

the Serpentine river flowing through the flats. The dyke has been greatly damaged and the gates almost totally wrecked. This was a municipal undertaking and the damage has not been repaired. The government contemplates taking the matter in hand and doing such works as the settlers will derive most benefit from.

FINANCIAL AND ECONOMICAL FEATURES.

The advantages to be derived from the undertaking of these works by the government wholly under its own direction and control is very great as the statement following will show. For the four systems, Maple Ridge, Coquitlam, Pitt Meadows and Matsqui, the only ones in which it is possible to institute a comparison as between the old and the new methods taken together show a saving of over \$200,000. Not only that but the annual interest payable is very much reduced, although the total cost estimated under the government scheme is somewhat greater than that estimated under the dyking commissioners. The annual interest payable under the former was about \$29,000 whereas under the government scheme it will be \$17,000, or a saving of \$12,000 per annum in interest. As already intimated, it is impossible to institute a comparison with reference to the other schemes, but similar advantages obtain to the land owners, to the district and to the province generally. With respect to the districts already referred to the following comparative statement clearly and adequately shows the saving that will be effected and the advantages of the present scheme:

wack, which are worth perhaps \$35 an acre, the lands are practically valueless, except for pasturage during the summer months, and not worth more than \$5 or \$10 per acre.

GENERAL ADVANTAGES.

Here may be pointed out some other advantages of an important character to be obtained under government supervision and control.

1.—The guarantee against the work being scamped, in other words, its substantial character. This does not imply that work performed under the commissioners is necessarily or intentionally ineffective, but they had not among themselves the necessary professional knowledge of what was required or when work was properly done, though the commissioners undoubtedly did the best in their power to achieve good results. Incidentally it may be remarked that the expenses of supervision is less than under commissioners from the fact that there is now only single management to be paid for.

2.—The removal of the commissioner, or, as he is called, the inspector, from responsibility to what might be termed his constituents or those who elect him by a majority and who could, if they pleased, put him out of office. The present system enables the superintendent to do his work fearlessly.

3.—The immediate control of funds under government when urgently needed as against the difficulty of getting money under the commissioners, for example: In 1897 Maple Ridge began pumping when the gates were closed by the freshet. The commissioners fell short of funds and could not collect from

COMMISSIONERS' SCHEME.

Name of District.	Est'd Interest Cost. on Bonds.	Annual In. Payable.	S. F. Rate.	An.S.F. payable.
Maple Ridge.....	\$185,364 6 per cent	\$11,121	2½	\$1,736
Coquitlam.....	115,742 6 "	6,944	1½	1,391
Pitt Meadows.....	79,938 6 "	4,796	1½	909
Matsqui.....	106,445 6 "	6,087	1½	1,330

GOVERNMENT SCHEME.

Maple Ridge.....	185,364 5½ "	6,488	1½	2,780
Coquitlam.....	115,742 3½ "	4,081	1½	1,736
Pitt Meadows.....	79,938 3½ "	2,798	1½	1,199
Matsqui.....	106,445 3½ "	3,725	1½	1,596

RELATIVE VALUE OF LANDS.

It is impossible to state what the value of the lands contained in the various areas affected will be, but a careful estimate places it on an average at \$50 per acre, while in Chilliwack perhaps a little higher. At the present time with the exception of the lands in Chill-

the settlers. Had they not had aid the land would have been flooded and valuable crops lost. The government came to their rescue and saved them. The case of Coquitlam was similar. Take again the case of Chilliwack. The urgency of the dams was very great. The commissioners could not have moved