

CHIEF SCOUT IN CANADA

Lord Rowallan, Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth who arrived in Montreal by air on October 11, flew from there to Victoria, B.C. where, on October 13, he began a trans-Canada tour which will take him to 23 Canadian Scouting centres. The Chief Scout is scheduled to make 23 major addresses, including 13 to Canadian Clubs, one to Kiwanis and one to Rotary. In Saskatoon he will meet the Executive Committee of the Canadian General Council of the Boy Scouts Association, which will be in session there on October 24 - 25.

Lord Rowallan was appointed Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth in 1945, for a 15-year period. He made his first official tour of Canada, as Commonwealth Chief Scout, in 1946, and again visited Canada in 1955 on the occasion of the 8th World Scout Jamboree at Niagara-on-the-Lake. Mr. D.F. Morgan, Assistant Overseas Commissioner from Imperial Scout Headquarters, London, England, will accompany Lord Rowallan on his Canadian tour which concludes on November 22.

IRRIGATION PLAN

The \$6,000,000 Bow River Irrigation Development, Western Block, which has been under construction since 1953 is scheduled to be completed this fall. The project will serve 45,000-60,000 acres of classified irrigable land.

The development is the fifth largest of 15 irrigation areas in southern Alberta. It is centred in the Lomond-Travers-Enchant areas, some 50 miles north of Lethbridge.

The system is the second in Alberta to be constructed and supervised solely by the Water Resources Branch of the Provincial Department of Agriculture.

Throughout the planning and design phases, engineers of the Water Resources branch worked in close co-operation with PFRA officials.

Water for the development is taken from a main PFRA canal running from the Travers reservoir to Hays. This water is originally diverted from the Bow River near Carseland into Lake McGregor and the adjoining Travers Reservoir.

30-MILE CANAL

The main canal, thirty miles long, takes the irrigation water from the PFRA canal and feeds it to seven distributory channels totalling 375 miles in length. There is also a thirty-mile trunk drain canal back to the Bow River.

The project involved moving some seven million cubic yards of earth. Seventy precast concrete bridges were built and some 10,000 cubic yards of reinforced concrete poured. Also used in construction were one million board feet of untreated lumber and an addi-

tional one-quarter million board feet of treated lumber.

Approximately 600 quarter-sections of land can be irrigated in the area, where about 180 farms are being operated at the present time. In addition to the 600 quarters under irrigation, about 400 "dry" quarters will derive benefits from the programme.

PRODUCE FEED

Most of the irrigated land is expected to be devoted to the raising of feed for cattle and specialized grass seed. Alfalfa, tame hay and irrigated pasture will take up a large percentage of irrigated deeded lands. There may also be grown some specialized crops as corn, peas, beans, sugar beets, etc. Crown land will be colonized gradually to provide settlers with an economic irrigable unit. Private holdings presently range from a quarter-section to five sections. Wheat has been the major crop grown on cultivated land to this time.

While the development of the Western Block is not scheduled for final completion until November, some areas in the district were irrigated last year.

Main canals in the project vary in size from 16 to 40 feet bottom width. Average depth is nine feet. Distributory canals vary in bottom width from two to twenty feet. Main canal has a carrying capacity of 1,150 cubic feet per second.

UNIQUE FLUME

Unique feature of the Bow River project is a "Parshall" flume, designed to measure the amount of water going through the main canal. Automatic instruments measure the flow of water through the 30-foot "throat width." The flume is the largest one of its kind known to be constructed in North America. There are two others of comparable size known in the world, one in China, and another in India. All other structures in the project are calibrated to permit measurement of the flow of water.

RADIO CONTROL

Management and control of the new irrigation district has been aided considerably by the installation of a radio control communications system. The manager of the whole district can be in constant contact with "water masters" supervising small areas and "ditch riders" or field men. The system would be of invaluable aid in the event of an emergency such as a sudden cloudburst. Irrigation water could be routed in such a manner as to prevent possible serious damage to crops by overflooding. The communications system has seven mobile units operated from one base station. Range is fifty miles.

The ultimate potential of the Bow River Development is extensive. If further development is undertaken in the future the district could become the fourth largest irrigation project in North America.