

small irrigation schemes. The farmers have a personal interest in all this, taking an active part in and contributing their own money toward these individual and farm-neighbour projects. The financial assistance paid out last year was \$95,000, which was about half the construction cost of the projects.

Last year 33 community projects, each costing over \$5,000 and each benefiting more than two farmers, were started. Of these, 22 were completed at a cost of \$200,000.

Work has also been carried out on the larger schemes, and about a million acres are now under irrigation with a reliable supply of water coming down from the east slope of the Rockies to irrigate 3 million acres altogether, which would represent about 5 per cent of the cultivated land in the area.

The greatest benefit of these schemes is obtained where the land is fertile although the rainfall is deficient, where the contours of the land permit easy irrigation, where there are gentle slopes which do not require too much grading, and where there is a lot of sunshine and a long frost-free period. This area enjoys 122 frost-free days, a period which permits special crops like peas, corn and sugar-beets to be grown successfully.

The policy has been to construct the cheaper projects first. The big St. Mary's project has been almost completed, toward the cost of which the federal Government contributed \$10 to \$12 million for construction of the main reservoirs and the connecting canals. The province has distributed the water at a similar cost, at the same time trying to recover some of the money by charging water fees.

These irrigation structures and the work of the P.F.R.A. are justified because of their permanency. One hundred years from now our western oil supplies may be gone, and gas pockets may be exhausted. The land may need annual replenishment of its essential chemicals; but the vast St. Mary's reservoir, held back by the largest dam in Canada, will hold sufficient water to irrigate a half million acres of land. Without irrigation this land produces relatively little. Eighty acres of it, adequately irrigated, will give a family a good living, whereas before irrigation a family would starve on 640 acres, and it took from 30 to 40 acres of grass to feed one animal. If the land is properly irrigated a farmer can grow vegetables and have dairy and poultry products for his family, and, above all, his family can enjoy the benefits of community life.

Honourable senators, in the light of the knowledge gained so far, let us hope that

when this committee on land is set up it will work out plans that will result in a higher standard of living and a better social life for a very worthy class of our Canadian people.

On the motion of Hon. Mr. Cameron, the debate was adjourned.

#### PRIVATE BILL

##### TRANS MOUNTAIN OIL PIPE LINE COMPANY— SECOND READING

**Hon. Stanley S. McKeen** moved the second reading of Bill I, an Act respecting Trans Mountain Oil Pipe Line Company.

He said: Honourable senators, this is a very simple bill; its purpose is to subdivide each of the company's shares without nominal or par value into five shares without nominal or par value. The reason for splitting the shares is this: when the original bill was introduced there was a strong feeling that the public of Canada were not given an opportunity to share in the equity of enterprises of this character, and although the promoters of this company were quite prepared to put up all the money required to build the pipe line they felt it would be a good idea for the general public to participate to the extent of approximately one third. At that time shares were issued for ten dollars each. The selling price at the present moment is \$108 a share. By subdividing these shares and issuing five for one a wide distribution will be ensured, and there will be greater participation by the general public. That is the only purpose of the bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

#### REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On motion of Hon. Mr. McKeen, the bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications.

#### DIVORCE

##### REPORTS OF COMMITTEE ADOPTED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of the reports of the Standing Committee on Divorce, Nos. 35 to 57.

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck**, Chairman of the committee, moved that the reports be adopted.

The motion was agreed to, on division.

#### PRIVATE BILL

##### CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY— SECOND READING

**Hon. Paul H. Bouffard** moved the second reading of Bill S, an Act respecting Canadian Pacific Railway Company and certain wholly-owned subsidiary companies.