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Prospecting for Underground Water

How the Farmer is being Assisted in Securing Water Supplies

The problem of securing a dependable supply of drinkable water is the greatest faced today by the settlers in many parts of the prairie provinces. Thousands of dollars that have been squandered in prespecting for oil and gas might have been spent to much better advantage in prospecting for underground water supplies. Whether oil is found or not, the country will get along, but it must have sufficient water for household purposes and for work horses in every locality, if it is to be fully developed agriculturally. The imperative need of water has suggested that a comprehensive survey of underground water supplies should be made, the object being to ascertain the possibility of securing dependable wells, and the probable depth to which they would have to be dug. Certain it is that the labor that has been wasted in sinking of dry holes in many districts would pay for conducting such a survey many times over.

Such a survey is now in progress. It is being conducted by D. B. Dowling of

Such a survey is now in progress. It is being conducted by D. B. Dowling of the Dominion Geological Survey. The report of the Department of Mines for 1915 shows the results of the preliminary work in prospecting for underground water in Southern Alberta. It shows that there is water from Chin eastward and south to Winnifred and Seven Persons, and from 15 to 25 miles wide north and south Supplies have also been tapped in some areas around Pakowki Lake and Etzikom. Coulee. In this district artesian water has been or is likely to be found. Underground water is also indicated at Barnwell and Chin and north and south of these points. This summer good clear water has been found at a depth of 581 feet, ten miles north of Legend on the Foremost line. The method adopted h making the sufvey is to sink test wells where the geologists think they would be indicative of underground water supplies. Two drilling rigs are now busy with this work. From the first, the Lethbridge Board of Trade, through its president, G. R. Marnoch, has taken a prominent part in solving this water problem. In the month of June it called a water conference, with the object of ascertaining what had been done and what the prospects were for still further work. At this conference Mr. Dowling outlined those districts which had been found- to be underfals with underground water. This area, he said, was being tested, and special attention was being paid to reducing the cost of drilling in order to bring it within the average farmer's reach to drill to a depth of 700 or 800 feet, at which depth the water may be found. Mr. Dowling also put forth the suggestion that every well driller, should be forced to salunit a log of each well be drilled, in order that all information and landuarial Research stated that the strata underlying Western Canado is largely fleued, broken and folded at the foothalls of the Rooky Mountains, so that all water from the mountains and londuarial Research stated that the strata underlying Western Canado is largely fleue, and the pr

of supervision over the drilling of over 600 wells in all parts of the West, claimed that in his experience this machine had had

no efficiency whatever. The trend of the discussion seemed to indicate that no efficient water finder had ever been found, and that it was better not to put much dependance on them where deep drilling was to be undertaken. The necessity of conserving rain water from roofs was emphasized and farmers were advised to conserve surface water for stock by building reservoirs in dams and coulees. Resolutions summing up the results of the conference, stated that the drill test is the only true test for underground the conference, stated that the drill test is the only true test for underground water and that these should be undertaken by governments for the benefit of the farmers. The rotary method of drilling wag, favored. Water witches and water divining machines were discredited. The Provincial Government Road Department was asked to aid in the construction of surface reservoirs in places where roads are built across coulees. It was also recommended that a law be passed forcing drillers to keep a log of every well and send it to the government, and that it should be made unlawful to allow artesian wells to flow unchecked.

wells to flow unchecked.

The United Farmers of Alberta have passed a resolution commending the work of the Lethbridge Board of Trade, and intimating that good results are expected to develop out of the water conference.

The Department of Agriculture, Regina, has bought a quantity of North Dakota No. 959 Rye to supply Saskatchewan farmers. This seed is put up in two bushel lots, which is chough to sow 2½ acres, and two bushels will be delivered at any station in Saskatchewan for \$4. Any farmer wishing only one bushel may obtain it for \$2 fo.b. Regina. Seed should be ordered now and sowed about August 15. Orders will be filled in the order in which they are received. Not more than two bushels, nor less than 8ne bushel will be supplied any applicant. Some reasons for growing this crop are: (1) It is effective in cradicating wild outs—no other grain crop is. (2) It furnishes better pasturage in late fall and early spring than any grass or other grain. (3) If grown for "hay" it yields abundantly and insures a supply of feed in seasons of drought. (4) It largely aids in preventing drifting of summerfallow and restores fibre to loose soils. (5) It is rust and drought resistant and is seldom affected by frost. (6) There is a good market for Rye in the United States. Chicago prices at present are around \$2.40 per bushel. Address Weeds and Seeds Branch, Department of Agriculture, Regina, Saskatchewan.

Ottora, August 10.—The Department Trade and Commerce has announced of Trade and Commerce has announced that for the present sample market trading will be provided after September I at Fort William and Winnipeg. The rules and regulations there are now being prepared by the Board of Grain Commissioners and will be discussed with the exchanges at Fort William and Winnipeg. It is not, however, provided that any hayover will be ordered at either point during the present crop year until in the opinion of the Board of Railway Commissioners prevailing conditions justify the same. In other words, Winnipeg will not be made an "order point" for the deflection of cars to Minneapolis or Duluth, and the complete benefit from sample markets will be highly discounted.

The Bureau of Labor of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture is
now giving special attention to the
question of supplying men for harvest
nork. It would greatly facilitate the
Bureau's work if farmers would supply
early and direct information regarding
their requirements for this year's harvest.
Farmers should anticipate their needs as
early as possible and make application
for help to the Bureau of Labor, Regina,
or to any of the following offices. Saskatchewan Government Free Employment
Office 2109 South Railway Street, Regina;
Board of Trade Building, Moose Jaw
and 242 21st Street E., Saskatoon.

On August 6, Sir Richard McBride, former premier of British Columbia, died in London, Englished, at the age of 47, from Bright's disease. He was acting agent general for the province of British Columbia in London at the time of his death.

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