

Subsection 11.—Agricultural Irrigation

Alberta.—The surface waters in Alberta are vested in the Crown and are administered by the Water Resources Office under the Water Resources Act (c. 65 R.S.A. 1942). All matters affecting the control of water supply generally, as well as the inspection and authorization of works for the use of water for domestic, industrial, irrigation, water power and other purposes and the granting of licences for such purposes are dealt with by that office. The Director of Water Resources at Edmonton is responsible for all field administration. The Irrigation Districts Act of Alberta (c. 98 R.S.A. 1942) provides for the formation of irrigation districts and authorizes the raising of loans or the carrying out of work under by-laws approved by the voters of the districts.

The operation of two large irrigation systems constructed by the Canadian Pacific Railway has been turned over to the water-users; these are now known as the Eastern and Western Irrigation Districts. The C.P.R. still retains the Lethbridge section, known as the Alberta Railway and Irrigation System, but negotiations *re* the transference of this System are under way.

During the past few years the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration of the Dominion Department of Agriculture has been active in promoting and assisting the construction of irrigation projects. It is expected that certain long-awaited irrigation construction will commence in 1946; the Dominion Government has appropriated a sum of money for the first stage in the construction of the \$3,500,000 dam on the St. Mary River near Magrath. This dam, which will control all but extreme flood flows of the river, will be the key structure in a development that will eventually provide irrigation water for about 345,000 acres of land in the area between Lethbridge and Medicine Hat on the north and the International Boundary on the south; in addition it will improve the supply for the existing Alberta Railway and Irrigation, Magrath, Raymond and Taber Districts of about 120,000 acres.

The cost of the whole project is estimated at about \$15,000,000 to be divided between the Dominion and Alberta Governments and the local water-users. The Alberta Government is at present financing the construction of the East Pothole Coulee Reservoir, also a length of canal which will be fitted into the larger project. The Alberta Railway and Irrigation System, at present operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway, will be incorporated into the large development and negotiations between the Alberta Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway are in an advanced stage.

Largely on account of assistance given and promised by Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, the Leavitt and Ætna Irrigation Districts have been organized. Construction of the Leavitt District is nearing completion while that of the Ætna District has been commenced.