

evidence that the irrigation water which had been poured for weeks and months on these beds of clay had been the cause of the slide, but, in court, this argument was met by a demand from the opposing counsel to be told why the bluffs of this material, which were washed at their base by the river, did not disintegrate and slide. Several ingenious theories were offered to account for this, but were not convincing, and the writer now thinks that it was because these bluffs had never been dried out below high water mark, and the material in them, therefore, did not possess the property of soaking up water and of finally collapsing. In all probability the jury was influenced by the evidence that no slides had occurred before the commencement of irrigation, and that there was irrigated land in the rear of each slide.

A year or more after the trial, the writer, while experimenting with Mr. Warsap on some clay, which had been dried for other purposes, found that it gave the very same results as the dry clay from the interior of the Province. This led to experiments with other clay, and it was found that they all lost their cohesive properties when the moisture was removed.

It is probable that this property of clay has been the cause of many of the landslides which have occurred this year in the valley of the Oldman and Belly Rivers, between Medicine Hat and the Crow's Nest Pass, for there has been an exceedingly heavy rainfall over these valleys during the year for the first time since they have become known.