

MC82+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. 240

GROUND-WATER RESOURCES  
OF THE  
RURAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF BUFFALO, NO. 409  
SASKATCHEWAN

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



LIBRARY DISCARD  
NATIONAL MUSEUM  
OF CANADA

---

OTTAWA  
1947

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. 240

GROUND-WATER RESOURCES  
OF THE  
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BUFFALO, NO. 409,  
SASKATCHEWAN

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

---

OTTAWA  
1947

## 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 Buffalo, No. 409, Saskatchewan ....	16
Physical features .....	16
Geology .....	16
Water supply .....	16
Township 40, range 19, west 3rd meridian .....	17
"    40,    "    20,    "    "    "    .....	17
"    40,    "    21,    "    "    "    .....	17
"    41,    "    19,    "    "    "    .....	18
"    41,    "    20,    "    "    "    .....	18
"    41,    "    21,    "    "    "    .....	18
"    42,    "    19,    "    "    "    .....	19
"    42,    "    20,    "    "    "    .....	19
"    42,    "    21,    "    "    "    .....	19
Analyses of water samples .....	20
Records of wells in the Rural Municipality of Buffalo, No. 409, Saskatchewan .....	21

### Illustrations

Map - Rural Municipality of Buffalo, No. 409, 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 Feet</u>
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 1,000 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 8 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 100 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 to very hard, and can be classified according to the following system:

---

4

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, NE. sec. 3, SW. sec. 7, SE. sec. 21	tp.38, rge. 21	tp.39, rge. 25,	tp.37, rge.24,	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.20
CaCO <sub>3</sub>	250	315	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	90
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	3,860	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	-	203	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	1,230	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 5,000 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 BUFFALO, NO. 409, SASKATCHEWAN

Physical Features

Most of this municipality comprises relatively level prairie lands, with a slope to the northeast. The highest part is in tp. 41, rge. 21, where elevations are above 2,300 feet, and the land slopes gently from there to the northeast to elevations below 2,050 feet in the northwest corner of tp. 42, rge. 21.

Geology

There are no outcrops of bedrock within this municipality, the entire surface being covered by glacial drift. One well in tp. 40, rge. 21, reported gravel at a depth of 160 feet or an elevation of 1,974 feet, whereas in the "Grainlands" well, on sec. 34, tp. 40, rge. 20, the base of the drift is considered to lie at a depth of 126 feet or an elevation of 2,064 feet. To the north, in tp. 42, rge. 20, two wells, 82 and 120 feet deep respectively, get water at elevations of 1,973 and 1,967 feet, apparently in sands in the drift. The inference from this information is that the Pale Beds beneath the drift form a hill in the vicinity of the Grainlands well. Elevations of the water-bearing horizon in the other three wells are so nearly the same as to throw some doubt on the acceptance of the glacial origin of the water-bearing sands, and suggest that they may represent one widespread aquifer in the underlying Pale Beds. This view seems to be supported by the evidence from Grainlands well, where the water occurred at a depth of 222 feet and an elevation of 1,968 feet in strata below coal-bearing horizons of the Pale Beds. With one continuous aquifer, however, the water level in the various wells would be expected to be about the same. In the Grainlands well the water rose to 6 feet from the surface, or to an elevation of about 2,184 feet; this is 50 feet above the top of the well referred to in tp. 40, rge. 21, and about 100 and 130 feet above the surface elevations of the other two wells in tp. 40, rge. 20. On this basis, therefore, these three wells should have flowed, and the fact that they failed to do so, and that the water in one of them was reported to only rise to an elevation of 2,005 feet, strongly points to the lack of continuity suggested by the equal elevations of the water horizons.

Water Supply

This municipality contains evidence of a buried outwash sand and gravel deposit covering an area in tp. 40, rges. 19, 20, and 21, and in tp. 41, rge. 20. The Canadian Pacific Railway gravel deposit south of Phippen is part of this deposit. Where it has been encountered by wells it has yielded water from a zone 30 to 56 feet deep. On its edges the gravel and sand are poorly sorted from clay, and in places do not allow sufficient porosity for a water supply. In the municipality as a whole, however, many lenses of gravel and sand appear to be scattered

through the drift, and these yield water. In certain areas an abundance of these lenticular porous bodies of sand are concentrated into one zone between elevations of 2,000 and 2,100 feet, and in such areas, although the depth at any specific location cannot be predicted, the probability is that the well will encounter a water-bearing bed within this zone. If, however, such a well passes through this zone without obtaining water, deeper water-bearing horizons, either in the drift or in the underlying Pale and Variegated Beds, will be encountered. The water in the sands in the drift is thought to be entirely derived from rain.

