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THE FARMER'S WIFE AND THE FARM WATER SUPPLY

At the 1917 meeting of the Western Canada Irrigation Association at Maple Creek, Mr. G. R. Marnoch was asked to give an address regarding the Water Conference. Hon. W. R. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan, was in the chair. At the close of the address Hon. Mr. Motherwell said:--

"I do not think Mr. Marnoch needs to say anything about the timeliness of his paper. There are hundreds of farmers around the country trying to do something to relieve the drudgery of the household tasks. We often speak of the weak link in the agricultural chain as being farm power but the weak link is in most cases the water.

"I have come from a brief visit to Banff. I think it was occasioned by too hard work and neglect of myself in my earlier days. I found that the hotels there are filled with wornout farmers and their wives from the Prairie Provinces. Instead of laying up early for repairs, they go on for forty or fifty years before they do lay up. We would not use our binder or threshing machine that way. Every man repairs his machine about this time in order that his threshing machine will not break down during threshing. We should do the same with ourselves. After all, human life is more valuable than anything else on the farm. The most expensive and extravagant way of doing your farm work is at the expense of your wife's health. There is scarcely a place that I know of in these western provinces where something cannot be done to help out in the matter of water supply. Of course, the man who is without cave-troughs on his own farm holdings should not shout for help from the Government until he does have them. If you just sit down without water and wait for the Government to come along with it, the Government will not be in much of a hurry to do anything."