

during the flood of 1953; cleaning out the Seven Persons Creek and Ross Creek channels at Medicine Hat; preparing an aerial survey map of the Blairmore and Coleman district to correct the flooding of the Crownsnest River; constructing protection works to prevent the Oldman River from by-passing the diversion works of the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District. Expenditure on these projects amounted to \$233,245 in the year ended Mar. 31, 1954.

Peace River Dugout Program.—The Provincial Department of Agriculture extends assistance for the construction of dugouts in the Peace River area because of a serious lack of underground water. Assistance is on the basis of six cents per cu. yard up to a maximum of \$120 per dugout (2,000 cu. yards). During 1953, 115 dugouts were constructed making a total of 2,163 dugouts to Mar. 31, 1954. Expenditure in 1953-54 amounted to \$12,463. The program, which is of incalculable benefit to the Peace River area, is administered by District Agriculturists.

Ground Water Control Act.—This Act, passed in 1953, is designed to prevent the wastage of underground water and water pressure in the aquifers. Regulations were drafted and are now officially adopted requiring the registration of all those who drill for water on lands not necessarily their own. It is now proposed to register all water-boring operators and to require proper control of water flows obtained from underground sources.

British Columbia.*—About 17 p.c. of the arable land in British Columbia is under cultivation and nearly all the grazing area is being utilized. The 1,100,000 acres developed give a ratio of approximately one acre per person. Within this arable area there exist an estimated 163,777 acres of irrigated land, and the total acreage of irrigable land in British Columbia is estimated at 181,974 acres.

About two-thirds of the irrigated area is made up of individual projects and the other third is served by the larger irrigation projects listed in Table 5.

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5.—Major Irrigation Projects in British Columbia, circa 1954

Project	Water Supply	Irrigable Area	Irrigated Area	Average Irrigation Charge	Locality
		acres	acres	\$	
Provincial Irrigation System—					
Southern Okanagan Lands Project.....	Okanagan River.....	5,000	4,200	12.50	Okanagan Valley
Municipal Irrigation Systems—					
Penticton Municipality....	Penticton and Ellis Creeks..	2,500	2,200	18.00	Okanagan Valley
Summerland Municipality.	Trout and Eneas Creeks....	3,452	3,407	13.42	"
Irrigation Districts—					
Balfour Irrigation District.	Laird Creek.....	240	150	..	Kootenay Valley
Bankhead.....	Kelowna and Mission Creeks	85	85	..	Okanagan Valley
Barriere.....	Barriere River.....	182	80	2.25	North Thompson Valley
B.C. Fruitlands.....	Jameson and North Thompson Rivers.....	2,657	2,218	13.50	"
Black Mountain.....	Mission Creek, etc.	4,174	4,174	11.00	Okanagan Valley
Blueberry Creek.....	Blueberry Creek.....	140	..	15.00	Columbia Valley
Boundary Line.....	Osoyoos Lake.....	95	95	13.50	Okanagan Valley
Brent Davis.....	Mission Creek.....	480	405	6.00	"
Cawston.....	Similkameen River.....	643	481	14.00	"
Chase.....	Chase Creek.....	639	625	2.50	South Thompson Valley
Covert.....	4th of July Creek.....	278	278	4.50	Near Grand Forks