Township 40, Range 19. In this township only the Wilkie town well, 168 feet deep, penetrates the drift at an elevation of 2,017 feet. Below this depth Pale Beds were encountered, and at a depth of 180 feet soft water in abundance was found in a sand bed. All other wells in the township are in gravel or sand, and most of them fall into a group between elevations of 2,160 and 2,190 feet. This water-bearing zone is undoubtedly an outwash glacial deposit of sand and gravel in the drift. At Phippen the Canadian Pacific Railway gravel pit is in this deposit, which there has a thickness of at least 20 feet. In the Wilkie well a gravel bed with some water was encountered at an elevation of 2,035 feet. This bed undoubtedly belongs in the zone that elsewhere produces water, and hence might be expected to yield a certain amount in this township should any difficulty be encountered in obtaining water at higher elevations. Also, a further supply would undoubtedly be found in the underlying Pale Beds.

Township 40, Range 20. The buried outwash plain deposit of gravel and sand noted in tp. 40, rge. 19, is also present in tp. 40, rge. 20. As might be expected from the fact that the materials were spread out to the southwest in front of the ice mass, the elevation of the outwash deposits decreases away from the ice front. In this township, therefore, the elevations for this aquifer are mostly between 2,140 and 2,170 feet, or about 20 feet lower on the average than in the range immediately east. This outwash deposit is the principal water-bearing horizon in the township, but it is probable that a zone of separate gravel and sand beds occurs in the drift about 100 feet lower, as one such bed yielding some water was encountered in the "Grainlands" well on NW. section 34 at an elevation of 2,064 feet. Another gravel bed about 20 feet higher, but probably in the same general zone, was encountered in a well 92 feet deep on NW. section 30. Below the drift in the "Grainlands" well water was found in sands in the Pale Beds, and at a depth of 222 feet an abundant supply was secured, which at first came within a few feet of the surface. Thus it would seem that if the water supply in the higher aquifers of this area were exhausted deeper wells could be depended upon to yield what was required.

Township 40, Range 21. The outwash deposit of sand and gravel in tp. 40, rges. 19 and 20, continues into range 21. South of Phippen the Canadian Pacific Railway has opened a large gravel pit in this deposit, which lies between elevations of about 2,110 and 2,140 feet. The deposit apparently lacks good porosity in certain areas as several wells have been drilled through it without securing water. Presumably this means that the coarser, more porous materials were deposited farther east by the water originating from the melting ice-sheet. Wells that

passed through the upper part of the drift without securing water appear to have been fairly successful in obtaining it in the lower group of sand and gravel beds at elevations of 2,050 to 2,090 feet. The depth to the base of the drift is unknown. One well on NE. section 9 was drilled to a depth of 160 feet and reported gravel at an elevation of 1,974 feet, which is considerably lower than the base of the drift in the Grainlands well on sec. 34, tp. 40, rge. 20. Undoubtedly, also, further water supplies are available beneath the drift in the underlying Pale Beds.

Township 41, Range 19. The wells in this township appear to lack the uniformity of elevation that characterizes the water-bearing horizons in the township to the south. It would appear that the irregularity may be due to a greater proximity to the ice front during the time of deposition of the outwash deposit referred to in previous townships. The sorting of gravel and sand from the clay at any particular level does not seem to have been as complete, with the result that clay is distributed through a zone about 100 feet thick between elevations of 2,100 and 2,200 feet. Under such conditions it is probable that the individual sand beds are thin and of no great lateral extent, but probably fairly numerous. It is also probable that deeper wells would find further water-bearing sand or gravel beds in the drift and, from regional information, in the underlying Pale Beds.

Township 41, Range 20. The outwash, gravel and sand deposit is apparent from the records of the wells in this township, and occurs at elevations mostly between 2,120 and 2,160 feet. The aquifer in one well, on SW. section 24, is at an elevation of 2,180 feet and may be above the outwash deposit; another, with its water horizon at an elevation of 2,091 feet is probably below the deposit; whereas a well 130 feet deep on NW. section 13 encountered no water-bearing horizon whatever. The outwash deposit, therefore, is somewhat irregular and discontinuous, and not entirely dependable at any particular location. There is little doubt, however, that other, deeper aquifers exist in the drift, or that, as in other neighbouring areas, the underlying Pale Beds contain water-bearing sands.

