

a Royal Commission was appointed in 1951 to conduct an inquiry as to whether the economic and social returns to the Canadian people would be commensurate with the cost. The inquiry was completed in 1952 and a report submitted to Parliament.

Bow River Irrigation Project.—The Bow River project was purchased by the Government of Canada in 1950 from the Canada Land and Irrigation Company, a private British interest. Development of this project will ensure water to 57,000 acres of presently irrigated land and will bring an additional 180,000 acres "under the ditch".

Engineering surveys, drainage studies and soil mechanics investigations were started in 1950. Construction activities so far have been mainly the repair and enlargement of old and worn out structures to meet new and increased demands. Twelve thousand acres of new land in the Hays district of the Bow River irrigation project were prepared for settlement in 1951. A complete irrigation distribution system was installed in the area (see also p. 396).

Red Deer Irrigation Project.—The proposed Red Deer River development concerns the irrigation of an estimated 400,000 acres of land located in the east-central part of Alberta. The project will consist of a dam on the Red Deer River at Ardley and about 100 miles of main canal to two main reservoirs—Craig Lake and Hamilton Lake. The dam will contain power installations to produce power for pumping and also for sale commercially. An estimated 20,000,000 kwh. of water power will be available for sale when fully developed. Plans for the development of the project are under preparation.

Irrigation Development in British Columbia.—Irrigation development in British Columbia has been undertaken in connection with the Veterans' Land Act and at the request of the British Columbia Government. Three projects, namely, the Chase irrigation project and the Johnstone Western Canada ranching projects No. 1 and No. 2, have been completed within the South Thompson Valley area. On these projects, 809 acres of land have been developed for irrigation for the benefit of approximately 40 veterans of World War II.

In the Okanagan Valley three new projects have been completed, the Westbank irrigation project and the Bankhead project near Kelowna, and the Cawston Benches project located east of the town of Keremeos. The three projects irrigate 1,782 acres of land and provide locations for 170 veterans of World War II. The Penticton West Benches project, to irrigate approximately 200 acres and accommodate 97 veterans on small holdings, will be completed in 1953.

Intensive farming is practised in the Okanagan and South Thompson Valleys. The land developed for irrigation by P.F.R.A. will be used mainly for the growing of small fruits and vegetables and for dairying.

New projects are constantly being investigated as potential development areas. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1952, investigation reports were completed for: Lister Project, Creston; Grandview Flats Project, Vernon; Black Mountain Irrigation Project, Black Mountain Irrigation District; Salmon Arm Irrigation Project, Salmon Arm; Pitt Meadows Dyking District No. 1, Port Coquitlam; and the British Columbia Fruitlands Irrigation Project, between Kamloops and Tranquille.

Major Reclamation Projects.—*Riding Mountain Reclamation Project.*—Extensive investigations have been undertaken by P.F.R.A. in the Riding Mountain area at the request of the Manitoba Government. A serious flood problem exists