

LETHBRIDGE CONFERENCE ON MORE AND BETTER WATER SUPPLY

from various government and railway organizations who have come to the convention in order to give the benefit of their expert knowledge.

With these two attitudes represented, the convention which opened this morning promises to bring forth many actual benefits in the near future. There are enough farmers present to keep the scientific side of the conference right to the point, and actual problems are not going to be overlooked.

G. R. Marnoch, president of the Board of Trade, and one of the first men in Southern Alberta to draw the attention of the various governments to the absolute necessity of aiding in the finding of better water supplies for the farmers, was in the chair and after a short address of welcome by Mayor Hardie, opened the conference by an address in which he outlined the need of some action such as the convention hopes to bring about, and also outlined some of the practical results it is hoped to obtain from the presence here of so many men vitally interested in the problem. Mr. Marnoch also conveyed to the conference the regrets of various speakers who had hoped to be present including those of President Wood of the U.F.A., who was unable to attend owing to his connection with the newly appointed grain commission.

The attendance at the morning session was quite satisfactory, the hall being fairly well filled, and there being a goodly sprinkling of farmers, each of whom has his own particular problem which he hopes to have the conference deal with. There were also a large number from the city especially business men who are vitally interested in the problems of the farmers.

Pioneer Farmers' Needs

Owing to the inability of President Wood of the U.F.A. to be present, S. S. Dunham, vice-president of that organization, delivered a short address in which he put before the convention some of the problems of the farmers in connection with the water supplies. He said that we are pioneers in this new land which is remarkably fitted for the carrying on of agriculture. Comparing it with Indiana and Ontario where the pioneers had to clear the land of its heavy timber growth, and with Illinois which the pioneers had to tile and drain, Mr. Dunham said that the problems of Southern Alberta were not great, but there are some things that had to be done to adapt the country to man's

use. We must overcome the problem of conserving the moisture we have, both in the soil and for stock and domestic purposes. Nothing, he declared, pays a farmer better than a good well, and mixed farming is impossible without it. The farmers are willing to spend the money to get it, they have the money now; but they want the information which will show them how to get it. Mr. Dunham said he was merely stating the farmers' case and it was now up to the men of science to endeavor to solve the problem.

Stock-Watering Reserves

Mr. Dunham referring to a map showing the stock watering reserves that had been made during the ranching days, called attention to the fact that nearly all of these reserves had unwisely been cancelled and he suggested that steps should be taken by the Dominion government to look into this whole question with a view to making reserves along all water fronts, so that farmers' live stock might be watered there in times of drouth. This policy would of course have to go hand in hand with action by the Alberta government whose duty it would be to find means for getting practicable road approaches to these reserves for public use.

CONCLUSIONS THAT THE CONFERENCE ARRIVED AT

That the drill test is the only true test of underground water supply.

That the governments should undertake these tests for the benefit of the farmers;

That efforts should be concentrated on making the drilling of these test holes as inexpensive as possible and the best way to do this is to use the rotary method of drilling;

That no water witch or water machine has yet been developed which is in any degree efficient or to be relied upon;

That the provincial government road department should aid in the construction of surface reservoirs in connection with road allowances where roads must be built across coulees;

That a law should be passed forcing drillers to keep a log of every well and send it to the government;

That a law should be passed making it unlawful to allow any artesian wells to flow unchecked,