Township 41, Range 21. Several wells, particularly in the south part of this township, obtain their water from a zone of glacial sand and gravel beds lying between elevations of 2,070 and 2,110 feet. This distribution of wells is an effect of the surface topography. In the central part of the township the elevation of the surface is more than 2,300 feet, and most wells are not deep enough to reach the water zone. However, one well, 176 feet deep, drilled from a high point on SE. section 14, reached this zone at an elevation of 2,103 feet. Another well, on SE. section 6, drilled from a low elevation reached the same zone at the comparatively shallow depth of 32 feet. Thus it would appear that this zone underlies the whole township, but that in the high areas only relatively deep wells can reach it. The difficulty of obtaining water in these areas can, therefore, be overcome only by drilling deeper wells, where a sufficient supply is not available from irregularly distributed sands in the upper part of the drift. One well, on NE. section 7, obtained water at a depth of 165 feet, at an elevation of 2,073 feet. The well, however, has subsequently gone dry. This seems to be proof that the sand beds in this zone are of no great lateral extent, but are probably fairly numerous. In most wells,

therefore, one or more water-bearing sands would probably be encountered within the limits of the zone, but in exceptional cases a well may drill through the zone and not encounter water, or only penetrate sands too thin to yield a continuous or adequate supply. In such wells the still deeper sands of the Pale Beds offer good prospects, although in some instances the fineness of the sand has presented real mechanical difficulties due to the tendency of the sand to flow with the water and plug the bottom of the well casings.

Township 42, Range 19. The highest land in this township is in the southeast and southwest parts, and the surface slope is northward. Most of the wells obtain their water from elevations of 2,020 to 2,090 feet, with a few at higher altitudes where the surface elevations are high. In no well was the base of the drift reached, so that possible water-bearing sands in the Pale Beds have not been tested. These, however, will probably yield water in relatively deep wells where a sufficient supply is not available from sands within the drift.

Township 42, Range 20. Here again, as in the range to the east, most of the wells fall into a zone with aquifers at elevations between 2,020 and 2,100 feet. These aquifers are evidently scattered through the drift as individual sand and gravel lenses without any considerable lateral extent, and their occurrence or depth at any specific location cannot be predicted. Their abundance seems to be shown by the fact that most wells have found water, but the yield is probably to a large degree dependent on the size of the individual aquifers. Two wells, one on NW. section 33 and the other on SW. section 35, obtain water at 1,973 and 1,967 feet respectively in what is believed to be glacial sand. Probably in both these wells the base of the drift is very little deeper, and below the drift lie, presumably, the Pale and Variegated Beds. These probably contain sands that will yield water, although, as no well in this township has tested them, their capacity is unknown.

Township 42, Range 21. Information on very few wells was collected in this township, but from regional data it is considered that all wells in it obtain water from sands in glacial drift similar to those in the range immediately east. Sand and gravel beds may be expected to occur at varying depths in the drift, but without any widespread, continuous aquifers. It is probable that Pale and Variegated beds underlie the drift, but, so far as known, their productive capacity has not been tested.

ANALYSES OF WATER SAMPLES FROM RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BUFFALO, NO. 409, SASKATCHEWAN

No.	¼ Sec.	Tp.	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>	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>		NaCl.
120	SE 5	40	19	209	2005	760	7	15	233	209	14	350	90	18		52		266	309	23	Pale Beds.
121	NW 34	40	20	226	1968	340	36	28	40	53	21	205	220	90		97			79	34	Pale Beds - refer with coal
122	NE 14	40	21	126	2053	1420	179	118	66	627	32	420	1300	420	37	75	584		200	53	Glacial drift
42	NW 4	41	21	109	2104	320	64	31	13	53	8	250	320	160			45		25	13	quite similar to No. 121
31	NE 26	41	19	80	2094	1720	236	124	138	894	24	435	1700	435	211		614		377	40	Glacial drift
33	NW 35	42	20	120	1967	1560	214	139	69	804	38	365	1500	365	231		688		135	63	Glacial drift
36	NW 2	42	21	125	2093	3760	522	283	152	2132	25	545	3000+	545	1033		1403		420	41	do

