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SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT OF

PRAIRIE PROVINCES WATER BOARD

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## PRAIRIE PROVINCES WATER BOARD

### Second Annual Report - December, 1949

#### Warrant and Function of the Board

Under date of July 28, 1948, the Prairie Provinces Water Board was established by the Governments of Canada, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, consisting of two members appointed by Canada and one from each of the three provinces.

The Board has the functions of recommending the best use to be made of interprovincial waters in relation to associated resources in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta; upon the request of any one of the three provinces or Canada, to recommend the allocation of water as between each such province of streams flowing from one province into another province; and to report on any questions relating to specific projects for the utilization or control of common river or lake systems at the request of one or more of the Ministers or authorities charged with the administration of such river or lake systems.

#### Membership of the Board

There has been one change this year in the membership of the Board necessitated by the resignation of Mr. G. N. Munro, former Board member, from the Public Service of Saskatchewan. By Order-in-Council No. 1587/49, dated August 23, 1949, the Province of Saskatchewan appointed Mr. E. J. Scammell to the Board. The membership of the Board is now as follows:

- Mr. L. B. Thomson, Chairman of the Board: Director of  
Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, Regina.
- Mr. N. Marr: Controller, Dominion Water and Power Bureau,  
Ottawa.
- Mr. D. M. Stephens: Deputy Minister, Manitoba Department  
of Mines and Natural Resources, Winnipeg.

Mr. B. Russell: Director, Alberta Water Resources Branch,  
Edmonton.

Mr. E. J. Scammell: Saskatchewan Conservation and Develop-  
ment Branch, Regina.

Meeting of February 2, 1949, Regina, Sask.

At this second meeting of the Board, held in Regina, the compilation of the base map was further discussed; a complete list of existing and abandoned gauging stations on interprovincial streams was received; arrangements were made to obtain a report on the adequacy of the present hydrometric coverage, and to secure information on all existing or proposed projects on interprovincial streams. Arrangements were also made for obtaining estimates of the natural flows of the South Saskatchewan River, on return flows from existing irrigation projects, and on the status of navigation on the Saskatchewan River and its tributaries.

Meeting of May 6, 1949, Regina, Sask.

At this meeting the Board heard a report stating that attempts to estimate return flows from most existing irrigation projects would likely be inconclusive although such estimates for the United Irrigation District would probably have some value. Other reports received gave recommendations regarding the establishment of additional gauging stations and gave estimates of the natural flows of the Saskatchewan River and its tributaries at their provincial boundary crossings.

The Board set out the following general principles to guide them in considering applications for allocation of water to serve developed or partially developed irrigation projects, which will, in effect, constitute priorities:

1. Projects which are fully developed and for which water had been appropriated by the Federal Government prior to the Natural-Resources-Transfer-Agreement.

2. Projects which are fully developed and for which water had been appropriated by the Province concerned prior to July 28, 1948.
3. The completion of projects which are partially developed and which can be fully and beneficially developed within the appropriation as in #1 or #2 above.
4. The completion of projects with respect to which substantial works are now in existence and which works could, by the use of additional water and as shown by complete investigation, be made to serve larger areas in a beneficial manner--involving allocations over and above those provided for by prior Dominion and Provincial allocations.
5. Projects which are now under development by the Dominion and Provincial Governments and with respect to which an immediate beneficial use must be established in order to secure or protect an international allocation.

The Board agreed to establish four separate classifications under which applications for water for individual projects will be treated, and the procedure to be followed is to be in accordance with the following:

Recording - shall be a procedure under which the Board may be informed of potential and possible water uses or developments within the jurisdictions represented in the Agreement. It is understood that each such recording shall not in any way constitute or be an undertaking by the Board to recommend the allocation of water or the granting of any rights for such purpose.

