

It appears to me that a proper and timely undertaking of the foregoing considerations will do much to save us from the confusion in which the irrigation question has become involved in other countries. If the limits of this paper allow it, reference might be made to other points we should do well to guard ourselves on. One, for instance, is the necessity of guarding against ambiguity of language in our legislation. In Colorado the expression "domestic purposes" in the portion of the irrigation laws of that State I have quoted has caused no end of litigation. Another is the necessity of conferring large, and what by some might be considered despotic powers on the officials charged with the regulation of the water supply. Still another is the necessity of adopting a good standard of water measurement. Experience elsewhere has shown that the custom of measuring by the cubic inch has resulted very unsatisfactorily, and the cubic foot is now generally considered a more desirable standard. One further point is the necessity for heavy penalties being imposed to prevent tampering with the head-gates of ditches. On all these a good deal might be said.

In conclusion, I may say that I trust my remarks on this subject will be the means of arousing in it the interest of other and abler members of the Association. It is evident that this is a matter in the satisfactory solution of which it will be natural for the profession the Association represents to play a considerable part, for not only does it involve the prosecution of extensive topographical surveys, but it also affords scope for ingenuity in the gauging of streams, in devising an economical flume for the measurement of water supplies to ditches, and in ascertaining what is the "duty of water" in the irrigable tract, which duty will vary according to location and soil. For all these points I feel sure I can bespeak the intelligent consideration of those present.

To the President, Vice-President, and Members of the Dominion Lands Association this is respectfully submitted.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. PEARCE.

I would desire to add the following observations and quotations from acts, addresses and reports on the subject of Irrigation, and trust it may not make the subject too lengthy.

Colorado has the largest amount of irrigation of any State in the Union; after it comes California. I had hoped to embody in this report a review of the legislation under which irrigation has proved so successful in the first-named State, but owing to my not having received a copy of the Act for which I applied, I am obliged to forego my intention. I may mention, however, that according to a report of the State