RECORD OF WELLS IN RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BUFFALO, NO. 409, SASKATCHEWAN

Well No.	LOCATION			Type of Well	Depth of Well Ft.	Altitude of Well	WATER LEVEL		PRINCIPAL WATER-BEARING BED	Char-acter of Water	Use to Which Water is put <sup>x</sup>	Yield & Remarks		
	Sec.	Tp.	Rge. Mer.				Above (+) Elev. or Below (-) Sea Surface Level	Depth					Elev.	
1	N.E.	2	40	19	3	Dug	-28	2194	28	2166	Glacial gravel	Hard	D.S.	Sufficient
2	S.W.	3	40	19	3	"	-38	2163	38	2125	" clay	Hard	"	Limited
3	S.E.	5	40	19	3	Drilled	-209	2185	150	2035	" gravel	Hard	"	Wilkie town well
4	S.E.	9	40	19	3	Dug	-32	2200	180	2005	Pale Beds	Soft	D.S.M.	Base of Drift
5	N.W.	9	40	19	3	"	-27	2179	32	2168	Glacial gravel	Hard	D.S.	Coal at 190'
6	N.W.	12	40	19	3	Bored	-35	2195	27	2152	" "	"	"	Limited
7	S.E.	12	40	19	3	"	-50	2220	35	2160	" sand	"	"	Sufficient
8	S.W.	12	40	19	3	Dug	-28	2205	50	2170	" "	"	"	"
9	N.E.	14	40	19	3	"	-24	2196	28	2177	" "	"	"	"
10	S.E.	15	40	19	3	"	-25	2205	24	2172	" "	"	"	"
11	S.E.	18	40	19	3	"	-28	2187	25	2180	" "	"	"	"
12	N.E.	20	40	19	3	"	-33	2179	28	2159	" "	"	"	"
13	N.W.	24	40	19	3	"	-40	2219	33	2146	" "	"	"	"
14	N.E.	27	40	19	3	Bored	-50	2227	40	2179	" "	"	"	Limited
15	N.W.	28	40	19	3	Dug	-33	2212	50	2177	" "	Soft	"	"
16	S.W.	28	40	19	3	Bored	-40	2215	33	2179	" "	Hard	"	Sufficient
17	S.E.	31	40	19	3	"	-66	2210	40	2175	" "	"	"	"
18	S.W.	33	40	19	3	"	-60	2231	66	2144	" "	"	"	"
19	N.W.	33	40	19	3	Dug	-60	2247	60	2171	" "	"	"	Limited
20	S.E.	34	40	19	3	Bored	-70	2247	60	2187	" gravel	"	"	Poor supply
21	N.W.	35	40	19	3	"	-64	2274	70	2177	" sand	"	"	Limited
-1	N.E.	2	40	20	3	Dug	-22	2143	64	2210	" gravel	"	"	Sufficient
2	S.E.	3	40	20	3	"	-30	2170	22	2121	Glacial sand	"	D.S.	Sufficient
3	N.W.	4	40	20	3	Bored	-45	2193	30	2140	" gravel	Hard	"	"
4	S.W.	6	40	20	3	"	-65	2212	45	2148	" "	"	"	"
5	N.W.	6	40	20	3	"	-76	2237	65	2147	" gravel	"	"	"
6	N.W.	7	40	20	3	"	-60	2212	76	2161	" sand	"	"	"
7	S.W.	9	40	20	3	"	-75	2193	60	2152	" "	"	"	"
8	S.W.	10	40	20	3	Dug	-36	2192	75	2118	" "	"	"	"
									36	2156	" "	"	"	Good supply

