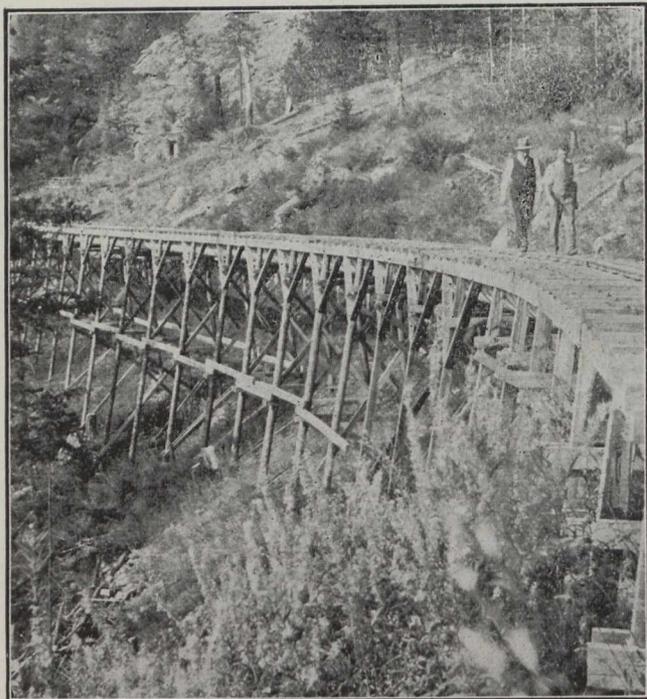


tinguished men as the Hon. W. R. Ross, Minister of Lands, B.C.; J. S. Dennis, assistant to the president, Canadian Pacific Railway; the Hon. Dr. Samuel Fortier, chief irrigation investigations, U.S.A.; Sir William Willcox, an eminent irrigationist; Professor Alfred Atkinson, Department Agronomy, Agricultural College, Bozeman, Montana; John T. Burns, executive, secretary-treasurer, International Dry



Steel Flume of the Kelowna Land and Irrigation Company, British Columbia.

Farming Congress; the Hon. Price Ellison, Minister Finance and Agriculture, B.C.; Deputy Minister W. E. Scott, B.C.; Professor M. L. Dean, State Horticulturist, Missoula, Montana; A. S. Dawson, chief engineer, Department Natural Resources, C.P.R.; R. M. Winslow, provincial horticulturist, B.C.; P. L. Naismith, manager, Alberta Railway and Irrigation Co.; F. H. Peters, Commissioner of Irrigation, Dominion Government; R. H. Campbell, Director of Forestry, Ottawa; Professor C. I. Lewis, Corvallis, Ore.; George Harcourt, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Alberta, and a score of others.

In the audience were delegates from as far west as Victoria, and as far east as Ottawa, gathered to discuss and resolve what was best for the farmer, and best for the country.

As an example of what irrigation meant to the Okanagan Valley and Kelowna in particular, Mayor Jones stated that during the past year nearly half a million dollars had been expended on irrigation works. One hundred and thirty thousand fruit trees had been planted on irrigated lands last season, and this year over one hundred thousand would be set out, while the tobacco industry is assuming great importance. Later, both the tobacco plantations and the local cigar factory were visited, and ample opportunity given the visitors to test the quality and flavor of the home-grown cigar.

J. S. Dennis, the father of irrigation in the west, vice-president of the association, and chairman, executive committee, in speaking of the Provincial Government and the administration of the Water Act, commented briefly regarding that admirable piece of legislation, but added that it was not sufficient to have legislation alone to obtain all the benefits desired. It was the administration of the legislation

that was of supreme importance, and in order to make it successful, the government required the energetic co-operation of all users of water. All development depended on the proper administration of the Act; value lay not in the land but in the water, as the greater portion of the land in the dry belt of British Columbia would produce nothing unless irrigated. Land above the ditch was worth from \$5 to \$20 an acre, while that below was valued at from \$100 to \$400 per acre. The difference was not due to soil or climate, but to the water. It was, therefore, just as important that the law regarding title to water be as definite as that regarding the title to land, but until everyone gave loyal support to the government in the administration of this Water Act, the title to water would not be as good as to land. He spoke of the history, aims and work accomplished by the Western Canada Irrigation Association, and said that the present convention was attended by a larger number of delegates than the previous five. Perhaps this was surprising in view of the remoteness of Kelowna from the main lines of communication, but it was not when it was remembered that British Columbia was looming up as the most attractive part of the West to people south of the line and in the Old Country. From the latter country, the people came to British Columbia readily because the name itself was attractive to them, and it seemed like coming home. There was great need of taking care of these people when they arrived, and he suggested that more complete surveys of government land were needed in order to supplement the Water Act. Southern British Columbia, he believed, was now on the verge of sharing in the great movement from the south which had been greatly increasing during the past few years, and had been directed almost entirely to the western provinces. This year it would total over 150,000 people, and this "spilling over the brim" of the 100,000,000 of the population of the United States would extend to British Columbia. He said that he saw in the future all valleys from the boundary to the main line of the C.P.R. filled to their entire capacity with prosperous settlers.

Each speaker during the convention had something of interest to say to the delegates, and were followed with close attention. The Hon. Dr. Fortier delighted the audience one evening with a stereopticon lecture on "Irrigation in California," and the proceedings were occasionally broken



Orchards at Penticton, British Columbia.

with a little automobile jaunt into the country to inspect various irrigation schemes under operation or construction. Fifteen resolutions of grave import to the country were taken up, discussed and passed on to the government for consideration, while vital subjects such as "The Apple and the Baldwin Spot," "the Irrigation of Alfalfa," "Public Ownership