

fair to become the cause of a great deal of litigation in our own Province of British Columbia. In that Province at present but a small proportion of the land which might be utilized in this way is brought under cultivation. In not a few cases persons who are in possession of irrigable lands through which streams pass have already had registered to their credit more water than is found running in the streams after the flood once passes away in the Spring. The only remedy which I can see would be to construct dams and form reservoirs at the sources of these streams, or in some other suitable place, and retain all the water which accumulates from melting snows. In British Columbia the valleys are surrounded by mountains to such an extent, that there would be a supply of water from the snow melted from off them quite sufficient to irrigate all the land that could be brought under cultivation, were it only preserved in reservoirs for summer use. This, however, would require considerable capital. One of the difficulties with which any company would have to contend, in adopting a system of irrigation for British Columbia, would be settling with owners of private rights. People who own rights of this kind are generally disposed to take every advantage afforded by such rights. A person would naturally think, that if those who possess registered rights in certain streams had their usual supply delivered at their farms free of cost by a company, that this would more than compensate them for the right, but such is not the case. Their present possession of the water secures them from competition, which would be the result of other settlements near them, and this is by no means a small consideration to those who own from five hundred to twenty-five hundred head of stock, for which they are naturally anxious to have as wide a pasture range as possible over the Government lands. There are men to-day on the lookout to secure all the water privileges possible, expecting that if they can secure the water they will have the use of large tracts of land unmolested. These men are awake to their own interests. You will find that the people of the Western Province are not slow in looking after their own interests in these as well as other respects. They, as a rule, don't understand that it would be an advantage to the country if it were more densely populated. Business men and manufacturers are alive to this question, but ranchmen don't want to see any alteration in this respect. They are quite satisfied to let matters remain as they are and would discourage any effort which might be made to settle the country or improve it by bringing a larger area under cultivation, except as a means of increasing their