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

9	N.W.10	40	20	3	Dug	50	-2202	-36	2166	50	2152	Glacial	Hard	D.S.	Sufficient
10	S.E.14	40	20	3	"	28	-2192	-13	2179	28	2164	Blue clay	"	"	"
11	S.E.16	40	20	3	Bored	63	-2194	-38	2156	63	2131	Glacial sand	Soft	"	"
12	S.E.23	40	20	3	"	50	-2220	-48	2172	50	2170	" gravel	Hard	"	Insufficient
13	N.E.24	40	20	3	Dug	35	-2201	-17	2156	35	2166	"	"	"	Insufficient
14	N.W.26	40	20	3	Bored	20	-2173			20	2153	"	"	"	"
15	N.E.28	40	20	3	"	35	-2179			35	2144	"	"	"	Poor supply
16	N.W.30	40	20	3	"	92	2174			92	2062	"	Salty	"	Sufficient
17	N.W.33	40	20	3	"	65	2229	-50	2179	65	2164	"	Hard	"	Bottom of Drift
18	N.W.34	40	20	3	Drilled	226	2190	-6	2184	126	2064	"	"	"	"
19	N.E.36	40	20	3	Bored	30	2173	-12	2161	30	2143	Pale Beds	Sand	D.S.	Water with Coal
												"	"	"	Good supply, water with Coal.
												Glacial gravel	"	"	Waters 100 head of stock.
1	N.E.2	40	21	3	Bored	85	2209	-82	2127	85	2124	Glacial gravel	Soft	D.S.	Sufficient
2	S.E.3	40	21	3	"	100	2195	-50	2145	100	2095	"	Hard	"	"
3	N.E.4	40	21	3	Dug	40	2154	-36	2118	40	2114	"	"	"	"
4	S.W.7	40	21	3	"	26	2102	-24	2078	26	2076	sand	"	"	Poor supply
5	S.E.9	40	21	3	Drilled	160	2134	-100	2034	160	1974	Blue clay	"	"	Sufficient
6	N.W.10	40	21	3	Bored	56	2144	-14	2130	32	2112	with gravel?	Hard	"	Waters 80 head of stock.
7	S.E.14	40	21	3	"	86	2192	-36	2156	86	2106	Glacial	"	"	Good supply
8	S.E.14	40	21	3	"	40	2189		Low	40	2149	sand	"	"	Sufficient
9	N.E.14	40	21	3	"	126	2179	-56	2123	126	2053	"	"	"	"
10	N.W.16	40	21	3	Drill	80	2130	-8	2122	80	2050	Sand	"	"	"
11	S.E.20	40	21	3	Dug	50	2169	-20	2149	50	2119	Glacial gravel	Hard	"	"
12	N.W.21	40	21	3	Bored	75	2188	-73	2115	75	2113	" sand	Soft	"	Poor supply
13	N.E.22	40	21	3	"	60	2184		Low	60	2124	"	Hard	"	"
14	S.W.24	40	21	3	"	128	2170	-58	2112	128	2042	Sand	"	"	Good
15	S.E.27	40	21	3	"	138	2204	-68	2136	138	2066	"	Hard	"	"
16	N.W.28	40	21	3	"	84	2197	-67	2130	84	2113	Glacial sand	"	D.	Sufficient
17	S.E.29	40	21	3	"	87	2207	-80	2127	87	2120	"	"	D.S.	Limited
18	S.E.32	40	21	3	"	114	2200	-68	2132	114	2086	Sand	"	"	Good supply
1	S.E.2	41	19	3	Bored	40	2285			40	2245	Glacial clay	Hard	D.S.	Good supply
2	S.W.4	41	19	3	"	90	2110	-50	2060	90	2020	"	"	"	Waters 50 head of stock.
3	S.E.4	41	19	3	"	65	2252			65	2187	Glacial sand	Hard	"	Limited
4	S.W.6	41	19	3	"	65	2178	-25	2153	65	2113	"	"	"	Sufficient
5	N.W.7	41	19	3	"	76	2222	-70	2152	76	2146	"	"	"	Waters 50 head of stock.

Well No.

