

Subsection 11.—Agricultural Irrigation

A short article is given at pp. 375-379 of the 1947 Year Book on agricultural irrigation on the Canadian Prairies from its beginnings when early ranchers undertook to grow winter feed by diverting water from the smaller streams to irrigate meadow lands, to the new phase in irrigation development whereby the Federal Government, under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, 1935, undertook the construction of large irrigation works on the Prairies and to provide assistance for individual projects, conduct surveys and prepare plans for various irrigation possibilities.

Table 45 shows the larger irrigation developments in Alberta. In addition there are 640 private licensed irrigation projects with an irrigable area of 75,000 acres. Table 46 shows the principal P.F.R.A. irrigation projects in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and Table 47 the irrigable and irrigated areas in British Columbia under the control of public and private organizations.

45.—Irrigation Development in Alberta, as at Oct. 31, 1947

Project	Source of Supply	Miles of Canals 1945	Area of Tract	Area Served by Existing Works	Area Irrigated in—				
					1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
		No.	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres
Canada Land and Irrigation Company....	Bow River.....	461	200,000	55,000	39,468	32,783	34,640	35,813	38,963
New West Irrigation District ¹	Bow River.....	24	8,000	4,564	2,979	4,501	2,626	3,025	4,501
Western Irrigation District.....	Bow River.....	1,000	150,000	150,000	9,194	7,666	20,000	20,000	19,000
St. Mary and Milk River Development	St. Mary River...	219	200,000	84,000	57,575	75,707	75,725	75,766	76,013
Magrath Irrigation District ²	St. Mary River...	90	18,873	6,975	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Raymond Irrigation District ²	St. Mary River...	17	20,520	15,130	10,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Taber Irrigation District ²	St. Mary River...	105	33,200	21,500	14,108	20,935	21,325	21,218	21,222
Eastern Irrigation District.....	Bow River.....	2,084	1,500,000	250,000	158,000	168,496	167,094	167,100	167,200
Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District..	Oldman River....	600	220,782	97,000	31,102	67,777	75,927	57,126	57,126
United Irrigation District.....	Belly River.....	175	62,800	34,318	12,000	14,000	14,000	13,000	13,500
Mountain View Irrigation District..	Belly River.....	24	6,400	3,569	3,400	3,254	3,400	3,300	3,000
Leavitt Irrigation District.....	Belly River.....	3	16,100	4,571	3	3	526	1,000	1,200
Little Bow Irrigation District.....	Highwood River.	3	10,014	200	80	40	120	100	Nil
Totals.....	-	4,802	2,446,689	726,827	341,406	410,659	430,883	412,948	417,225

¹ Water supplied by Canada Land and Irrigation Company.

² Water supplied by the St. Mary and Milk Rivers Development.

³ Not completed.