomes acid, and, hence, has a corrosive action. When iron is present in large amounts the water has an inky taste.

#### WATER ANALYSES IN RELATION TO GEOLOGY

##### Glacial Drift

The quality of the water from glacial drift depends largely on the nature of the deposit from which it comes and on the depth of the aquifer below the surface. Glacial deposits may be divided roughly into three types.

- (1). Sand and gravel beds that form the surface deposit, such as outwash material and glacial lake sands.
- (2). Buried outwash and interglacial deposits between two tills of boulder clay.
- (3). Pockets or lenses of sand and gravel irregularly distributed through the till.

Water from surface sand deposits is normally low in dissolved salts, the total being generally less than 1,000 parts per million. Where large amounts of limestone occur in the glacial sand and gravel beds a characteristic constituent of the glacial water is calcium carbonate, the amount present varying from 300 to 700 parts per million.

Water from buried outwash deposits contains more dissolved salts than the surface sands, as the water in order to reach them has to percolate through overlying till. Rain water contains carbonic acid, which acts as a solvent and dissolves a great deal of calcium, magnesium, and sodium from the rock-forming minerals. Sulphate salts are commonly present, though their proportions vary greatly in the different waters. The shales that are incorporated in the drift are high in calcium sulphate, so that the amount of shale present will modify the quality of the water. The oxidized upper part of the drift contains less sulphate than the deeper, less oxidized boulder clay. The character of the water in the buried outwash deposits will, therefore, depend largely on the composition and amount of till that overlies it.

Water from irregularly distributed sand and gravel beds will vary in its content of dissolved salts depending upon the character of the material surrounding the reservoir beds. As the water in this type of deposit does not flow to any marked extent, it is apt to be more highly impregnated with soluble salts than where the underground movement is more rapid. Soft water in the drift is mostly confined to shallow wells in sands low in calcium carbonate. Waters from glacial lake clays are sometimes high in soluble salts.

The sample from a well in glacial lake clay on N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 27, tp. 42, rge. 17, has 11,040 parts per million of soluble salts, largely magnesium sulphate and sodium sulphate. The sample from SE.  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 13, tp. 42, rge. 16, which is believed to come from glacial lake silts, has a very different composition. The total solids in it are only 440 parts per million, of which 250 are calcium carbonate. The great difference in these waters is due to the high soluble salt content that is associated with the lake clays but absent in the silts. Average drift water contains between 1,000 and 3,000 parts per million of dissolved mineral salts.

#### Bearpaw Formation

The Bearpaw formation consists of dark marine shales and beds of green sand. Water from these sands has a total solid count ranging from 300 to 1,600 parts per million and a hardness of more than 300 degrees. Calcium carbonate is very marked in all samples, due, perhaps, to the proximity of the water sands to the glacial drift. Sodium sulphate is the chief salt present, followed by calcium carbonate, magnesium sulphate, magnesium carbonate, and sodium chloride in decreasing amounts. These waters are distinguished from the overlying drift waters by being relatively low in total dissolved solids, and in containing no calcium sulphate and only moderate amounts of sodium sulphate, magnesium sulphate, and magnesium carbonate.

#### Pale Beds

Pale Beds underlie the Bearpaw formation. Total solids in waters from these beds vary from 700 to 1,300 parts per million. The water is, in most instances, soft, as it contains sodium carbonate in excess of calcium and magnesium carbonates, but when mixed with surface water high in calcium carbonate, it will become hard. The high concentration of sodium salts, especially sodium carbonate, in contrast with the calcium and magnesium salts distinguishes this water from that in Bearpaw sands. The Pale Beds include much bentonite, and it is this mineral that acts as a water softener within the formation. The following analyses are typical of waters from the Pale Beds:

	SE. sec. 16, tp. 38, rge. 21	NE. sec. 3, tp. 39, rge. 25	SW. sec. 7, tp. 37, rge. 24	SE. sec. 21, tp. 38, rge. 23
Salts				
CaCO <sub>3</sub>	73	18	53	35
CaSO <sub>4</sub>	-	-	-	-
MgCO <sub>3</sub>	52	14	45	38
MgSO <sub>4</sub>	-	-	-	-
Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	297	679	464	562
Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	297	158	266	437

NaCl	31	45	46	130
Total solids	760	1,020	940	1,260
Hardness	100	20	30	75

Variegated Beds

In Senlac Rural Municipality, Saskatchewan, are a number of wells that have water very similar in character to that found in the Bearpaw formation. These wells tap an horizon that corresponds with the Variegated Beds in Alberta, although they have not been separated from the Pale Beds. They are less bentonitic than the Pale Beds and darker in colour. The water is hard and has a low dissolved solid content. The three analyses given below show a great deal of similarity and suggest a common horizon.

