

LETHBRIDGE CONFERENCE ON MORE AND BETTER WATER SUPPLY

matter so much. If it's no good; we've been hauling our water for six or seven years and I guess we can go on a while longer."

In Better Shape.

The farmers in Southern Alberta are getting into much better financial shape than they used to be in; the splendid crops of the last two years have given them a new outlook on life. They want to improve their houses and to acquire conveniences for better living; they are all needing more water supplies, to take care of the live stock that they are getting in increasing numbers. The moisture conditions these last three years have been ideal, and if we could be assured that the years to follow would be equally kind we might be more complacent; but we know that dry years are bound to come along, and we want to make all proper preparations for having water supplies available. Attention must be paid not only to reaching underground supplies, but to the measures for reaching water in streams, lakes and coulees, so that live stock may find sanctuary in time of drouth; we want also to ascertain what can be done in the way of making water diverted from our rivers available for domestic and stock raising purposes. All that is cognate to these subjects will also engage your attention today. The storing of water by dams across depressions; the care of water that can easily be collected from the roofs of houses and barns; the purifying of all water supplies, either by filtering or by distilling the water; piping the water into the house; the disposal of sewage and the protection of water supplies—all of these matters will be under discussion.

We are glad to see some of our friends from our sister province of Saskatchewan here; their problems in regard to water supply are the same as ours, and from the fact that their lands are more closely peopled they have had to devote more attention to trying to solve these problems. They will give us their advice, and I hope they may learn something, too.

I am certain that we can be assured of this—that when the minister of agriculture of Alberta places before his colleagues his report of this conference, he will be able to assure them that there is a great bulk of valuable information available as a ground work for practical investigation and help for the farmers of this part of our province; and I am sure that he will be satisfied from what

you scientific gentlemen will tell us, that your great knowledge, your sympathy and your enthusiasm for the progress of any part of our great Dominion, are fully at our disposal, and that if only reasonable means are provided, you will pursue this subject of water supply continuously until all possible avenues of progress are fully developed.

If I may anticipate some of the good things that are likely to come out of this conference I might say that there are indications that we shall hear some good news in regard to the possibility of getting the use of a boring machine which can very quickly and cheaply drill small test holes for the discovery of water, and by that means let a farmer know whether he is justified in spending money in drilling or digging for surface waters down to depths of about a hundred feet. We may also hear good news about a cheaper method of reaching Mr. Dowling's artesian waters at the six and eight hundred feet depths; up till now we have thought \$4000 or \$5000 was the smallest expenditure that would get down to these depths, but we may learn that they can be reached for about \$2500.

We shall also get some excellent advice about storing water in deep cisterns and about holding up the rain water from roofs. We shall learn just what the present position is in regard to stock watering reservations along our river fronts; and also about the additional supplies of water that may be more available when irrigation water is brought along to the 100,000 acres included in the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation project.

There will also be some interesting information made available in regard to easy methods of filtering water, and regarding water distilling apparatus that may be available at comparatively low cost; and also about how to make unpalatable waters drinkable and usable.

In conclusion I would say that I believe our merchants here may not have been as alert as they might have been in placing their supplies of drilling apparatus, pumping outfits, piping, sinks, baths, closets and materials for sewage disposal before our farmers and their wives. They are all able to afford these comforts now, and they are undoubtedly open to buy them if they are brought to their notice with anything like the assiduity that is displayed for instance by the automobile agents.