

the province for land clearing and breaking amounted to \$6,528,652, and included work done in six settlement projects involving initial clearing and breaking on about 200 farm units before the land was leased.

Alberta.*—The Alberta Water Resources Act gives the Minister of the Department of Agriculture wide powers to investigate the water resources of the province and extensive surveys have been carried out to determine the distribution and extent of the available water supply in the province and the most beneficial use for irrigation, water power and other purposes. The Water Resources Branch of the provincial Department of Agriculture administers the licensing of water power projects and the construction work in several irrigation projects. Irrigation projects are also licensed and water allocated for domestic and irrigation purposes. Other work includes administration of drainage districts, co-operation on the Peace River Dug-out Project and on river protection projects where flooding occurs. In more recent years much of this work has been carried out by the Federal Government in co-operation with the Government of Alberta.

Stream measurement is being done by the Hydrometric Service of the federal Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, and irrigation surveys are carried out largely by the water development organization under the PFRA (see p. 456).

In 1958 the Province of Alberta completed the construction of the distribution system for the Western Block of the Bow River Development; the irrigable area is approximately 45,000 acres.

The figures given in Table 5 of land actually irrigated in Alberta in 1958 are only approximate because, while there are increases resulting from the creation of new pump irrigated areas, there are also decreases caused by soil reclassification and less water use, depending on natural precipitation. Seepage and alkali problems also have an effect on acreage quoted as irrigable. Figures for small private irrigation projects have been omitted because of their uncertain water supply.

Gross cash returns from the irrigable area are estimated at \$30,000,000 though this figure does not take into account the value of stockwater supplied through irrigation works. Nor does it include many other credit items that are difficult to evaluate such as the recreational use of water which, to these one-time semi-arid areas, is particularly important, and the value of fish taken from irrigation reservoirs which is known to be quite significant. Several communities receive their entire domestic water supply via irrigation canals.

* Revised in the Deputy Minister's office, Alberta Department of Agriculture.

5.—Major Irrigation Districts in Alberta, 1958

District	Classified Irrigable Area	Area Actually Irrigated in 1958
	acres	acres
St. Mary and Milk Rivers Development.....	259,861	123,440
Magrath Irrigation District.....	7,885	7,000
Raymond Irrigation District.....	19,058	15,500
Taber Irrigation District.....	32,100	22,854
Western Irrigation District.....	50,000	9,870
Eastern Irrigation District.....	250,000	188,928
Bow River Development—		
Federal.....	94,783	56,995
Provincial.....	35,217	2,400
Mountain View Irrigation District.....	3,600	2,759
Leavitt Irrigation District.....	4,631	1,542
Aetna Irrigation District.....	8,303	—
United Irrigation District.....	34,005	11,032
Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District.....	96,135	51,916
Ross Creek Irrigation District.....	2,069	1,500
Macleod Irrigation District.....	3,000	—
Totals.....	900,647	495,736