Salts	NW. sec. 21, tp.41,rge.26	NW. sec. 3, tp.41,rge.28	SE. sec. 28, tp.40,rge.28
CaCO <sub>3</sub>	250	305	125
CaSO <sub>4</sub>	-	-	-
MgCO <sub>3</sub>	1109	80	155
MgSO <sub>4</sub>	149	104	69
Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	-	-	-
Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	98	132	386
NaCl	12	12	18
Total solids	640	640	780
Hardness	600	600	500

Ribstone Creek Formation

Chemical analyses of water from the Ribstone Creek formation vary more than in the Pale Beds, the reason being that at several different horizons the sediments show considerable lateral variation. The formation includes both marine and non-marine beds, thin coal seams being present in the basal part of the formation around Paynton, whereas south of Lashburn, on Battle River, marine fossils were found in strata considered to be at approximately the same horizon. The water analyses show similarities within limited areas, but long distance correlations cannot be made safely except for the saline waters that occur in the flowing wells at Vera, Muddy Lake, and at the south end of Tramping Lake. Analyses of these waters are given in the following table:

Salts	SE. sec. 25, tp.41,rge. 24	SE. sec. 22, tp.41,rge. 24,	NE. sec. 36, tp.41,rge. 24,	SW. sec. 7 tp.41,rge. 24,	SE. sec. 30, tp.38, rge. 22,	SW. sec. 10, tp.35, rge.20,
CaCO <sub>3</sub>	73	73	73	198	108	93
CaSO <sub>4</sub>	-	-	-	-	m-	-
MgCO <sub>3</sub>	38	38	38	52	69	52
MgSO <sub>4</sub>	-	-	-	-	-	-

Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	129	119	129	11	106	125
Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	55	55	61	61	49	43
NaCl	2,929	3,036	2,690	2,863	3,531	3,861
Total solids	3,840	3,460	3,120	3,200	3,866	4,460
Hardness	135	90	110	100	130	130

The similarity in these analyses suggests a common source bed. The distance between the Tramping Lake well and the Vera wells is about 40 miles. This water, which is thought to come from the basal sand of the Ribstone Creek formation, is not typical of water from the same stratigraphical horizon in the vicinity of Battle River, one reason being, possibly, that at Battle River the stream has cut through the Ribstone Creek formation exposing the sand members along its banks. This may cause a more rapid movement of the underground water in this area than farther south, and it is known that the rate of flow is a controlling factor that governs the change of calcium carbonate to sodium carbonate when the softening reagents of bentonite or glauconite are present in the sand.

Some of the soft waters from the Ribstone Creek formation cannot be distinguished from those of the Pale Beds, whereas others are quite different. The following analyses illustrate some of the different types of water from this formation:

	Se. sec. 11, tp. 46, rge.	Ind. Agent Little Pine I.R.	SW. sec. 24, tp. 46, rge.	NE. sec. 36, tp. 43, rge.	Se. sec. 26, tp. 43, rge.	NE. sec. 36, tp. 41, rge.	NW. sec. 22, tp. 42, rge.
Salts	28		21	18	18	24	23
CaCO <sub>3</sub>	90	90	410	73	35	73	125
CaSO <sub>4</sub>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MgCO <sub>3</sub>	97	59	168	38	31	38	97
MgSO <sub>4</sub>	-	-	64	-	-	-	-
Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	217	392	-	283	592	129	196
Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	1,644	777	2,518	225	522	61	1,541
NaCl	249	63	76	12	83	2,690	71
Total solids	2,220	1,340	3,000	620	1,280	3,120	1,900
Hardness	280	160	750	110	35	110	600

The above chemical analyses show such a wide range in the dissolved salts present in the different waters in the Ribstone Creek formation that they cannot be used for correlation purposes over a large area.

#### Conclusions

- (1) In most instances water from glacial drift is quite different from water from bedrock.
- (2) Some of the bedrock horizons carry waters that show definite chemical characteristics.
- (3) Most waters from glacial till carry total solids amounting to between 1,000 and 3,000 parts per million.

(4) Bedrock waters are commonly low in dissolved salts. Exceptions to this are to be found in water from the Ribstone Creek formation.

(5) Water from the Bearpaw formation is hard. An average of ten wells gave a total solid content of 1,100 parts per million.

(6) Water from the Variegated Beds resembles that from the Bearpaw formation.

(7) Waters from the Pale Beds is mostly soft. An average of ten wells gave a total solid of 1,000 parts per million.

