

irrigation projects. Irrigation projects are also licensed and water allocated for domestic and irrigation purposes. Other work includes administration of drainage districts and 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 PFRA (see p. 399).

The figures given in Table 4 of land actually irrigated in Alberta in 1960 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, although 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 once 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.

4.—Major Irrigation Districts in Alberta, 1960

District	Classified Irrigable Area	Area Actually Irrigated in 1960
	acres	acres
St. Mary and Milk Rivers Development.....	259,861	129,829
Magrath Irrigation District.....	7,885	5,000
Raymond Irrigation District.....	19,058	15,200
Taber Irrigation District.....	32,100	29,448
Western Irrigation District.....	50,000	12,000
Eastern Irrigation District.....	250,000	189,761
Bow River Development—		
Federal.....	94,783	66,117
Provincial.....	35,217	5,275
Mountain View Irrigation District.....	3,600	2,789
Leavitt Irrigation District.....	4,631	1,542
Aetna Irrigation District.....	8,303	440
United Irrigation District.....	34,005	16,536
Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District.....	96,135	71,006
Ross Creek Irrigation District.....	2,069	405
Macleod Irrigation District.....	3,000	—
Totals.....	900,647	545,348

British Columbia.*—About 20 p.c. of the arable land in British Columbia is under cultivation and nearly all the grazing area is being utilized. The 1,300,000 acres of improved land give a ratio of approximately one acre per person. Within this arable area there exist an estimated 218,000 acres of irrigated land, and the total additional acreage of irrigable land in British Columbia is estimated at 400,000 acres. About three-quarters of the irrigated area is made up of individual projects and the other quarter is served by the larger irrigation projects listed in Table 5.

* Revised by the Comptroller of Water Rights, British Columbia Department of Lands and Forests.