

stream was over recorded, and that it would be hopeless to attempt to secure water for general purposes unless all existing leases not being used were cancelled. Mr. Dennis next pointed out the great difference between the water supply of British Columbia and that of the North-West, in that the former was uncertain and irregular; and he urged the extreme importance of the preservation of timber on the water sheds to assist in the regularity of the flow. By encouraging the conservation of flood water full use could be made of what water was available. Under such conditions Mr. Dennis believes that the Southern portion of British Columbia would become one of the greatest fruit districts in the world. In reply to a question Mr. Dennis said that he did not think the time had yet come when it was necessary for the Government to undertake an irrigation system. Coming from such an authority all these remarks possess great value. In view of the extensive irrigation works with which Mr. Dennis has been connected, and the unprecedented success which has attended his efforts too much heed cannot be taken of the advice he gives, and as the time has arrived when in order to render it productive, the dry belt of British Columbia must be systematically irrigated, it would be well in considering any project that full advantage should be taken of the experience of those who have dealt with similar problems elsewhere. This is as essential in connection with the drafting of necessary legislation as with the designing and execution of the engineering work.

The Imperial Note. General Sir Reginald Pole-Carew was recently the guest of the Victoria Canadian Club, and delivered a most forceful and suggestive address. Speaking as a soldier it might have been expected that one who had spent his whole life under arms in the service of

the Empire should have dealt chiefly with Military topics. Whilst the General gave many interesting reminiscences of the South African war, dwelling especially upon the efficiency of the Canadian troops, the most important part of his address was devoted to a bold denunciation of the attitude of the British Government towards Colonial interests and an open declaration in favour of an Imperial Council to deal with Imperial affairs. This is not a new project, but rarely has a man of General Pole-Carew's status so passionately proclaimed his adherence to the policy. He was very emphatic in approving the attitude of the Australian Premier, Mr. Deakin, at the last Colonial Conference, and very indignant in his denunciation of the treatment to those proposals. He advocated Imperial Preference, and Reciprocity between the Colonies, but he thought that the one subject overshadowing all others was the necessity for an Imperial Council which would take cognizance of all the important affairs of Greater Britain and which would afford an opportunity for representation from every part of the Empire to voice the sentiments of the people and to have a direct vote in the settlement of Imperial questions. Like a true statesman he premised that sharing authority meant sharing responsibility, and indeed all the burdens of the Empire, and he expressed the opinion that such a proposal would meet with no opposition, and indicated that any indifference which existed today on the subject of Imperial defence and a full sharing of the burdens of the Empire was due to the fact that the Constitution did not provide for representation of the outlying portions of the Empire in her Councils. Coming immediately after Lord Roberts' call to arms, this speech must be regarded as significant. It is weighty, pregnant with suggestive ideas, and calculated to arouse general interest in a subject which is daily assuming greater importance.