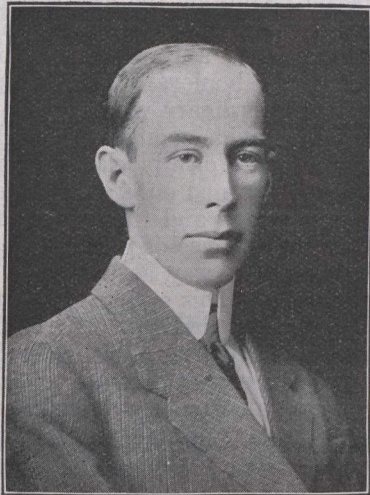


what they are doing

A System for Sprinkling Boulevards



A. C. D. Blanchard, C.E.
City Engineer, Lethbridge, Alta.

The peculiar characteristics of a city built on the prairies afford an opportunity for the exercise of ingenuity which perhaps is not required to so great an extent in cities in the East. Towns in the West, as far as location is concerned, are usually dependent upon the plans of the railroads, springing up as they do with the railroad station as a nucleus. Frequently this means that an otherwise desirable site for a city is impossible on account of the facilities for transportation.

The City of Lethbridge, while situated near the Belly River, is over three hundred feet above its level, and it is thus dependent on the rainfall for the natural supply of water for its parks and boulevards. The rainfall in the country lying to the east of the mountains is less than in most parts of Canada, and, in order to properly nourish the green spaces of the city, we have adopted and developed a method for artificially watering the boulevards of the city which may be of interest.

In early days the small town was supplied by irrigation ditches which led from the main ditch a mile or two from the city limits to the heart of the town. These ditches were gradually done away with as the city grew, on account of their undesirable nature, standing in the way as they did of the general improvements being carried out. It was therefore necessary to substitute an alternative supply of water for irrigation purposes. In consequence provision was made to utilize the City water supply as the source.

The water is drawn from the city mains by means of an ordinary curb cock connection, and through a riser pipe of galvanized iron, water is forced into the sprinkling pipes which extend throughout the length of the boulevard. The department of Parks and Boulevards maintains an employe whose duty it is to turn on the water and allow the boulevards to be sprinkled from the piping system.

The pipes are one inch in diameter with holes at intervals of from eighteen inches to two feet. In past years the holes have been made by a drilling with a

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