(8) All soft waters contain sodium carbonate ( $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ ), which is present in water from the Pale Beds and Ribstone Creek formations but absent from the Bearpaw formation and Variegated Beds.

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BATTLE RIVER, NO. 438, SASKATCHEWAN

Physical Features

This municipality is bounded on the northeast by North Saskatchewan River, which, particularly in the north half of the area, has steep banks as much as 200 feet high. Battle River also cuts across the central part of the municipality, and in part has fairly high banks. The relief is further augmented by the east- and north-facing escarpment of Eagle Hills, which rises abruptly 300 feet from a lowland to a comparatively flat highland. The front of Eagle Hills escarpment, particularly in the vicinity of Prongue, is deeply dissected by gullies, which give it the appearance of being composed of ridges and hills, but elsewhere the face slopes abruptly from the highland to the lowland.

Geology

Ribstone Creek sands and shales outcrop along Prongue Creek. A particularly massive and thick sand bed occurs near the top of the formation, and outcrops in Prongue Creek Valley on the road-cut north of the village. Other sand beds occur at various lower levels, but shales form quite a large part of the formation. In a railroad cut southwest of Prongue is an outcrop of shales that are believed to form part of the Grizzly Bear formation. The elevation of this outcrop and the thickness of the formation are such that higher stratigraphic beds must occur in the upper part of the hills forming the escarpment at this place. The only evidence found of such beds, however, was a poor outcrop of shale in a road-cut on sec. 2, tp. 43, rge. 18. From its position in the section these shales should be part of the Pale and Variegated Beds, but the shales in themselves are in no way diagnostic of any part of these formations as at present known from other localities. The inferences derived from this distribution of outcrops is that the highland south and west of the Eagle Hills escarpment is underlain by Pale and Variegated Beds, the central part of the face of the escarpment is composed of Grizzly Bear shales, and the lower part of the escarpment and the lowland in front of it are underlain by Ribstone Creek strata. At a number of places along Battle River, and southwest of North Battleford, beyond this municipality, on the banks of North Saskatchewan River, are outcrops of Lea Park shales. These normally underlie the Ribstone Creek beds, and thus occur beneath the drift in the part of this municipality north of Battle River and along both banks of North Saskatchewan River.

The drift on the highland south and west of the Eagle Hills escarpment is considered to be quite thick, possible as much as 150 or 175 feet. In front of the escarpment, however, the drift is comparatively thin. South of Battleford, and occupying part of tp. 43, rges. 16 and 17, is a sand and sand dune area evidently the product of glacial lake deposition. A similar area extends northwest from a short distance north of Battleford, and occupies part of tp. 44, rges. 17, 18, and 19, and tp. 45, rges 18 and 19.

### Water Supply

On the highland south and west of the Eagle Hills escarpment no wells in this municipality have penetrated the glacial drift. Wells obtain their supply of water from sands and gravels deposited with the drift and forming relatively restricted reservoirs both laterally and in thickness. Some degree of regularity to the water-bearing horizons is evident in a few places within limited areas, but the uniformity is not marked. The result is that in most places the presence of water-bearing sands or gravels in the drift cannot be predicted with any degree of certainty, and striking one of these in a well is a matter of chance. On that part of the lowland underlain by Ribstone Creek beds some wells obtain water from gravel or sand beds in the drift, but the greater number penetrate the drift to Ribstone Creek sands. These sands are continuous over considerable areas, and several of them are water-bearing. In most places they give a good supply of water and commonly this is soft. As bentonite is known to be present in considerable abundance in shales within this formation it is assumed that it is responsible for the softness of the water.

In that part of the municipality underlain by Lea Park shales all wells obtain their water from sand and gravel beds in the drift. The Lea Park formation contains a few poor sand horizons in the upper part, and these might be water-bearing, but the prospects of obtaining an adequate supply in this formation are poor. Joints and cracks in the upper, weathered part of the formation may provide local reservoirs from downward percolating waters, but in relatively few places has the shale been found to be sufficiently porous to act as an aquifer.

