

The St. Mary River System is by far the most important irrigation project undertaken in Canada and, when completed, will irrigate an area of approximately 510,000 acres. Construction of the St. Mary Dam, key structure on the whole project, was completed in 1951. It stands 195 feet high and is 2,536 feet wide, and creates a reservoir capable of storing 320,000 acre-feet of water. Approximately 200 miles of main canal have been built and 10,000 acres of land have been developed, together with over 100 miles of the distribution canal system. Further lands are under development.

*South Saskatchewan River Development.*—This development in central Saskatchewan is a proposed multipurpose project to be used for developing power and irrigation, the irrigable area lying between the town of Elbow and the city of Saskatoon. The key structure on the project will be a dam on the South Saskatchewan River located at a point midway between the towns of Outlook and Elbow.

The plan is to stabilize agriculture in the south-central area of the Province where prolonged droughts have created serious economic problems for over 50,000 farmers. Full use will be made of the river's control, power, urban water supply and recreational benefits.

*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 land at present irrigated and will bring an additional 180,000 acres "under the ditch". Construction activities so far have been mainly the repair and enlargement of old 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. 398).

*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 power is fully developed. Development plans 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 (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 the Second World War. The Penticton West Benches project, irrigating approximately 200 acres and accommodating 97 veterans on small holdings, was completed in 1953.