6	N.W. 9	41 19 3	Bored	45	2151	-20	2251	2106	Glacial clay	Hard	D.S.	Good supply
7	N.E. 10	41 19 3	"	50	2271			2221	" sand	"	"	Sufficient
8	S.W. 14	41 19 3	Dug	60	2248	-20	2239	2188	" sand	"	"	"
9	S.E. 14	41 19 3	Bored	60	2259	-20		2199	" sand	"	"	"
10	N.E. 15	41 19 3	"	60	2248			2188	" gravel	"	"	Poor supply
11	S.W. 16	41 19 3	Dug	17	2162			2145	Sand & "	"	"	Abundant supply
12	N.W. 18	41 19 3	Bored	51	2215	-29	2186	2164	Brown clay	"	"	Sufficient
13	S.E. 22	41 19 3	"	60	2194			2134	Glacial gravel	"	"	"
14	N.E. 22	41 19 3	"	65	2196			2131	" sand	"	"	"
15	N.E. 24	41 19 3	"	28	2208			2180	Blue clay	"	"	Poor supply
16	S.E. 25	41 19 3	"	85	2214	-45	2169	2129	Glacial sand	"	"	Sufficient
17	S.W. 26	41 19 3	"	65	2179			2114	" "	"	"	"
18	N.E. 26	41 19 3	"	80	2174			2094	Fine sand	"	"	"
19	N.W. 32	41 19 3	"	80	2210	-50	2160	2130	Glacial clay	"	"	"
20	S.E. 32	41 19 3	"	35	2156	-25	2131	2121	" "	"	"	"
21	N.E. 36	41 19 3	Dug	23	2163	-16	2147	2140	" sand	"	"	"
22	S.E. 36	41 19 3	Bored	60	2203	-32	2171	2143	" "	"	"	"
1	N.W. 3	41 20 3	Bored	80	2171	-40	2131	2091	Glacial gravel	Hard	D.S.	Sufficient
2	S.W. 5	41 20 3	"	65	2228	-53	2175	2163	" "	"	"	"
3	S.E. 12	41 20 3	"	80	2206	-35	2171	2126	" sand	" Fe.	"	Waters 30 head of stock.
4	N.E. 13	41 20 3	"	51	2215	-30	2185	2164	Blue clay	"	"	Sufficient
5	S.W. 13	41 20 3	"	89	2209	-30	2179	2120	Glacial gravel	"	"	Poor supply
6	N.W. 13	41 20 3	"	130	2220				" "	"	"	Dry hole in blue clay.
7	S.E. 14	41 20 3	"	80	2217			2137	" "	"	"	Good supply
8	N.W. 19	41 20 3	"	76	2196	-50	2171	2120	Glacial clay	"	"	Limited supply.
9	N.E. 24	41 20 3	"	83	2221			2141	" "	" Fe.	"	6-7 barrels per day.
10	S.W. 24	41 20 3	"	37	2220			2183	" sand	"	"	Poor supply
11	N.E. 26	41 20 3	"	30	2180			2150	" "	"	"	Waters 100 head of stock.
12	S.W. 36	41 20 3	"	35	2194	-30	2164	2159	" "	Hard	"	Poor supply
13	N.W. 36	41 20 3	"	24	2174	-21	2153	2150	" "	Poor	"	"
1	S.W. 2	41 20 3	Bored	80	2176	-70	2106	2096	Glacial gravel	Hard	Alk D.S.	Sufficient Dry hole 120'.
2	S.W. 4	41 21 3	"	109	2179	-69	2110	2070	Sand	" Fe.	D.S.	Sufficient
3	N.W. 4	41 21 3	"	86	2195	-76	2119	2109	" "	Soft	"	Sand trouble

No.