Reservation - shall be a procedure under which the Board may make a "reservation" of probable water requirements of specific projects. This will not comprise an allocation but shall represent an undertaking by the Board to the effect that, while the reservation is in good standing, no subsequent action will be taken by the Board which will have a detrimental effect upon the stipulated water without first thoroughly reviewing the status and requirements of the project for which the reservation was made and without affording to the representatives of the interested jurisdictions ample opportunity to make representations and to be heard. The Board shall, in making such a reservation, fix a period of time during which sufficiently complete plans and reports are to be prepared to enable the Board to consider further the allocation of water for this purpose: provided first, that if further information is not forthcoming in the stipulated period of time the reservation will lapse, and second, that the Board may, in its discretion, from time to time extend any

period fixed for the production of such further information.

Tentative Allocation - shall be a procedure under which the Board may be requested to recommend to the Governments represented in the Agreement a tentative allocation of water for a specific project; such an allocation to be subject to review and possible subsequent modification or cancellation, either in whole or in part, prior to final allocation.

Final Allocation - shall be a procedure under which the Board may be requested to recommend to the Governments represented in the Agreement a final allocation of water for a specific project.

The Board considered a request from the Province of Alberta for a recommendation of an allocation of sufficient water to serve certain fully developed and partially developed irrigation projects in that province. The Board decided to recommend to the appropriate governments the allocation of water to the Province of Alberta from the South Saskatchewan River and its tributaries on the following bases:

Project	Irrigable Acres	Allocations in ac. ft.
St. Mary & Milk River Development	465,000	796,000
Western Irrigation District	50,000	85,700
Eastern Irrigation District	281,000	562,000
Bow River Irrigation Development	240,000	478,534
United Irrigation Development	34,000	51,000
Lethbridge Northern District	96,135	150,000
Mountain View Irrigation District	3,600	6,000
Leavitt Irrigation District	4,400	7,000
Aetna Irrigation District	7,300	13,000
Macleod Irrigation District	5,000	8,000
Private Projects	70,000	80,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,256,435</b>	<b>2,237,234</b>

A request from the Province of Saskatchewan was considered for a recommendation of an allocation of sufficient water for the requirements of the South Saskatchewan River Development Project in the following annual amounts:

Irrigation water	970,000 acre-feet
Pumping power water	807,000 acre-feet
Commercial power water	<u>3,723,000</u> acre-feet
Total	5,500,000 acre-feet

It was determined that there were insufficient data accompanying this request to permit the recommendation of an allocation. However, this amount of water was placed in the category of a "reservation", with a time limit of two years being fixed for the production of additional supporting data.

Ways and means were discussed of initiating a study of a fully coordinated plan of best use of interprovincial waters. The Board agreed to consider at their next meeting the establishment of an engineering organization to investigate such a plan.

#### Work in Progress

The base map of the three Prairie Provinces, being prepared for the use of the Board, is nearing completion in the Ottawa Offices of the Dominion Department of Mines and Resources.

A study is underway by officials of the Dominion Water and Power Bureau on the feasibility of establishing the recommended new gauging stations with suggestions regarding timing their installation and means of financing them.

A report to the appropriate governments has gone out from the Board under date of May 31, 1949, recommending an allocation of sufficient water to the Province of Alberta to serve the fully developed and partially developed irrigation projects in the amounts tabulated on page 4 of this report. Orders-in-

Council authorizing this allocation have been passed by the Government of Canada (P. C. 4030/49) and the Provinces of Alberta (O. C. 857/49) and Manitoba (No. 1121/49). This recommended allocation will become final and binding as soon as the Province of Saskatchewan adopts the recommendation of the Board.

Work Contemplated

It is expected that additional data supporting the request of the Province of Saskatchewan for a recommendation for an allocation of water for the South Saskatchewan River Development Project will be forthcoming in 1950. When this is received the Board will again review this project with a view to upgrading the category of this application.

Studies of a fully coordinated plan for the best use of interprovincial waters will be initiated subject to the establishment of an adequate engineering organization.



Chairman



Acting Secretary