

LETHBRIDGE CONFERENCE ON MORE AND BETTER WATER SUPPLY

as the conservation of underground waters is important, being in fact the most important of all our natural resources;

That the laws governing the pollution of streams should be enforced in connection with settlers living along irrigation canals;

That farmers should take greater pains to conserve the rain water from roofs, waste in this direction being one of the worst forms of waste in Western Canada.

That farmers should endeavor to conserve surface water for stock by building reservoirs and dams in coulees.

In effect the above about summarizes the conclusions of the interesting sessions of the more and better water conference, but they do not cover the fact that scientific, engineering and agricultural authorities, including the farmers, have been aroused to the need of more concerted action to bring about results which will tend to the solution of farmers from the Great Lakes to the Rockies. The subject tackled by the conference was rather abstract, but before the end came the delegates got down to cases and to put it in the words of Dr. Seymour, commissioner of health for the province of Saskatchewan, "the problem of water supplies on the prairies of the province has been advanced years and years. We will get action now."

At the afternoon session, F. C. Nimrick, agriculturalist of the commission of conservation, read a paper on "A Farm Water Supply Survey," in which he outlined the need of such a survey, which was really the only means of bringing to the problem the attention it deserves and the united action of authorities empowered to deal with it.

Pearl Howes, of the College of Agriculture, Edmonton, dealt with the question of agricultural engineering, showing that it has three phases, dealing with road making, irrigation and drainage. In connection with the need for roadmaking, he said it sometimes costs as much to get a bushel of grain from the field to the elevator as it does to get it from the elevator to the markets of Europe. The coming generation must be taught to overcome this. Irrigation and drainage go hand in hand, and are both important in Alberta. He felt the need of

a better agricultural engineering course at the university and hoped public bodies would impress upon the university authorities this need that it may be met. He also wanted to see the college doing more research work along such lines as were being discussed at the conference in order that the farmers of the province may get the information they seek without paying hard for it by experience as so many have done in the matter of well water. His address led to a resolution moved by Messrs. Dunham and Lund, being passed by the meeting asking the university authorities to institute such a course as had been outlined.

A letter was read from President Murray together with a report by Dr. Adams on the problems of securing an artesian supply of water for the districts of the northwest. The report seemed to indicate that Southern Alberta was more favored in this regard than any other part of the prairies and the Honorary Advisory Council of Scientific and Industrial Research will turn its attention to other channels in endeavoring to solve the water supply problem.

Quite a discussion was started by papers by E. Answorth of the provincial government road department, and E. H. Peters, commissioner of irrigation, over the possibilities of conserving surface moisture by the construction of dams in coulees and of reservoirs in other places, especially along irrigation ditches. Valuable pointers were given to the farmers who hope to solve their troubles in this way. Supt. Fairfield, of the Experimental farm, added one valuable suggestion, when he said that the digging of a borrow pit in connection with a reservoir overcame the trouble of the reservoir freezing to the bottom during cold weather in winter. The speakers all went on to show that little attention had been paid in the past to the possibilities from such sources of supply. It was pointed out by Mr. Peters that the road department of Saskatchewan had done much more in the way of providing reservoirs where road allowances cross coulees, by damming the coulees, than had been done in Alberta, and Deputy Minister Charlesworth, of the Alberta government, was asked to give the matter special attention.

Then came probably the most interesting discussion of the day. Mr. Claydon, of Nobleford, says he had driven many miles to learn some-