Township 43, Ranges 16 and 17, West of North Saskatchewan River. The western part of this area is underlain by the Ribstone Creek formation, whereas in the eastern part probably only Lea Park shale occurs beneath the glacial drift. The drift is also somewhat variable in thickness, and it is not apparent in many instances whether the wells obtain their water from Ribstone Creek sands or sands in the drift, which in this area is believed to be comparatively thin. In a few wells known to have tapped the Ribstone Creek sands, soft water has been obtained, but it does not necessarily follow that every well that yields soft water has obtained it from Ribstone Creek beds. The bentonite in the shales and sands is believed to be responsible for the softness of the water, but bentonite derived from the bedrock may also be mixed with the drift. A number of the wells in this area are quite shallow and are obviously only in surface sands, whereas those from the same horizon of the Ribstone Creek formation show a dip to the northeast, that is a decrease in elevation in that direction. Two wells, one on SW. sec. 32, tp. 43, rge. 17, and the other on NW. section 33, obtain soft water at elevations of 1,666 and 1,673 feet respectively, obviously in the same horizon of the Ribstone Creek formation, whereas a well only 20 feet deep on NW. section 32, obtains water in what is thought to be glacial sand at an elevation of 1,586 feet. This in itself

indicates the considerable relief of the bedrock surface. As several water-bearing sands occur in the Ribstone Creek formation it is difficult to trace each one, although probably each is fairly persistent.

Township 43, Range 18. The Eagle Hill escarpment cuts across this township, dividing it into an eastern lowland and a western highland. All wells on the highland obtain water from gravel or sand in the drift, whereas some on the lowland penetrate the drift to the underlying Ribstone Creek sands. As in the range immediately to the east the water horizons of the Ribstone Creek formation have a persistent eastward slope, but here again it is difficult to trace individual sands beds. No particular uniformity seems apparent in the glacial wells on the highland, the water being found in sand beds scattered irregularly through the drift. It is expected, however, that deep wells would everywhere find water in the Ribstone Creek formations at elevations of less than 1,850 feet.

Township 44, Range 17, West of North Saskatchewan River. Except for a small area in the southwest part of this township, where Ribstone Creek sands occur below the drift, the entire area is underlain by Lea Park shales. One hole, 180 feet deep on NE. section 32, was drilled into these shales and found no water. All other wells, except perhaps one on NW. section 6, which appears to have struck a Ribstone Creek sand, are from sands in the drift, with little prospect of finding further supplies of water by drilling into the underlying shale. To the north of Battle River is a sand area in which water can be obtained from shallow wells, where it has accumulated in the sand in relatively impervious drift. A well 9 feet deep, on SW. section 16, is an example.

Township 44, Range 18. As in the range immediately to the east the area north of Battle River is covered by sand. In it shallow wells can be obtained, but the land is not suited for agriculture. To the south and west of Battle River the Eagle Hills escarpment cuts through the southwest part of the township, dividing it into a lowland to the northeast and a highland to the southwest. Several wells on the lowland obtain water in the Ribstone Creek sands, but on the highland the water in all wells comes from gravel and sand beds in the drift. The Ribstone Creek sands dip eastward, but owing to the fact that more than one yields water it is difficult, as in the township to the south, to trace individual sands. On the highland the water-bearing beds in the drift include one horizon with an average elevation of 2,000 feet and another with an elevation of about 1,920 feet. Sufficient data are not available to indicate whether or not these are continuous over a wide area, although such information as has been collected suggests such a condition.

Sweet Grass Indian Reserve, No. 113. The record of only one well, at the Sweet Grass Indian Reserve farm, is available from this municipality. The well obtains water in glacial drift at a depth of 43 feet at an elevation of 1,939 feet. Regional information suggests a widespread, water-bearing horizon in the drift between elevations of 1,920 and 1,955 feet, as in tp. 44, rge. 18. A section of drift more than 100 feet thick is exposed on the steep banks of Drummond Creek near the

north end of the Indian Reserve, but in most places, except where slides have occurred, this is covered with grass and, therefore, not available for detailed study. The base of the drift in this area, therefore, is not above an elevation of 1,750 feet, so that within the Indian Reserve, except in the valley of Drummond Creek, it is suspected that the drift is at least 150 feet thick. No information is available on what lies directly below the drift, although Grizzly Bear shale would be expected. Below this shale again the Ribstone Creek water-bearing sands would be encountered in wells that are drilled to depths of at least 250 or 300 feet.

Township 45, Ranges 17 and 18, West of North Saskatchewan River. The southwest part of this area is covered with sand and light soil. Where rain water has accumulated in the sand, which is underlain by more impervious clays, shallow wells will yield water. Throughout most of the area, however, all water is obtained from wells in the glacial drift. Several wells have also penetrated the drift to the underlying Lea Park shales, and one well, on NE. section 16, drilled 600 feet deep, is thought to have reached the base of the drift at a depth of 184 feet, or an elevation of 1,610 feet. Another well, east of Delmas on SE. section 13, drilled to a depth of 318 feet, also may have entered Lea Park shale, although the record cannot be interpreted with certainty. This well is reported to have encountered a sand filled with gas, and this may have been in the Lea Park formation. The water-bearing sands are irregularly distributed in the glacial drift.

