



General Assemblage of Delegates to the Seventh Annual Congress of the Western Canada Irrigation Association. The Congress was Held in Lethbridge and Ended August 7th. Photographs by Norman S. Rankin.



Some of the Irrigation Delegates may have been Surprised to Find Electric Cars in Lethbridge.



Delegates from the Cypress Hills Know What Intensive Farming Means.



The Ladies of St. Cyprian's Church Served the Delegates with Refreshments.

ends, it will make use of the heretofore vacant plot in the centre of London.

If you asked a Londoner which was the hub of London, he would tell you it was that district bounded by the busy Strand on the south; the spacious and stately Kingsway on the north; Gladstone's statue and the church of St. Clement Danes on the east; and the Gaiety and Lyceum theatres on the west. The space in between, about two acres and a half, is a sort of island—the Strand Island. Here, it is suggested, should be built the Dominion House, and it is certain that no other spot in the whole of "Old Lunnion" could surpass this in its command of the public eye, and the public interest. Within a stone's throw are Fleet Street, the fascinating home of British newspaperdom, the theatre district, the hotel region, and Somerset House. Taken together, they are fairly representative of what the visitor to London wants to see. No other location could be so fitting for the "Imperial Covent Garden," as the scheme has been called.

The establishment on the Aldwych site of the Dominion House would enable (1) The Governments of the Self-governing Dominions, of their various states and provinces, to concentrate on one central site their offices, now widely distributed in different parts of London. (2) The attention of the home consumer to be effectively and impressively focussed on the products of the Dominions overseas. And (3) the manufacturers of the United Kingdom to ascertain and meet the requirements of Greater Britain.

In his letter to the London shareholders, Lord Grey says, in addition to outlining the above main aims, that the erection of the Dominion House on the Aldwych site would provide room and accommodation which would meet not only the official requirements of the Dominion Governments, but the commercial and social needs of their peoples.

So far as building this Dominion House is concerned, two alternative methods present themselves. Either the Dominion Governments might associate themselves in direct responsibility for the undertaking, or it might be left in the hands of an independent corporation, whose tenants the Dominion Governments would become during the currency of the lease. The choice will, naturally, be left to the Dominions themselves. The *Pall Mall Gazette* goes

## Paying for Rain

### Congress of Irrigationists at Lethbridge, Alta.



Mr. D. J. Whitney gave his Farm to the Irrigation Delegates—For a General Picnic.

so far as to suggest that Britain should find the purchase money for the Dominions.

A three-year option upon the site, at a cost of \$15,000 a year, has been secured, which option is vested in a syndicate with the title of "The Dominion Site, Limited." Lord Grey is chairman. The other directors are Lord Plymouth, Sir Starr Jameson, Sir J. Henniker Heaton, Mr. George McLaren Brown, and Mr. Harry E. Brittain.

H. S. E.

DOWN in Kansas, a few days ago, the Governor was asked to instruct the clergy of the corn state to pray for rain, because of a long, dry spell that was swizzling up the corn. The Governor said he had no faith in praying for rain. Had he been up at Lethbridge, Alberta, during the first week in this month he would have found out how farmers in the dry belt of Western Canada pay for rain instead of praying for it. The seventh annual congress of irrigationists was by far the most successful of the series that began in 1907 in Calgary. Delegates were present from Canada, the United States and Australia. The President for 1912-13, Hon. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture for Alberta, was given a very enthusiastic farewell. His province has more irrigation than British Columbia, which sent many delegates to the convention; and after this the Mountain Province intends to run Alberta a closer race than ever for irrigation undertakings. At any rate, B. C. supplies the water used by the irrigation farmers of Alberta.

Since the Association was organized, in 1907, the areas under irrigation and the population engaged in that kind of intensive farming have very largely increased. Even in 1907 the irrigation enterprises of Western Canada were over an area one quarter the irrigated area of the United States. The irrigation farmers are among the best in this country. They are not wheat miners. They are tillers of small plots by intensive methods. The Association has done a great work; aided by a few small government grants.

One farmer at the Congress rose to say that 160 acres is not enough land for one man.

"No, my friend," said Hon. Duncan Marshall, "not when you have only eight acres broken out of the hundred and sixty."

New officers elected at the Lethbridge convention were: Hon. Pres., Dr. W. T. Roche, Minister of the Interior; President, Hon. W. R. Ross, Minister of Lands for British Columbia; First Vice-Pres., Mr. J. S. Dennis.