

that the population of the three Prairie Provinces will eventually reach 100 million people; requiring 50,000 cfs of water for consumptive purposes. It is interesting to note that on the basis of population growth of 2.2% per annum experienced during the past 10 years in the Prairie Provinces, it would require a further period of 158 years for the three Prairie Provinces to reach a total population of 100 million people.

The Crippen Wright report of March 1962 suggested a programme that might start with the diversion of the upper North Saskatchewan River into the South Saskatchewan River. This would be followed by diversion from the Athabaska River into the North Saskatchewan River where the water could be utilized along the North Saskatchewan itself, or could be diverted, in turn, for use in the South Saskatchewan system. The next stage of the programme envisaged diversion from the Peace River into the Athabaska River for further diversions to the South Saskatchewan River system. In the late stages of the programme, small diversions could be made from the Fraser River system. At an ultimate stage of the diversion programme, the more expensive diversion possibilities from the Columbia River Basin might be developed.

Seven possible routes for diversion from the Columbia River Basin to the Prairies were outlined in the Crippen Wright report. These possibilities are described briefly below. The diversion schemes and their associated costs were based only on paper location with very little first hand knowledge of terrain or soil conditions.

Two basic assumptions were made in deriving cost estimates:

(1) the destination of the diverted water was considered to be the South Saskatchewan River system where water could be released to large tracts of irrigable land.