

FOREWORD

There are gathered together here in this little booklet several reprints from the Lethbridge Herald reporting the proceedings of a Conference on Water Supply called by the Lethbridge Board of Trade on June 22, 1917. It is hoped that these may prove useful to farmers who were unable to be present at the meetings.

During the past three or four years the Lethbridge Board of Trade has devoted a good deal of its efforts towards helping to establish the farmers who have been attracted to this fertile district. While the citizens of Lethbridge have a steady and increasing income arising out of the coal mining industry in their midst they realize that the foundation of all their prosperity lies primarily in the agricultural resources of the grain growing, alfalfa raising and livestock industries that surround the city on all sides; and this Water Conference is one outcome of their efforts in this direction.

While great benefits will undoubtedly result by the action that the Dominion Government and the Alberta Government and the various government departments will take arising out of the conference, it will not be out of place to mention that the farmers and the communities in our towns and villages have gravely neglected one easily available source of water supply. It is astonishing to find for instance, that only about two per cent. of the buildings in the new towns along the line from Lethbridge to Manyberries are provided with eaves troughs on the roofs. The water drops from the heavens on the roofs and all that is required to provide a very considerable part of the water needed for household purposes is a few lengths of spouting, a simple filter and a cistern in the cellar. We need the geologists to tell us how to get the dead rocks to deliver up their waters, and the irrigation engineers to help us to bring along the diverted waters from our streams and to show us how to hold up waters by dams; but we ourselves can surely take care of the living waters that fall directly upon our own buildings.