

machine to buy. There's no use being frightened; we don't expect these motors to be perfect right off. Practice makes perfect and why not let them practice during this season and make what alterations are wanted during the winter and so have something better to show next year.

This is a most interesting subject to us farmers and I think it would be well if others would give their views. There is a good opportunity now you have opened up the subject.

FARMER.

#### August Seeding of Alfalfa.

While spring is the usual season for the sowing of alfalfa in Canada, it is a matter of some importance to know that it has been seeded in August with excellent success, not only south, but north of the International Boundary, several Canadian farmers having informed us that they have obtained very satisfactory catches by working the ground to a fine tilth and sowing early in that month. Some few state that they prefer August to spring seeding. This may be right. Orchardists, sowing alfalfa in July as a cover crop, to be plowed under the following spring have, in many cases, secured a splendid, vigorous growth, and it is not surprising that summer seeding should prove a success in the fields as well. The three essential conditions would appear to be fine tilth, plenty of moisture, conserved by previous frequent surface cultivation, and time enough to allow the alfalfa to get a good top before autumn. Farmers having land ready to be seeded to this valuable crop, are advised to try August seeding in an experimental way, and we shall be especially pleased to hear from those who may have given this method a trial.

#### The Irrigation Convention at Calgary.

The first Western Canada Irrigation Convention which was held in Calgary on July 17th and 18th was a decided success, much more of a success than the committee on arrangements, which met last May, had dared to hope for. There were present ninety-nine bona fide delegates.

Although Alberta was numerically strongest, still British Columbia was represented by a particularly good delegation, while Saskatchewan had a few delegates in attendance.

In opening the convention J. S. Wheeler, the secretary, read the official call, part of which is as follows:

"The first Irrigation Convention covering the provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, will open in the city of Calgary, Alberta, on the 17th day of July, 1907.

It is gradually dawning on the minds of thinking people that the most significant development in agriculture that Western Canada has yet witnessed is the movement to utilize the great mountain streams in aiding the farmer largely to eliminate the element of uncertainty from his operations. Irrigation enterprises, private and corporate, now completed and actually under way in Western Canada, comprise an area equal to one-quarter of the total irrigated area of the whole of the United States, and the development is as yet in its infancy. Our mountain ranges contain natural reservoirs only awaiting the finishing touches of skill and labor to save water sufficient to irrigate vast areas, in addition to those that are now or can be provided for by our normal water supply. A propaganda so vast and fraught with such far-reaching interests, that enters so closely into the whole problem of Western Canada's colonization and future prosperity, is of deep concern to every resident of the Great West and imperatively demands the impetus, constructive guidance and moulding influence that can only be effectively brought to bear through a strong, permanent organization. The National Irrigation Congress of the United States is accomplishing this purpose south of the line, and the time has doubtless come when a similar movement should be instituted in Canada.

The whole question of irrigation in humid and sub-humid climates is now before the public in America. Experiments and investigations are being conducted at many agricultural colleges and public experimental stations, with a view to demonstrating that agricultural operations can be carried on as successfully under artificial watering in humid climates as in dry climates. While the result of withholding water in the latter is a total failure, the effect of using water under humid conditions, one year with the other, spells success.

After the reading of the official call, His Honor Lieut.-Governor Forget of Saskatchewan was introduced for the purpose of officially opening the convention, which he did with a short, interesting address. There then followed speeches of welcome and responses to the same by prominent personages present.

The first paper given was a very interesting one by C. A. Fleming, C. E., on "The Development of Irrigation in India."

The second paper was read by C. W. Peterson, his subject, "The Industrial Development Following in the Wake of Irrigation." Among other things Mr. Peterson said:

"In discussing the industrial development as a result of irrigation, it is well to bear in mind that the bulk of industrial investment invariably locates tributary to the consuming population, other things being equal. This means that density of population, which creates favorable market conditions, attracts industrial enterprises manufacturing products required by such a population. This refers of course, particularly, to the hundred and one manufactured articles required upon the farm under intensive culture.

Irrigation means small holdings and a dense rural settlement and furthermore, a prosperous and thrifty population. Such being the case, the industrial development of any irrigation section is by no means confined to branches of industry requiring for raw material the products of the soil."

Some interesting figures taken from the U. S. census were given by Mr. Peterson. He showed that of the total irrigated area in the U. S. 64% was planted in hay and forage crops, 24% in cereals, leaving but a small per cent. for fruit and vegetables.

"The popular belief that irrigation is not a practical proposition in latitudes where fruit cannot be grown and where a ready market of large proportions does not exist for the side issues of the irrigated farm is, therefore, evidently a fallacy. In the state of Colorado, with an irrigated area of 1,500,000 acres, only 35,000 acres are devoted to fruit growing, while over a million acres produce hay and forage, principally alfalfa. This is conclusive proof that live stock feeding and finishing holds its own successfully against fruit growing in a state where the latter can be prosecuted with the greatest facility and profit.