Township 45, Range 19. All but the northwest corner of this township is covered by sand and sand dunes and is of little agricultural importance. The wells in the northeast part are from gravels in the glacial drift, and one hole 152 feet deep struck blue-grey hard rock in the bottom and obtained no water. The hard rock represents what may have been a large ironstone nodule either in glacial drift derived from Lea Park shale or within the formation itself.

Township 46, Ranges 18 and 19, Southwest of North Saskatchewan River. The southwest part of this area is covered by light soil or sand similar to that in the township to the south. In the northeast part all wells are believed to obtain their water from sand and gravel beds in the drift. A well on SE. sec. 6, tp. 46, rge. 18, drilled to a depth of 700 feet, obtained no water in the Lea Park shales below the bottom of the glacial materials. The wells in the drift show no continuous aquifers, and in general the supply of water is small. Unfortunately, drilling into the Lea Park shale offers no hope of increased supply, and dependence must be placed wholly on finding porous glacial sands in the drift. Such deposits are, apparently, quite widely scattered, but occur at no definite levels.

ANALYSES OF WATER SAMPLES FROM RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BATTLE RIVER, No. 438,  
SASKATCHEWAN.

No.	1/4 Sec.	Twp.	Rge.	Depth in feet	Elev. of Aquifer	Total dissolved solids	Constituents as Analysed						Total Hardness	Constituents as Calculated in assumed Combinations							Source of Water	
							Ca	Mg	Na	SO <sub>4</sub>	Cl.	Alk.		CaCO <sub>3</sub>	CaSO <sub>4</sub>	MgCO <sub>3</sub>	MgSO <sub>4</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	NaCl.		
22	SE 19	43	16	35	1635	440	100	35	13	45	14	360	550	250	98	45	13	23	23	?	Ribstone Creek	
21	NE 5	43	17	32	1732	980	64	20	256	275	6	505	250	160	69	407	407	9	9	"	"	
19	SW 14	43	18	70	1766	1600	29	7	629	820	30	570	90	73	24	496	1213	50	50	"	"	
18	NE 24	43	18	48	1771	1620	43	11	545	496	22	795	110	108	38	680	734	56	56	"	"	
17	SE 26	43	18	100	1743	1280	14	9	459	353	50	630	35	35	31	592	522	85	85	"	"	
16	NW 28	43	18	69	1793	1560	172	54	278	909	16	495	850	430	55	186	627	26	26	?	Ribstone Creek	
10	NE 36	43	18	56	1651	620	29	11	201	152	7	385	110	73	38	285	225	12	12	"	"	
11	NE 36	43	18	78	1626	660	50	17	172	152	14	390	200	125	59	207	225	23	23	"	"	
9	SW 5	44	17	48	1564	420	108	31	13	135	9	270	360	270	154	21	21	15	15	"	Glacial lake silts	
12	NE 1	44	18	39	1605	720	143	52	6	242	16	310	550	310	245	530	668	26	26	"	Glacial drift	
15	SE 4	44	18	60	1792	1920	200	107	253	1037	16	345	1400	345	211	455	863	26	26	"	"	
13	SE 16	44	18	63	1758	2100	243	92	290	1025	16	525	1300	525	112	703	608	21	21	"	"	
14	SW 21	44	18	Spring		2240	229	142	205	1349	13	180	1800	180	534	1554	1890	79	79	"	"	
43	NW 7	45	17	186	1697	5200	422	314	643	2964	48	590	3000+	590	632	624	1910	77	77	"	Glacial drift	
44	SE 13	45	18	318	1521	5480	358	126	648	1953	47	725	1800	725	231	328	55	26	26	"	"	
45	SE 29	45	18	126		700	157	46	28	254	16	360	650	360	44	430	516	292	292	"	"	
46	SW 16	45	19	76		2300	265	87	283	845	177	505	1300	505	214							

RECORDS OF WELLS IN RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BATTLE RIVER No. 438, SASKATCHEWAN.

