

WESTERN CANADA IRRIGATION CONVENTION.

The third annual convention of the Western Canada Irrigation Convention was held at Lethbridge, Alta., August 5th and 6th.

Next year they will meet at Kamloops, B.C.; for 1909-10 the following officers were elected: Hon. President, His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Dunsmuir; president, Hon. J. F. Fulton; first vice-president, J. S. Dennis; second vice-president, A. M. Grace; treasurer, C. W. Hallamor, Kamloops; executive committee, W. C. Richardo, R. B. Bennett, Calgary, Alta.; W. M. Fairfield, Lethbridge, Alta.; J. T. Robinson, E. B. Knight, Vernon, B.C.; A. E. Meighen and C. W. Peterson, Calgary. A permanent secretary will be appointed by the executive.

Among the delegates to the convention were:—

H. G. Burrows, Calgary Horticultural Society; D. J. Whitney, W. O. Hutton, Lethbridge Agricultural Society; C. F. P. Conybeare, Lethbridge Board of Trade; H. A. Suggitt, Coaldale; George W. Green, Raymond; C. W. Rowley, Calgary; William Henderson, Lethbridge; Mayor A. M. Grace, Medicine Hat, South Alberta Land Company; W. H. Fairfield, Lethbridge, Superintendent Experimental Farm; G. O. Kerr, Coaldale; W. C. McKillican, Calgary, Government Seed Department; M. E. Wilson, Minneapolis, Minn.; P. M. Sauder, Calgary; H. W. Campbell, Lincoln, Neb.; H. J. Haffner, Vancouver; G. H. Hutton, Lacombe, Superintendent Experimental Farm; J. C. Strong, East End, Sask.; W. J. Tregillus, Calgary; L. A. Bowes, Calgary, Farmers' Advocate; A. C. Rutherford, Strathcona, Premier of Alberta; George Harcourt, Edmonton; R. Bayntun, Kamloops, B.C.; Ebe B. Knight, Vernon, B.C. (White Valley Irrigation Company); Reg. H. Rogers, Vernon, B.C., Board of Trade; Thomas Calloway, Kamloops Board of Trade; W. B. Fison, Kamloops Fruit Growers' Association; George Lane, Calgary; R. H. Campbell, Ottawa; R. Wm. Pilling, Cardston; W. Hargraves, Kamloops; W. Huckvale, Medicine Hat; John T. Hall, Medicine Hat; R. B. Bennett, M.P.P., Calgary; J. S. Dennis and A. S. Dawson, Calgary, C.P.R. Colonization Company; E. Henderson, Vernon, Coldstream Municipality; W. Pearce, Calgary; R. Randolph Bruce, Wilmer, B.C.; Charles W. Peterson, Calgary, C.P.R. Colonization Company; G. M. Hatch, Lethbridge Board of Trade; J. W. Evans and E. Laycock, Raymond Town Council.

President J. S. Dennis, in opening his address, said that he thought such an address should be a small part of the convention and had no formal address to offer. He wished to speak a few words as to the work such an association as the Western Canada Irrigation Association can do.

The subject of irrigation and irrigation development has become a very important matter in southern parts of Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Questions relating to the users of the water, those constructing and operating irrigation systems and the general public who benefit by the development, should be discussed.

The law relating to the use of water is the foundation of all irrigation work. It has been a big problem in British Columbia, and as a result of this discussion at Vernon a law has been passed that is very satisfactory. The discussion helped the British Columbia Government very much in passing the law.

Alberta's Law.

In Alberta fortunately we are not confronted with conditions such as these, for we have without exception the best law relating to water ever passed. During all the years the law has been in operation there has not been a suit in the courts.

Irrigation is a new thing to the people coming to Western Canada, as the settlers who are coming are from the non-irrigated regions of America and Europe.

There are a lot of small questions relating to the use of water that cause a certain amount of trouble. If all portions get together in a convention such as this and come to an understanding, the work of development will not be retarded. He hoped that the work of the association would go on and

become a power such as the National Irrigation Congress across the line, which has advanced the subject of education on faulty law, has settled many difficulties and influenced a great deal the policy of the government on irrigation matters.

If irrigation is going to do as he believes it is going to do, we should look forward to this convention being the recognized medium between people and governments. Irrigation will have much to do with the permanent improvement and prosperity of the country. This part of the Dominion is much in the eye of the people south of the line, and many of them are coming here. The movement of immigration to Western Canada has been to Alberta and it is going westward to British Columbia, to which many are going now. The best work the convention can do is to devote time and labor to the discussion of matters pertaining to irrigation which ultimately is to do so much for this part of the Dominion. If the convention can disabuse the public mind of certain prejudices regarding irrigation, they will be doing a share in the upbuilding of the country.

Mr. R. H. Campbell, of the Department of Interior, Ottawa, addressed the convention on "The Relation Between Irrigation and Forestry." Mr. Campbell spoke of the increasing interest taken by Hon. Frank Oliver in the various irrigation schemes, and spoke of his attitude toward the conventions. He always welcomed suggestions and was ready to act on them. With regard to the water supply question the Department are very active in the region of Cypress Hills and the Milk River country, taking measurements and gauging the rivers. The western district has been divided into three hydrographic districts—Lethbridge, Calgary, and Maple Creek. Speaking of the preservation of forests on the Eastern Slope of the Rockies, the Department has not been idle providing for fire control and regulating the timber licenses. The reservation in the Cypress Hills will be enlarged. In all matters the results of the convention are good. The Department depends to a large extent on reports of conventions. The convention has the full sympathy of the Department.

Several important recommendations were made, among them one authorizing a permanent secretary. The Governments of Alberta and British Columbia were asked to issue bulletins regarding irrigation, as is done by the Department of Agriculture of the United States. Another resolution called for placing the responsibility for noxious weeds along irrigation ditches on those responsible for the maintenance of the ditches. The fourth called for irrigation experts on agricultural institute affairs.

The Government will be asked to set aside the whole of the Eastern Slope of the Rocky Mountains for a forest preserve in order to save the rivers of Alberta.

The convention urged that the Government and irrigation companies come to a working arrangement for the construction of bridges over the ditches while the case is being settled in the courts. A resolution to the effect that the Agricultural College of Alberta should be located at a point where the necessary area of irrigable land can be included in the college farm, in order that the students may be given instruction in the practice and theory of artificial application of water to crops, was passed unanimously. The British Columbia Government will be urged to establish an agricultural college as soon as possible.

METHODS OF MAKING ORDINARY EXTENSIONS TO WATER WORKS.

In connection with their recent exhaustive study* of the Boston Water Department, Metcalf & Eddy, Consulting Engineers of that city, sought to determine the general method adopted in making ordinary extensions to water works. Inquiries addressed to large cities throughout the United States show that out of 77 cases extensions were made in 5 by both contract and day labor, while in 24 the work was always done

*Report to Boston Finance Commission.