

British Columbia.*—Irrigation has been practised in British Columbia for almost a century. It began with simple structures designed to flood hay meadows or irrigate grain crops in the creek valleys. By 1900 the practicability of growing tree fruits commercially had been demonstrated and rapid development of irrigated agriculture resulted. Sizable areas of land were provided with irrigation works, subdivided into units and sold to orchardists. During the past 30 years most of the larger irrigation systems have been acquired by improvement districts and municipalities.

Three methods of irrigating are practised: periodic flooding, furrow irrigation from ditches and flumes, and sprinkling. Most irrigation is by gravity but pumping from rivers and lakes is also practised and is increasing. A total of 160,000 acres of land are irrigated in the Province of which about 40 p.c. is served by community irrigation systems and the rest by works designed for single farm units.

All varieties of tree fruits, vegetables, grain and hay that can be grown in a north temperate climate are grown on irrigated land in British Columbia. The areas of irrigated and irrigable land in the larger irrigation projects of the Province are given in Table 4.

* Prepared by J. E. Lane, Comptroller of Water Rights, Department of Lands and Forests, Victoria, B.C.

4.—Major Irrigation Projects in British Columbia, 1959

| Project | Water Supply | Irrigable Area | Irrigated Area | Locality |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| | | acres | acres | |
| Provincial Irrigation System— Southern Okanagan Lands Project..... | Okanagan River..... | 5,000 | 4,200 | Okanagan Valley |
| Municipal Irrigation Systems— Penticton Municipality..... Summerland Municipality..... | Penticton and Ellis Creeks..... Trout and Eneas Creeks..... | 2,250 3,463 | 2,220 3,418 | Okanagan Valley " " |
| Irrigation Districts— Balfour..... Barriere..... | Laird Creek..... Barriere River..... | 240 225 | 150 129 | Kootenay Valley North Thompson Valley |
| B.C. Fruitlands..... | Jameson and North Thompson River..... | 3,200 | 2,800 | North Thompson Valley |
| Black Mountain..... Black Sage..... Blueberry Creek..... Cawston..... Covert..... Darfield..... | Belgo Creek..... Okanagan River..... Blueberry Creek..... Similkameen River..... Fourth of July Creek..... Lindquist Creek..... | 4,000 180 250 500 272 363 | 3,850 150 40 257 272 200 | Okanagan Valley " " Columbia Valley Okanagan Valley Near Grand Forks North Thompson Valley |
| East Creston..... Ellison..... Girouard..... Glenmore..... Grand Forks..... Hefley..... | Arrow Creek..... Kelowna Creek..... Swan Lake Creek..... Kelowna Creek..... Kettle River..... Hefley Creek and North Thompson River..... | 1,400 687 110 2,000 3,000 2,700 | 1,160 687 110 1,946 2,500 1,633 | Kootenay Valley Okanagan Valley " " " " Kettle Valley North Thompson Valley |
| Kaleden..... Keremeos..... | Marron Creek..... Ashnola River and Keremeos Creek..... | 500 1,020 | 430 960 | Okanagan Valley Similkameen Valley |
| Malcolm Horie..... Merritt Central..... Naramata..... Okanagan Falls..... Okanagan Mission..... | Joseph Creek..... Coldwater River..... Lequime and Robinson Creeks..... Shuttleworth Creek..... Bellevue (Sawmill) Creek, Okanagan Lake..... | 200 125 890 450 750 | 150 125 860 240 670 | Near Cranbrook Nicola Valley Okanagan Valley " " " " |
| Oyama..... Peachland..... Renata..... Robson..... | Long Lake..... Peachland Creek..... Dog Creek..... Pass Creek..... | 350 500 200 262 | 350 480 140 262 | " " " " Columbia Valley " " |