Well No.	LOCATION			Type of Well	Depth of Well Ft.	WATER LEVEL		PRINCIPAL WATER-BEARING BED	Char-acter of Water	Use to Which Water is put	Yield & Remarks						
	Sec.	Tp.	Rge. Mer.			Above (+) Elev.	Below (-) Sea Level										
1	N.W. 5	43	16	3	Dug	11	1690	-9	1681	11	1679	Fine sand	Hard	D.S.	Limited	Another well 8'	
2	N.E. 6	43	16	3	"	14	1743	-8	1735	13	1730	Sandy clay	"	"	"	"	Sufficient
3	N.W. 7	43	16	3	"	14	1702	-12	1690	14	1688	Fine sand	"	"	"	"	Limited
4	S.W. 8	43	16	3	"	12	1687	-10	1677	12	1675	"	Soft	"	"	"	Poor supply
5	S.W. 10	43	16	3	"	25	1608	Low	1583	25	1583	"	"	"	"	"	Sufficient
6	S.E. 19	43	16	3	"	35	1665	-25	1640	30	1635	Sand	Hard Alk	"	"	"	"
7	N.E. 30	43	16	3	Bored	105	1605			95	1510	"	"	"	"	"	"
1	N.E. 3	45	17	3	Dug	25	1731			25	1706	Sand	Soft	D.S.	Good supply		
2	N.W. 4	"	"	"	"	25	1771			25	1746	" & Shale	Hard	"	"	"	"
3	N.E. 5	"	"	"	"	32	1765			32	1732	Ribstone Ck. Sand	Soft	"	"	"	"
4	S.W. 5	"	"	"	"	25	1805			20	1785	Fine sand	Hard Alk	"	"	"	"
5	S.W. 6	"	"	"	"	30	1831			30	1801	"	"	"	"	"	"
6	N.E. 6	"	"	"	"	20	1794	-19	1775	19	1775	"	"	"	"	"	"
7	N.E. 9	"	"	"	"	25	1732	-12	1720	20	1712	Sand & Sh	"	S.	"	"	"
8	S.E. 12	"	"	"	Bored	65	1682	-35	1647	65	1617	Coarse sand	Hard Alk	D.S.	"	"	"
9	N.E. 13	"	"	"	Dug	25	1708	-23	1683	23	1683	Blue Clay	Soft	"	"	"	"
10	S.W. 17	"	"	"	Bored	79	1757			79	1678	Sand & Sh-ale	"	"	"	"	Good supply
11	N.W. 17	"	"	"	Dug	36	1751	-22	1729	20	1731	Top of Sh-ale	Hard Alk	"	"	"	Sufficient
12	S.W. 19	"	"	"	Bored	40	1814			40	1774	Ribstone Ck.	" Fe.	"	"	"	Good supply
13	N.E. 22	"	"	"	Dug	15	1725			15	1710	Sand	Hard	"	"	"	Sufficient, Sandpoints used
14	S.E. 25	"	"	"	"	55	1576	-53	1523	55	1521	"	"	"	"	"	"
15	S.W. 25	"	"	"	"	22	1620	-20	1600	22	1596	Fine sand	"	"	"	"	"
16	N.E. 27	"	"	"	"	18	1697	-16	1681	18	1679	"	"	"	"	"	"
17	S.W. 30	"	"	"	"	40	1805					Shale marine	"	"	"	"	Dry hole
18	N.W. 32	"	"	"	"	20	1606	-5	1601	20	1586	Fine sand	Hard	D.S.	Sufficient	"	"
19	S.W. 32	"	"	"	Bored	77	1743	-60	1683	77	1666	Ribstone Ck.	Soft	"	"	"	Good supply
20	N.W. 33	"	"	"	"	65	1718	-30	1688	45	1673	"	"	"	"	"	"

x.- D.- Domestic, S.- Stock, Fe.- Iron, Alk.- Alkaline.

Well

No.

