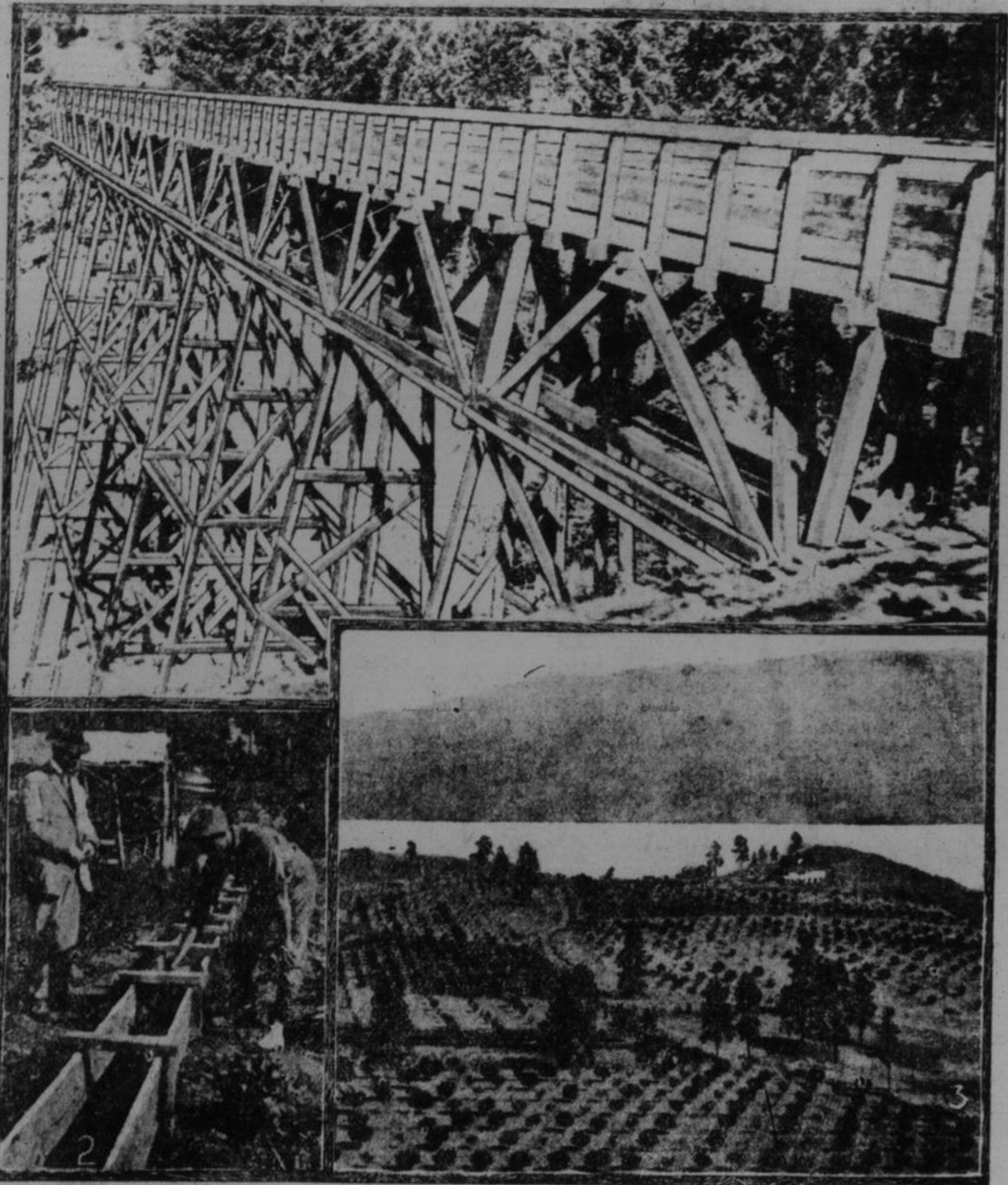


# SMALL IRRIGATION PROJECTS ARE SUCCESSFUL



(1) Irrigation flume near Kamloops, B.C.  
 (2) Irrigating Small Farms.  
 (3) Small Irrigated Farm.

