

38.—Major Irrigation Projects in Southern Alberta, 1937 and 1938.

Project.	Source of Supply.	1937.			1938.		
		Irrigable Area.	Length of Canals.	Area Irrigated.	Irrigable Area.	Length of Canals.	Area Irrigated.
		acres.	miles.	acres.	acres.	miles.	acres.
C.P.R. Western.....	Bow River.....	218,980	990	50,866	218,980	964	35,775
C.P.R. Lethbridge.....	St. Mary River.....	100,000	219	75,250	100,000	219	75,749
Canada Land.....	Bow River.....	130,000	466	32,567	130,000	469	30,326
Taber.....	St. Mary River.....	21,499	102	21,296	21,499	102	20,880
Lethbridge Northern.....	Oldman River.....	96,220	600	70,020	95,664	600	73,297
United.....	Belly River.....	34,166	175	17,500	34,166	175	10,000
New West.....	Bow River.....	4,564	24	2,752	4,563	24	3,000
Magrath.....	St. Mary River.....	6,975	90	4,000	6,975	90	4,000
Raymond.....	St. Mary River.....	15,130	16	13,000	15,130	16	12,000
Mountain View.....	Belly River.....	3,500	15	3,500	3,500	25	3,500
Little Bow.....	Highwood River.....	3,093	2.5	20	3,093	2.5	20
Eastern.....	Bow River.....	279,000	1,916	124,645	281,500	992	133,928

The Canadian Pacific Railway has constructed three large projects known as the Eastern, Western, and Lethbridge sections, the last-named being the oldest irrigation project in Alberta. In 1935 the interests of the C.P.R. in the Eastern project were transferred to the water contract holders, who are now operating under the name of the Eastern Irrigation District. By agreement with the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Taber, Magrath, and Raymond irrigation districts procure their water supply from the main canal of the Lethbridge section, a further 43,604 acres being served by the canals of these districts.

The total irrigable area served by the Canada Land and Irrigation Company's project is 130,000 acres, while the New West Irrigation District, by agreement with the Canada Land and Irrigation Company, received a water supply for a further irrigable area of 4,564 acres.

In addition to the irrigated tracts enumerated in the foregoing table, there are approximately 391 privately owned projects in Alberta, with a possible irrigable area of 57,751 acres.

*British Columbia.**—The surface waters of British Columbia are vested in the Crown in the right of the Province and are administered by the Water Rights Branch of the Department of Lands under the Water Act, the Drainage Dyking and Development Act, and the Ditches and Watercourses Act.

The administration of the Acts is vested in the Comptroller of Water Rights. Under the provisions of the Water Act, 1909, the Board of Investigation or, as it was later known, the Water Board, was authorized to re-define the water records issued since 1858. Additional authority was given to the Board in administrative matters in later years, but owing to the enactment of the Provincial Public Utilities Act and to the fact that the re-definition of the more than 8,000 water records issued before the year 1909 had been completed, the Water Board ceased to exist with the enactment of the Water Act, 1939. It is interesting to note that of the orders of the Board re-defining the old records, only six were the subject of appeals to the Court of Appeal.

There are several forms of organization operating irrigation systems in British Columbia, and Table 39 gives statistics of the larger irrigation projects now in operation.

* Revised by E. Davis, Comptroller of Water Rights, Department of Lands, Victoria, B.C.