"Owing to the fact that the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta will probably never lend themselves to fruit growing on a large scale, while conditions are almost perfect for live stock husbandry, it is reasonable to suppose that the extension of irrigation enterprises in these two provinces will simply revolutionize the live stock business. Instead of sending cattle and sheep to market half finished, they will be grain fed before marketed. This will also insure the marketing of our live stock during every month of the year instead of, as at present, confining it to two or three months in the autumn. Immense numbers of hogs will also be raised and fattened and the Western prairie section will become an enormous ham and bacon exporting instead of importing country.

"Even the province of British Columbia with its excellent local market for agricultural products will probably find it more profitable to grow stock feed on a large area of its valuable irrigated lands than to devote them entirely to other crops commanding a higher money value per acre but requiring a larger expenditure for labor."

#### FRUIT GROWING.

There can be no doubt that the introduction of irrigation in the valleys throughout British Columbia will wonderfully stimulate fruit production there. That province will always have a ready market in the prairie section, as it is improbable that the more tender fruit will ever be produced east of the Rocky Mountains.

It is more than likely that varieties of the hardier fruit will very soon be developed that will grow under irrigation in the prairie section, but crops vastly more profitable to the average farmer will claim the attention of irrigationists there, thus leaving the field clear for the British Columbia fruit grower.

Strawberries will undoubtedly be produced in great abundance anywhere in Alberta and Saskatchewan where water is available. In fact, this has been conclusively proven in the Lethbridge district now, and the prediction has been freely made that the Medicine Hat and Maple Creek districts will grow fruits of the more tender varieties."

In concluding, Mr. Peterson said:

"The 'dark ages' when irrigation was regarded purely and simply as a means to reclaim desert areas, have long ago passed into oblivion. The new agriculture demands the same degree of certainty in forecasting results as is demanded in all other lines of production. Irrigation makes this a practical possibility. The arch enemy of the farmer in every portion of the civilized globe is drouth. What would become of the gardens, lawns and trees of our cities in the East, as well as in the West, without an artificial water supply? What is good for the lawn is equally good for the farm. Irrigation farming is advanced agriculture. It is more. Irrigation farming is business farming and those sections in our Great West that are favored with an abundant water supply available for irrigation ought to utilize every gallon thereof as speedily as possible.

Wm. Pearce, Chief Surveyor C. P. R. Irrigation Department of Calgary, read a well written paper entitled "The Social Phase of the Irrigation Movement."

A paper entitled "Agricultural and Horticultural Experiments in the Use and Duty of Water on the Irrigated Farm," was read by W. H. Fairfield, Superintendent of Dominion Experimental Farm, Lethbridge.

J. S. Dennis of the C. P. R. was unable to be present, but sent a paper on "The Statutes of Irrigation in Canada," to be read.

A. E. Ashcroft, C. E., of Vernon, British Columbia, read a paper entitled "Some Problems of a British Columbia Irrigation Project."

The most interesting speaker on the entire program was Prof. L. G. Carpenter, of the Colorado Agricultural College. Prof. Carpenter is considered to be one of the best authorities on irrigation questions in the U. S. and in his two addresses at the convention, he impressed his hearers that he was thoroughly familiar with the many sided subject of the artificial use of water on growing crops, not only from the farmer's standpoint, but from the lawmaker's, the administrator's, the engineer's, as well as the social and industrial side.

One statement made by the Professor which was particularly worthy of note and one which doubtless few of the readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE are aware of, is that the foodstuffs of seven eighths of the inhabitants of the world are raised by irrigation. In fact it is, as Prof. Carpenter admitted, a statement which it is hard for the people of the American continent to accept, but one which the Professor assured his hearers was the truth.

#### RESOLUTIONS.

Some of the important resolutions passed were those dealing with the following subjects:

Forestry as Affecting Irrigation.  
Extension of Surveys in Connection with Irrigation.  
Agricultural and Horticultural Experiments and the use of Water on the Irrigated Farm.  
The Duty of Water.

Laws Relating to the use of Water and the Administration Thereof in British Columbia.

Laws Relating to the use of Water and the Administration Thereof in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Permanent Organization.

Location of Agricultural College for Alberta.

On the afternoon of the second day a permanent organization was effected and the following officers elected:

Hon. Pres.—Lieut. Gov. Dunsmuir of British Columbia; Pres.—Hon. F. J. Fulton, Provincial Secretary of B. C.; First V. P.—J. S. Dennis, Calgary; Second V. P.—W. C. Ricardo, Vernon, B. C.; Sec.—Treas.—U. K. Megan, Vernon, B. C.

An executive board was chosen, including J. T. Hall, Medicine Hat; W. Pearce, Calgary; A. E. Humphries, Lethbridge; T. W. Woolford, Cardston; F. W. Sterling, Vernon, B. C.; and C. W. Peterson, Calgary.

The next meeting will be held in Vernon, B. C.



IN THE WHEAT FIELDS OF THE EDMONTON COUNTRY.