

## LETHBRIDGE CONFERENCE ON MORE AND BETTER WATER SUPPLY

tion has in some cases been partly overlooked in the search for the difficult obtainable water. The sewage from the town of Indian Head is poured into one of the ravines after more or less imperfect filtering and is causing some dissatisfaction to the people who take water from the stream or from shallow wells beside it below the town."

### Yorkton

"Yorkton district has abundant supplies of water within easy distances from the surfaces. The wells are close to the buildings, only three farmers having to haul water. Practically all wells had good pumps installed in them. In a few instances the house wells were close enough to the stables or closets to be in danger of being contaminated by them."

### Melfort

"The question of house water is a very serious one in this district. There is no difficulty in getting a supply of water but it is so alkali it cannot be used for cooking and drinking. Of the farms visited 75 per cent. used rain water for cooking and drinking, some had granolithic roofs on their houses and large tanks in the basement, others simply had the shingle roofs and tanks in the open, some of them not having covers. Fifty per cent. of them put up supplies of ice and used it for drinking or for cooling the rain water. In some three or four instances people were using water from a creek close by which received the drainage from the stables. Some four out of the thirty-two farms inspected had bath rooms in the house. In some cases the water closets were placed too close to the houses."

### Kindersley

"The water supply on the majority of the farms is very poor. Some have to haul all water used on the farm, others have lots of water but it is so strong in minerals that it cannot be used in the house. On many of the farms that have water the wells are a long distance from the buildings, and while this perhaps is fine from a sanitary point of view, it makes extra work."

While none here may doubt the existence of a water problem in Western Canada, the foregoing extracts serve to point out its seriousness, and to show how general is the trouble. Difficulties exist in parts of all the prairie provinces. We find that it is

difficult in some parts to even obtain water, and where it is obtained it is sometimes unfit for domestic use.

We have seen that the majority of farmers visited obtain water from wells for house use and for the stock. While I have not time to discuss the sanitary aspect of the farm water supply, I desire to emphasize the fact that the purity of the water for health's sake is as important as the abundance of supply for the sake of comfort and convenience. Dr. Jas. W. Robertson has well said: "Water in the house, to use lavishly for all wholesome conveniences, seems at first thought beyond the means of frugal people, who have earned by hard labor all they have to spend. It looks to some, who have not closely considered the costs and the benefits, like an extravagance. Instead of that it is one of the greatest of house economies. Almost every farmer could afford the luxury of all water conveniences in his home. These are real luxuries, like their fellows, sunshine, wholesome food and fresh air which do not weaken the muscular, mental or moral fibres of life. When one has been compelled to use any of these, debased for a time, how satisfying is the pleasure of purity and abundance."

"As an investment for the home I know of nothing likely to yield so much in return in saving women's strength, in increasing house comforts, in preserving health, in imparting satisfaction in housework and in elevating the general tone of the material side of living."

Attention must be paid to keeping the source of the water supply free from contamination. The drinking of impure water has the effect of depressing the vitality of the whole family, making them more liable to disease and resulting in loss of efficiency. These are evils in addition to the occasional cases of fever which come from drinking well water into which the seepage from house or stables has found its way. This will, no doubt, be dealt with by those discussing sanitation.

Once there is an abundance of pure water obtained on the farm there is no single improvement which will bring so much comfort to the household as some mechanical arrangement to make the supply readily available and convenient to use.

I have often wondered why a farmer would pay \$150 for an implement that