

Member International Assn  
for Identification.  
1003 5th Ave. S., Lethbridge.

# SURVEY BOARD'S IRRIGATION PROPOSAL

MRK River, Alta., Feb. 14, 1932.  
Editor of the Lethbridge Herald,  
Lethbridge, Alta.

Dear Sir:

I have read the report of the Survey Board in your issue of February 5. It seems strange to me that the Lethbridge Northern should be considered seriously by the people of Southern Alberta after the testimony that they have had as to the benefits of irrigation.

We have been assured time and again that the only hope for this district ever becoming self-supporting was to irrigate dry soil and assure capital and labor a sure return for every year.

Any thinking man will admit that straight grain farming has proved a failure wherever practiced, and, when the element of risk is so great as it is in Southern Alberta, it can only result in disaster. Our present financial condition should convince anyone of the necessity of mixed farming; which is impractical without the necessary pasture and hay, and which irrigation insures.

To stop all irrigation work in Alberta with the exception of the Lethbridge Northern project is giving that locality a special benefit which is denied to the others. If the govern-

## Colonization

ment uses its power to advertise and colonize the Lethbridge Northern irrigation lands, it confers a distinct advantage to the owners of land within that project. As I understand it, that is the policy recommended by the Survey Board.

Why should the government act as a real estate agent to boost certain localities at the expense of others?

Look at the issue of the Herald of Feb. 8, that the officials of the Lethbridge Northern are "highly satisfied with the colonization proposals in the Survey Board's report." They surely should be, where do the rest of us come in? We have lands that can be watered at far less cost than those in the Lethbridge Northern, the price of labor to construct the ditches is far lower now than when the Lethbridge Northern contracts were let, and we have not the number of abandoned farms that they have there. The drifting of soil has not commenced in as much as we are not subject to the extremely high winds that has practically ruined several sections of their lands. And if irrigation on other lands is postponed until the speculation of the Lethbridge Northern irrigated lands is satisfied, we may as well pick up what little we have left and go, while the going is good.

Our representatives are elected by the people to protect their interests, and why single out the land owners in the L.N. district more than any other land owners? Our members are not bound to legislate in accordance with the findings of this board. The Survey Board is not responsible to the people and were not elected by the people. Our members are responsible for legislation and cannot shift this responsibility on to the shoulders of the Survey Board.

Irrigation is a very good thing, and who doubts it? Let us have it as soon as possible in order to get on a staple business basis in farming. We can kill two birds with the one stone. Give work to the unemployed in this time of stress, and cut out the relief expense on thousands of men willing and anxious to be employed, and who would rather work for their living than receive charity.

Yours truly,  
FRED PEASE

W. H. HOLDING

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