

Irrigation Projects of Canadian Pacific Railway Co.—The Canadian Pacific Railway Co. has constructed and operated in the province of Alberta three large projects known as the Eastern, Western and Lethbridge sections. The total irrigable area which can be served by these projects amounts to approximately 750,000 acres, of which over 180,000 were irrigated in 1924. The total crop produced in 1924 from 325,154 acres situated within the boundaries of these projects amounted to \$6,075,494, or at the rate of \$17.25 per acre. The Lethbridge section is the oldest irrigation project in the province of Alberta, 1924 being its 23rd year of operation. The Magrath, Raymond, Stirling and Coaldale areas are included in the section, and the Taber Irrigation District, comprising some 17,250 acres of irrigable land, also receives its water supply from this section. The Western and Eastern sections have been operating for 17 and 11 years respectively.

Municipal Hail Insurance in the Prairie Provinces.—In addition to insurance against hail by ordinary joint stock insurance companies, legislation has been enacted by each of the three Prairie Provinces, providing for insurance against loss of crops by hailstorms through a system of co-operative municipal hail insurance. In Manitoba legislative facilities exist under the Manitoba District Hail Insurance Act, 1920; but the necessary number of municipalities have not as yet combined to start the system therein provided for. In Saskatchewan and Alberta government insurance against hail had its origin in 1910. At the present time municipal hail insurance in Saskatchewan is effected under the Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Act, 1920. The principle of this Act is the assessment of a fixed rate per acre and an additional rate, if necessary, upon land under crop in municipalities consenting to participate in the plan, and the payment of compensation at fixed rates per acre for insured crops destroyed by hail, the system being administered by a popularly elected body known as the Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Association carries insurance of approximately \$25,000,000 a year, representing the crops of 30,000 farmers. The cost charge is about 7½ p.c. of the annual premiums, and a reserve of \$1,600,000 has been accumulated. For further details see the official Public Service Monthly for May, 1925, issued by the Saskatchewan Bureau of Publications.

In Alberta the Hail Insurance Act is administered by the Alberta Hail Insurance Board, whose annual report for the year ended Jan. 31, 1925, indicates a decline in business done, as a result of the changes made in the Act at the 1924 session of the Legislature, when a voluntary instead of an automatic system of insurance was introduced. Field crops on 658,695 acres were covered by insurance, there being 5,611 applications for insurance and 1,492 claims, resulting in awards of \$478,818 to the claimants. During the 6 years of operation, total assessments were \$7,987,000, while payments for losses amounted to \$6,739,000. Thus, out of every dollar received in premiums, 85 cents were returned in payment of losses, while 8½ cents went to the reserve and surplus fund, and 6⅔ cents covered the cost of administration.

Flax Fibre.—Table 59, compiled from the records of the Economic Fibre Production Division of the Dominion Experimental Farms, shows the area, production and value of flax fibre and allied products in Canada for each of the years 1915 to 1924.