21	N.W. 2	43	18	3	Dug	8	1842	-43	1839	8	1834	Fine sand	Hard	D.S.	Sufficient
22	S.E. 2	"	"	"	"	46	1882	-5	2049	46	1836	Gravel	"	"	"
23	S.E. 4	"	"	"	"	12	2054	-20	2074	12	2042	Fine sand	Soft	"	"
24	S.W. 4	"	"	"	"	35	2094	-24	2038	35	2059	Gl. gravel	Hard	"	"
25	S.E. 7	"	"	"	Bored	35	2062	-25	1997	35	2027	Sand & gravel	" Fe.	D.	Limited
26	S.E. 9	"	"	"	"	65	2022	-36	1822	55	1967	Sand	" Fe.	D.S.	Sufficient
27	S.E. 10	"	"	"	Dug	40	1858	-20	1842	40	1818	Fine sand	"	"	"
28	S.E. 11	"	"	"	Bored	40	1862	-43	1773	40	1822	"	"	"	"
29	S.W. 13	"	"	"	Dug	53	1816	-18	1729	53	1763	Ribstone Ck.	Soft Fe.	"	"
30	N.W. 14	"	"	"	"	40	1747	-45	1985	22	1725	"	Soft	"	"
31	S.W. 14	"	"	"	"	70	1836			70	1766	"	Soft	"	"
32	S.W. 16	"	"	"	"	65	2030			45	1985	Sand	Hard	S.	Poor supply
33	N.W. 19	"	"	"	"	65	2049			65	1984	Glacial	Hard		Dry hole. Water from Spring.
34	N.E. 21	"	"	"	Bored	75	1916								Sufficient
35	S.E. 22	"	"	"	Dug	36	1696	-18	1678	36	1660	Gravel ?	Soft	D.S.	Sufficient
36	N.E. 22	"	"	"	"	40	1715	-25	1690	25	1690	Ribstone Ck.	"	"	"
37	N.E. 24	"	"	"	"	48	1811	-40	1771	40	1771	"	"	"	"
38	S.E. 24	"	"	"	"	48	1811	-40	1771	48	1765	"	"	"	"
39	N.E. 25	"	"	"	Bored	32	1747	-22	1725	30	1717	"	Hard Alk.	"	"
40	S.W. 25	"	"	"	Dug	54	1802	-36	1766	48	1754	"	" Fe.	"	"
41	N.E. 26	"	"	"	Bored	53	1818	-47	1771	47	1771	"	Soft	"	Good supply
42	S.E. 26	"	"	"	"	100	1823	-32	1791	80	1743	"	"	"	Sufficient
43	N.E. 27	"	"	"	"	72	1823	-32	1791	72	1751	"	Hard Alk.	"	"
44	N.W. 28	"	"	"	Dug	69	1858	-40	1818	65	1793	"	Hard	"	"
45	N.W. 30	"	"	"	"	60	2034	-58	1976	60	1974	Fine sand	Soft	"	"
46	S.W. 30	"	"	"	"	15	2046	-10	2036	15	2031	"	"	"	Limited
47	N.W. 32	"	"	"	Bored	88	2053			80	1973	Blue "	Hard Fe.	D.S.	No water
48	N.W. 32	"	"	"	Dug	25	2018			25	1993	White "	"	"	Sufficient
49	S.E. 32	"	"	"	"	32	1866			22	1844	Fine "	"	"	"
50	N.E. 32	"	"	"	"	44	2053			18	2035	Gl. Clay	"	"	"
51	S.W. 34	"	"	"	Bored	60	1823	-40	1783	58	1765	Ribstone Ck.	"	"	"
52	N.E. 34	"	"	"	"	96	1828			80	1748	"	"	"	Poor supply
53	"	"	"	"	Drilled	540	1828			62	1766	Sandstone	"	"	"
54	S.W. 36	"	"	"	Dug	64	1816	-54	1762	52	1764	"	Soft	D.S.	" Top of 1978, Park shale at 1678, Sufficient
55	N.E. 36	"	"	"	Bored	53	1704	-48	1656	53	1651	"	"	"	"

Well

No.

1	S.W. 2	43	19	3	Dug	31	2080	-16	2064	31	2049	Sandy clay	Hard	D.S.	Sufficient
2	S.E. 6	"	"	"	"	57	2062			57	2005	Gl. sand	" Alk.	"	"
3	N.E. 6	"	"	"	Bored	38	2057	-30	2027	31	2026	" gravel	" Fe.	"	"
1	S.E. 5	44	17	3	Bored	42	1610			42	1568	Fine sand	Hard Fe.	D.S.	Sand trouble
2	S.W. 5	44	17	3	"	48	1612			48	1564	Sand	Hard	"	Good supply
3	N.W. 6	44	17	3	Dug	42	1644	-40	1604	42	1602	Ribstone Ck.	Hard	D.S.	Limited
4	S.W. 16	"	"	"	"	9	1668	-6	1662	9	1659	Sand	Soft	"	Sufficient
5	N.E. 32	"	"	"	Bored	180	1757								Dry hole in shale.
6	S.E. 33	"	"	"	"	36	1767	-27	1740	36	1731	Blue sand	Soft	D.S.	Sufficient
1	N.E. 1	44	18	3	Dug	30	1644	-26	1618	30	1614	Ribstone Ck.	Soft	D.S.	Limited supply sand trouble
2	N.W. 2	"	"	"	"	15	1724	-13	1711	15	1709	Sand	Hard	"	Sufficient
3	N.W. 3	"	"	"	"	32	1788	-25	1763	30	1758	Ribstone Ck.	" Alk.	"	"
4	S.E. 4	"	"	"	"	60	1849	-56	1793	57	1792	"	Hard	"	"
5	N.E. 6	"	"	"	Bored	115	2030			110	1920	Fine sand	"	"	Poor supply, dry hole 100'
6	S.W. 6	"	"	"	Dug	32	2035	-30	2005	32	2003	Blue "	"	"	Sufficient
7	S.W. 9	"	"	"	"	32	2020	-28	1992	32	1988	Coarse "	"	"	"
8	S.W. 10	"	"	"	"	26	1812	-20	1792	22	1790	Ribstone Ck.	"	"	Good supply
9	N.W. 10	"	"	"	"	44	1798	-33	1765	40	1758	"	"	"	Sufficient
10	N.E. 10	"	"	"	Bored	62	1696			62	1634	Top of Shale	" Alk.	"	"
11	N.W. 14	"	"	"	Dug	25	1688	-23	1665	25	1663	Fine sand	"	"	"
12	S.E. 16	"	"	"	Bored	63	1818			60	1758	Ribstone Ck.	"	"	"
13	N.E. 16	"	"	"	Dug	40	1825			15	1810	Top of Shale	"	"	Poor supply
14	S.E. 17	"	"	"	Bored	102	2043	-17	1973	25	2018	Gl. gravel	"	"	"
15	S.W. 17	"	"	"	Dug	70	2070			70	2000	Fine sand	"	"	Sufficient
16	N.E. 18	"	"	"	Bored	101	2023	-91	1932	101	1922	"	"	"	"
17	S.W. 22	"	"	"	Dug	38	1711	-36	1675	38	1673	"	"	"	Poor supply
1	N.E. 3	44	19	3	Bored	43	1982	-40	1942	43	1939	Fine sand	Hard	D.S.	Limited due to sand trouble Sweet Grass I.R. Farm.
1	N.E. 5	45	17	3	Bored	29	1777	-4	1773	29	1748	Blue sand	Hard	D.S.	Sufficient
2	N.W. 7	"	"	"	"	135	1852	-130	1702	135	1697	Fine "	"	S.	Poor supply
3	S.W. 18	"	"	"	"	136	1822			125	1697	"	" Fe.	D.S.	Sufficient
4	N.W. 19	"	"	"	Dug	43	1787			43	1744	Dry Coarse Sand			Dry hole

