

Table 44 shows the principal P.F.R.A. irrigation projects in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

44.—Principal P.F.R.A. Irrigation Projects in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, as at Oct. 31, 1946

Project	Location	Description	Irrigable Area	Storage Capacity
			acres	acre ft.
Manitoba—				
Deadhorse Creek.....	Morden.....	Earthfill dam, completed 1941.....	100	1,200
Totals, Manitoba¹....	—	—	100	16,265
Saskatchewan—				
Cypress Lake Storage.	Southwest Sask.....	Development of storage and irrigation on Frenchman River Valley in southwestern Sask., storage dams to raise level of Cypress Lake for irrigation along Frenchman River; includes canal leading to Robsart-Vidora area.	—	80,000
Val Marie Irrigation District.....	Val Marie.....	Dam on Frenchman River and distributing works.	8,549	8,000
Eastend Irrigation District.....	Frenchman River, southwestern Sask.	Storage dam on Frenchman River and canals to rehabilitate and extend an old irrigation project.	5,396	1,300
Maple Creek.....	Maple Creek.....	Development of Maple, Gap and Downie Creeks flowing northward from Cypress Hills for irrigation and stockwatering.	6,000	23,260
Swift Current.....	Swift Current.....	Development of Swift Current Creek and tributaries for irrigation, stockwatering, municipal and domestic supply.	25,000	98,350
Qu'Appelle River Valley.....	On Qu'Appelle River from Moose Jaw east.	Development of Qu'Appelle River and tributaries for irrigation, stockwatering and domestic supply, ultimate irrigable acreage approximately 30,000 acres.	1,600	72,700
Totals, Saskatchewan¹	—	—	65,000	400,904

¹ Includes other small projects.

Irrigation in British Columbia.—Irrigation may be said to have officially begun almost as soon as there was an organized authority in this territory. The right to the use of water for agricultural purposes was granted in 1858, three months after the passing of an Act by the Imperial Government establishing the new Colony of British Columbia.

During the early years of settlement in the Province, irrigation was used chiefly for raising hay, in valley bottom lands where it was easy to divert water from the streams. By the end of the century the settlers were becoming bolder, and as the valleys were longer and water was being conveyed to the benches and higher lands, especially where it became apparent that the climate and the benchlands were suitable for growing tree fruits on a commercial scale.

Companies were formed to buy up large holdings, subdivide them into small lots, and construct irrigation systems to supply them with water. Most of these companies have passed into history and the irrigation systems they started have been taken over and operated by Improvement Districts under the Water Act of 1906. At first these systems were constructed largely with earth ditches and wooden flumes, but as the large water losses from such structures became apparent, many ditches have been lined with concrete or asphalt, and wooden