4	N.W.	4	41	21	3	Bored	109	2213	-47	2116	2104	Sand	Soft	D.S.	Sufficient
5	S.W.	6	41	21	3	"	77	2163	-80	2098	"	"	Hard	"	"
6	N.W.	6	41	21	3	"	83	2178			Glacial	gravel	"	"	Limited
7	N.W.	7	41	21	3	"	165	2238			"	"	"	"	Well is now dry.
8	N.E.	12	41	21	3	Dug	18	2234			Glacial	sand	Hard	D.S.	Sufficient
9	S.E.	13	41	21	3	Bored	67	2258			"	gravel	"	"	"
10	N.W.	14	41	21	3	Dug	45	2286	-35	2251	"	"	"	"	Waters 40 head.
11	N.W.	18	41	21	3	Bored	106	2241	-102	2139	Fine	sand	"	S.	Abundant supply
12	S.E.	22	41	21	3	Drilled	176	2279	-30	2249	"	"	Soft	D.S.	Sufficient
13	S.W.	25	41	21	3	Bored	56	2224	-10	2214	Glacial	sand	Hard	"	"
14	N.W.	33	41	21	3	"	50	2248	-40	2208	"	gravel	"	"	"
15	S.E.	36	41	21	3	Dug	32	2119			"	"	"	"	"
1	N.E.	1	42	19	3	Bored	48	2197	-40	2157	Glacial	gravel	Hard	D.S.	Sufficient
2	S.W.	1	42	19	3	Dug	35	2152	-25	2127	"	sand	"	"	"
3	N.E.	2	42	19	3	"	26	2149	-21	2128	"	gravel	"	"	"
4	S.E.	6	42	19	3	Bored	108	2194	-73	2121	"	"	"	"	"
5	N.W.	7	42	19	3	"	60	2082	-45	2037	"	"	Fe.	"	"
6	N.W.	10	42	19	3	"	50	2084	-10	2074	Sand	"	"	"	Good supply
7	S.W.	14	42	19	3	"	61	2109	-35	2074	Gravel	"	"	"	Limited
8	N.W.	16	42	19	3	Dug	40	2119	-32	2087	Glacial	gravel	"	D.S.	Sufficient
9	S.E.	18	42	19	3	Bored	45	2101	-40	2061	"	"	"	"	Poor supply
10	N.W.	19	42	19	3	"	86	2099			"	"	"	"	"
11	S.W.	20	42	19	3	"	60	2080	-48	2032	Coarse	"	"	"	Sufficient
12	N.E.	23	42	19	3	"	60	2128	-20	2108	Sand	"	"	"	Hauls drinking water from
13	N.E.	24	42	19	3	"	50	2147	-20	2127	"	"	"	"	Sufficient.
14	N.W.	27	42	19	3	Dug	20	2100	-10	2090	Glacial	gravel	"	"	"
15	S.W.	30	42	19	3	Bored	35	2086	-30	2056	"	"	"	"	Poor supply
16	N.W.	30	42	19	3	"	55	2091			"	"	"	"	Sufficient
17	N.W.	33	42	19	3	"	25	2068	-12	2056	Gravel &	"	"	"	"
18	N.E.	34	42	19	3	"	80	2100	-40	2060	Sandy	clay	"	"	"
19	N.W.	34	42	19	3	"	45	2100	-17	2083	"	"	"	"	"
20	S.E.	36	42	19	3	Dug	42	2070	-29	2041	Fine	sand	"	"	Limited
21	N.E.	36	42	19	3	"	22	2096			"	"	"	"	Sufficient
1	N.W.	6	42	20	3	Bored	50	2135	-25	2110	Sand	"	Hard	D.S.	Sufficient
2	N.W.	7	42	20	3	"	43	2148			Glacial	"	"	"	"
3	N.W.	10	42	20	3	Dug	24	2104			"	gravel	"	"	"
4	N.E.	10	42	20	3	"	35	2115	-30	2085	Fine	"	"	"	Well 83' in gray.

Well

Well No.	Depth	Stratigraphy	Soil	D.S.	Supply
5 N.W.11	42 20 3	Dug	Soft	"	Sufficient
6 N.W.11	42 20 3	"	"	"	"
7 S.W.12	42 20 3	Bored	Hard	"	Poor supply
8 N.W.14	42 20 3	Dug	" Alk.	"	Sufficient
9 S.W.15	42 20 3	Bored	"	"	Good supply
10 S.E.16	42 20 3	Dug	"	"	Sufficient
11 S.E.22	42 20 3	"	" Alk.	"	"
12 S.W.26	42 20 3	"	"	"	"
13 N.E.26	42 20 3	Bored	Soft	"	"
14 S.E.28	42 20 3	Dug	Hard Alk.	"	"
15 N.W.28	42 20 3	Bored	"	"	Good supply
16 S.W.30	42 20 3	"	"	"	Sufficient
17 N.W.31	42 20 3	"	"	"	"
18 N.W.33	42 20 3	"	" Alk.	"	"
19 N.E.34	42 20 3	"	" Fe.	"	"
20 S.W.35	42 20 3	"	" Fe.	"	"
1 S.W. 2	42 21 3	Bored	Hard Fe.	D.S.	Good supply
2 N.W. 6	42 21 3	Dug	" Alk.	"	Sufficient
3 S.W.18	42 21 3	"	"	"	"
23	2095	Sand			
22	2096	"			
25	2117	Glacial sand			
24	2094	" gravel			
20	2074	"			
34	2055	Sand			
26	2087	Glacial gravel			
32	2064	Coarse sand			
30	2049	Fine sand			
40	2049	Sand			
36	2039	Glacial gravel			
60	2060	"			
69	2042	"			
82	1973	Sand			
52	2020	Coarse sand			
120	1967	Yellow			
125	2093	Coarse sand			
38	2172	Glacial sand			
20	2123	Glacial sand			
	-23	2119			
	-20	2098			
	-10	2084			
	-25	2071			
	-25	2050			
	-50	2061			
	-50	2005			
	-32	2040			
	-20	2067			
	-75	2143			
	- 2	2141			