Well

Well No.	Locality	Depth	Direction	Material	Distance	Depth	Material	Remarks	Notes
1	S.E. 2	45	18	3 Dug	15	1659	Sand	Hard	D.S. Sufficient
2	S.W. 10	"	"	"	73	1803	Gravel	"	"
3	S.E. 13	"	"	Drilled	318	1837	Gray sand	" Fe.	" Gas blew tools out of well.
4	N.E. 15	"	"	Bored	110	1827	Sand & Black Pebbles.	Hard Fe.	D.S. Sufficient
5	N.W. 17	"	"	"	73	1802	White sand	"	"
6	S.E. 17	"	"	"	75	1780	Gravel	"	"
7	N.W. 21	"	"	Dug	26	1870	"	"	"
8	N.W. 23	"	"	"	26	1820	Fine sand	"	"
9	N.E. 24	"	"	Bored	63	1772	Gray "	"	"
10	S.E. 28	"	"	Dug	18	1852	Gl. clay	"	"
11	S.E. 29	"	"	Drilled	126	1840	Coarse yellow sand	" Alk.	"
12	S.E. 30	"	"	Bored	96	1847	Gl. gravel	Hard	"
13	N.E. 31	"	"	"	76	1825	" "	" Alk.	"
14	N.E. 33	"	"	Drilled	600	1794	" "	"	Small amount of water. Top of Lea Park Shale at 1610'.
1	N.E. 36	45	19	3 Dug	31	1825	Gl. gravel	Soft	D.S. Sufficient
2	N.E. 36	"	"	Drilled	152	1825	" "	"	Hard rock at 1673', Dry Hole.
3	S.E. 36	"	"	Bored	70	1806	Gl. gravel	Hard	D.S. Sufficient
1	S.E. 6	46	18	3 Drilled	700	1825	Coarse sand Lea Park Shale	"	Small supply of water. No water
1	N.E. 2	46	19	3 Dug	35	1796	Gl. gravel	Hard	D.S. Sufficient
2	N.W. 2	"	"	"	50	1790	Fine yellow sand	" Alk.	"
3	S.E. 10	"	"	Bored	74	1849	Gl. sand	"	Poor supply, dry hole 110'
4	N.W. 14	"	"	Dug	22	1729	Sand	"	S. Sufficient
5	S.W. 16	"	"	Bored	76	1826	White sand	"	D.S. Limited supply
6	N.W. 18	"	"	"	40	1824	Blue "	" Alk.	"
7	S.W. 19	"	"	"	45	1859	Sand "	"	"
8	S.E. 20	"	"	"	25	1804	Gray "	"	"
9	S.W. 22	"	"	"	37	1739	" "	"	Poor supply Limited