**S**PEAKING before the annual convention of the Western Canada Irrigation Association at Kamloops, B.C., A. S. Dawson, chief engineer of the Department of Natural Resources of the Canadian Pacific Railway, expressed the faith that is in him in the irrigation projects for which Western Canada is becoming famous. Although Mr. Dawson has been connected mainly with the big irrigation enterprises of the C. P. R. in Southern Alberta, he does not overlook the advantages of small projects operated by a community of farmers, or even by an individual.

"I have had fifteen years' experience on what are the largest irrigation projects in Canada," said Mr. Dawson, "but I am willing to admit that the small projects such as you have in the immediate vicinity of Kamloops are quite often more interesting and worthy of fuller consideration than are the larger projects. These schemes, though small, should be considered as one of your greatest assets."

"The benefits of irrigation show their results in better farms; improved living conditions; improved social conditions and better citizenship. If conducted along proper lines it improves agriculture, saves the soil, facilitates industry, produces prosperity and should provide for posterity."

Mr. Dawson's reference to the small irrigation schemes is of particular interest to the farmers of Western Canada, where there are hundreds—literally thousands—of creeks and streams which could be used in a small way for irrigation purposes. According to the opinion of an officer of the Western Canada Irrigation Association the day is coming when irrigation in Western Canada will be limited only by the amount of water available. The increasing interest in irrigation is indicated by the fact that the annual meeting of the association in 1917 will be held in Saskatchewan for the first time. In the past it has always been held in Alberta or British Columbia, but this year the association will meet at Maple Creek, Saskatchewan.

## BIRDS ARE SENSITIVE.

### Greatly Disturbed by Distant Noises in the Air.

From time to time, since the beginning of the present war, the curious behavior of pheasants and other animals, far distant from the scene of actual engagements, has been a matter of frequent comment. Pheasants seem to be particularly sensitive to gunfire or unusual noises of any kind, often when so distant as to be quite inaudible to the human ear. Thus, at the time of the first naval engagement in the North Sea, in the early days of the war, gamekeepers in the North of England reported an extraordinary uprest amongst pheasants during the progress of the engagement. In progress, and similar stories have been accumulating since. The pheasant seems to have a particular objection to zeppelins, and, according to a recent account given by a gamekeeper, he was warned, by the crowing of the birds, of the approach of a zeppelin an hour or two before the great airship arrived in their vicinity.

A particularly interesting instance of this sort was recently given by a correspondent of The Manchester Guardian. Going for a walk into the country, he stopped at a cottage for refreshment, and the conversation turned on a zeppelin raid which had taken place a few nights before. The couple who lived in the cottage had known nothing of the raid until the next day, but, on the night it had occurred, the woman had called her husband to the door, and they had listened together to the unusual noises which were being made by the pheasants. It was long after the birds' usual time for settling down, but they were up in the trees and flying round, making "a fearful noise." Many other people around them, this writer adds, had similar stories to tell, and each zeppelin visit adds to them.

### After London Canines.

There is a strong agitation in London against the extravagance of keeping so many pet dogs during war times, and The London Mail has this to say on the question:

"It is not the usual dog that is the cause of waste. He is usually fed on biscuit and a few scraps and he lives healthily on a diet at trifling cost. The dogs that cost the most are the most useless; they are the pampered pets."

"I know a woman who has forty Pekinese, and she reserves three rooms in her house for them. A few forbidding people to keep more than one dog would be useful. My own dog costs me less to keep than my cat."

Another "eternity surgeon" was very bitter against lap dogs. "They are the cause of all the extravagance," he said. "A woman who had put her pet dog under my care sent in for it a meal such as I would have been very pleased to eat. What did the little beast do? It sniffed the food all over, left it uneaten, and gobbled up the biscuit and food that I gave it."

"Give an ordinary terrier or spaniel a quarter of a pound of 'cat's meal,' which costs one penny, or meat that is left over from the table, mixed with a little biscuit or bread, and it will keep well and cost you no more than 1s. 6d. a week."

