

# The Canadian Engineer

## An Engineering Weekly

### THE AWAKENING OF CANADIAN IRRIGATIONISTS.

By NORMAN S. RANKIN.

NOTE.—A report of the Sixth Annual Convention of the Western Canada Irrigation Association, held at Kelowna, B.C., Aug. 13th. to 16th. Mr. Norman S. Rankin, the Secretary of the Association, who has furnished us with this account of the Convention is Publicity Manager for the Department of Natural Resources of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.—EDITOR.

“Great oaks from little acorns grow.” “Great streams begin as tiny springs,” and so great companies and organizations oft-times have their birth in tiny, dark offices, with out-at-elbows desks, and an executive who is at once president, vice-president, general manager, private secretary and office boy.

Everybody interested in irrigation and agriculture in the United States has heard of the National Irrigation Congress. All know what a powerful, influential organization it is to-day, and how delegates from the four corners of the country come together, year after year, in some chosen city, to follow the deliberations and resolutions of that association.



The Delegates Being Entertained at Kelowna.

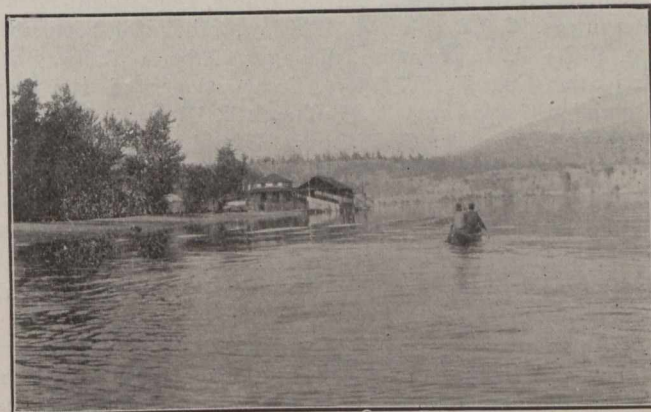
They also know that the resolutions of that great congress go up to the Senate at Washington, and there meet with careful, serious consideration.

North of the boundary line, the National Irrigation Congress, six years ago, had a little baby brother, known as the Western Canada Irrigation Association. It was then struggling its way through the ills and fevers of babyhood, but now has developed into a sturdy child, standing upright on its own legs, and looking the irrigation world in the face. Very few below the line know that this continent holds a second irrigation association, but the result of its sixth annual convention, held at the beginning of August at

Kelowna, in the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, has clearly demonstrated that the one-time infant will from now on make itself heard.

The Western Canada Irrigation Association—which has practically the same aims and objects as its big brother in the United States—has slowly but steadily extended its scope of endeavor until under its influence has fallen every up-to-date farmer and irrigator in the Western Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, and when this year its interesting and attractive official call went forth the response was hearty and encouraging.

To Kelowna then—a charming little fruit city beautifully situated on the borders of Okanagan Lake—came during August 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th, farmers, irrigationists, students, railroad and government officials and politicians.



View of Kelowna Beach and Bathing Place.

They left the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Sicamous, and journeying down the fertile Okanagan Valley, reached at length the picturesque lake of that name, and boarding the huge stern-wheeler that awaited them, were borne swiftly to their destination—appropriately named, “The Orchard City.” Here with open doors and flying banners, the hospitable citizens awaited them, and visitors were whirled away in automobiles to the various homes and hotels which were prepared to receive them.

That evening, at eight o'clock, in the local theatre, some five hundred interested irrigationists listened to Mayor Jones' welcoming address, while on the platform sat such dis-