Lady Teynham writes: "Why, because a few foolish women feed their pet dogs on a pound of steak a day, should all sensible women be tarred with the same brush? The Pekinese seems to be the dog generally sneered at—I suppose because he is small. Properly brought up he is as hardy, and as intelligent as an Irish terrier. A friend of mine had one which swam across a small stream and killed two rats. All they require are the scraps left over from the table. In these days, when so many of us have our husbands at the war, it is some comfort not to come back to a perfectly lonely house, but to have a warm greeting from a loyal though small friend."

### The Old English Rat.

A writer in The London Daily Graphic says that the old English black rat would have long since become extinct in this country were it not for the reinforcements that come in ships from abroad. Though probably indigenous to France, the black rat has been scattered in this manner all over the world, and there is something gratifying to naturalists and antiquarians—if to no one else—in the knowledge that he still lands upon the shores of Old England, though fortunately in greatly reduced numbers. The old English black rat is considerably smaller than the common brown rat, which was brought to England during the Hanoverian dynasty, and is sometimes known by that name and sometimes as the Norway rat. Both these names are equally inappropriate, as it was not at that time known in those regions. But the black rat more than resembles a large mouse, having prominent ears and a long tail, as compared with the closer ears and shorter tail of the big brown rat.

### Government by the People.

The first attempt of government by the people begun in America was in 1619, when Sir George Yeardley was sent from England as Governor of the Jamestown colony. His charter provided that he should call a few chosen men, two from each of the eleven boroughs that constituted the colony. The meeting, which was known as the assembly, was held at the church, with the Governor and his Council presiding. Those who came from the boroughs were called burgesses, and the assembly, which met every year, was styled the House of Burgesses. At this period this was the only English colony in America.

### Rich Mineral Springs.

Javan occupies a prominent place among the countries of the world in the possession of mineral springs rich in radium emanations. These are found exclusively in granite regions.

A habit may be good or bad according to whether you rule it or it rules you. Ajax may have defied the lightning, but he never bumped into a U-boat.

## SUBMARINE MENACE IS NOT SO GREAT

(Continued from Page 4.)

old days of envoys and carry through our grain ships, despite the lurking murder of the enemy. Whilst a blind optimism would be foolish, it would be even less of use in the patriotic sense to assume even for one moment that Germany's "barred zones" are other than mere temporary danger-spots upon the chart.

## WILL THE SOLDIERS GO UPON THE LAND?

Toronto Globe.  
 Returned soldiers, it is said, are not enthusiastic about going back on the land. In the trenches they have had a surfeit of land—they have lived in it, been clad in mud, smelled it and eaten it. We may as well reconcile

ourselves to the fact that the soldier will feel that he has earned the right to comfort and a fair share of the good things of life. He has led the strenuous life; it would not be unfair if a large share of the strenuous life fell to our lot after the war. We have led the sheltered life, and it would be fair if we spent the rest of our days in providing shelter.

Of course, this does not justify idleness, which would be as bad for the soldier as for the rest of the community. Occupation is an essential part of happiness, as well as of development. What we have to do is to relieve the returned soldier of anxiety as to his livelihood. And this does not mean class distinction. It is in line with the modern movement of social science. It has the same basis as old age pensions. Pensions used to be given, in civil life, mainly to those who had led easy lives. They ought to be given to those who have done the hard work of the world—have experienced drudgery, danger, exposure to heat and cold and storm. These are the beneficiaries of the old age pensions established by Lloyd George.

After the war those who have advocated the strenuous life may have

an opportunity to live it and allow others to live in a less strenuous manner.

### Sir Sam Still Busy.

Lindsay, March 30.—Sir Sam Hughes, home from Boston and Rochester, will next address a chamber of commerce group of business men in Chicago. The general still pursues the strenuous way, and his visits to his native town are always of the flying type.

Of his visits to the American chambers of commerce he has little to say, except that he is delighted with the good people of the states.

If you would be happy forget the good you have done others and the evil they have done you.

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Think of it—a reduction of 12c. per ton per mile in the cost of getting food to town! A total saving to that community sufficient to more than cover the cost of building and maintaining the new good roads.

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