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Finding Aid to the South Saskatchewan  
River Project Pamphlets and Papers.

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Glen Makahonuk

A Royal Commission was established on 24 August, 1951 to conduct an inquiry and to report on the South Saskatchewan River Project (Central Saskatchewan Development). The inquiry was to determine whether or not the economic and social returns to the Canadian people would commensurate with the cost of the investment in the project. Dr. T.H. Hogg, G.A. Gaherty and Dr. John A. Widtsoe were appointed commissioners.

This collection contains the papers, pamphlets, reports, and correspondence pertaining to the South Saskatchewan River Project. The material has been divided according to the submissions from the provincial and federal governments.

A. Submissions from the Province of Saskatchewan.

1. The Elbow, West of Third Meridian, Saskatchewan, Sectional Map No. 168, Scale 1:190,080, or 1 inch to 3 miles compiled from surveys by the Surveyor Geberak's Staff up to Sept., 1921.
2. Buckley, K.A.H. Long-Run Economic and Social Benefits of the South Saskatchewan River Development. Part III, Chapter 3. Prepared for the Royal Commission on the South Saskatchewan River Development. n.d.
3. Part IV. Chapter 2. Basic Data and Records and Chapter 3. Full Development Possibilities. n.d.
4. Ben Russell or F.W. Grindley. Summary- pertaining to the conservation and the best use of interprovincial streams in the Saskatchewan River drainage basin, n.d.
5. Memorandum to B.T. Richardson, Secretary of the Royal Commission on the South Saskatchewan River Development, re: Interim Statement submitted by the Government of Saskatchewan. July 2, 1952.
6. Extracts from Minutes of the Prairie Provinces Water Board, May 6, 1949.
7. Prairie Provinces Water Board Report #3. Preliminary Report on Effects of Certain Major Projects in the Saskatchewan River Drainage Basin. Regina, Sask. March, 1951.
8. Prairie Provinces Water Board Report #4 Comparison of two alternate developments in Saskatchewan River Basin. Regina, Sask. Oct, 1951.
9. A Submission of the City of Regina to the Royal Commission Investigating the South Saskatchewan River Development. n.d.
10. Canada. Department of Agriculture, L.B. Thomson to E.J. Scammell, Oct. 19, 1951 re: information pertaining to : 1. History of Decision to full investigate the Separate Projects; 2. Comments on proposed North Saskatchewan Irrigation Project; 3. Copy of Water Board Report No. 4.

11. Hays, D.W. South Saskatchewan River Project Memorandum Review of Submission of the Province of Saskatchewan. Oct. 1, 1952.
12. Procedures toward Irrigation and Drainage Advancement. n.d.
13. A general view of the South Saskatchewan River Project, n.d.
14. Engineering Section of the South Saskatchewan River Project, n.d.
15. Spence, George Statement to the Royal Commission on the South Saskatchewan River Development. Regina, Sask. Aug. 28, 1952.
16. Spence, George (?) Ability of Farmers to Repay, n.d.
17. Taken from the General Engineering Report on Dam and Reservoir South Saskatchewan River Project March, 1952. Chapter 17- Reservoir Silt Investigations.
18. Saskatchewan Replies to the Royal Commission on the South Saskatchewan River Development Project. Regina: Queen's Printer, 1953.
19. Submissions of the Province of Saskatchewan to the Royal Commission on the South Saskatchewan River Project. Regina: Queen's Printer, 1952.
20. Interim Statement Submitted by the Government of Saskatchewan to the Royal Commission on the South River Project. Regina, Sask. April 30, 1952. 2 copies.
21. A collection of items:
  1. Dr. J.A.Widtsoe's written statement, Oct. 30, 1951.
  2. Christopherson, Edmund "The Big Water Gyp in Montana", Saturday Evening Post, Sept. 1, 1951.
  3. Two statements from Mr. Ben Russell, marked Confidential:
    - (a) Submission to Prairie Provinces advocating joint Red Deer-South Saskatchewan Development alone.
    - (b) More extended data supporting Russell's case.
  4. Copy of article from Engineering Journal, June 3, 1948 by D.M. Stephens, Winnipeg, setting out Manitoba's interest in development of South Saskatchewan River.

5. Copy of speech presented before the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society, June 27, 1951 by Roy E. Huffman, entitled "Economics of Irrigation Development."
  6. Copy of paper by P.M. Sauder, Colonization Manager, Department of Water Resources, Lethbridge entitled "Irrigation in Alberta", January, 1951.
  7. Copy of speech delivered by George Spence to the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, 1951, entitled "Irrigation and Allied Industries-the Palliser Triangle."
  8. Copy of Hays, D.W.. "Economic development for Irrigable lands" Engineering Journal. May, 1941.
  9. a copy of Hays, D.W., "Irrigation development, its possibilities and limitations," Engineering Journal. Jan., 1939.
  10. William Pearce Stockwater Project. Excerpt from Memorandum regarding 42 Water Development Projects within the PFRA boundaries in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, for the consideration of the Committee for Post-War Construction, by B.Russell, Sr. Consulting Engineer PFRA, Oct. 31, 1942.
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22. Van Vliet, H. et. al. An Economic Appraisal of the Irrigation Phase of the Proposed South Saskatchewan River Development. n.d.
  23. Supplementary General Statement presented by Hon. I.C. Nollet, Minister of Agriculture in behalf of the Province of Saskatchewan to the Royal Commission on the South Saskatchewan River Project with reference to Alberta's Alternative Proposal.

B. Submissions from the Province of Manitoba.

1. Canada. Department of Agriculture Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Branch. Saskatchewan River Reclamation Project Pasquia Area Near the Pas, Manitoba Progress Report. Winnipeg, Man. Nov. 1, 1951.

C. Submissions from the Province of Alberta.

1. Harries, Hu. The Economic Basis for Past Irrigation Expenditure in Alberta. A Study prepared for the Royal Commission on the South Saskatchewan River Project. Edmonton, Alberta. March 31, 1952.
2. Speech delivered by George Spence to the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. Irrigation and Allied Industries. The Palliser Triangle. 1951.
3. A Study of the Agricultural Phases of the Proposed South Saskatchewan River Development. n.d.
4. Canada. Department of Agriculture Experimental Station Lethbridge, Alta. W.L. Jacobson to F.T. Richardson. Sept. 8, 1952. re: Jacobson's paper on "Irrigation on the Canadian Prairies."
5. Map of the South Saskatchewan River Watershed above proposed South Saskatchewan Dam. prepared by Water Resources Division, Development Services Branch, Department of Resources and Development, n.d.
6. Province of Alberta. Water Resources Office. Edmonton Map showing existing Irrigation projects, and proposed development in Southern Alberta; also possible extensions through C.L. & I Works. Sept. 1950.
7. Estimated Cost of South Saskatchewan River Project prepared for the Royal Commission on the South Saskatchewan River Development by Mannix Ltd, Engineers and General Contractors. Calgary, Alberta. Aug. 11, 1952.
8. Report on Surface Water Supplies and Water Power of Alberta Their Present and Ultimate Uses. Edmonton, Alberta, Dec., 1948.

9. Royal Commission on the South Saskatchewan River Development Proceedings of Public Hearing held in the Assembly Hall, Experimental Station, Lethbridge, Alberta, May 2, 1952.

D. Items from the Government of Canada.

1. Canada. Department of Agriculture. South Saskatchewan River Project (Central Saskatchewan Development) Summary Report of Investigations (Revised) Prepared jointly by Economics Division, Marketing Service and Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Branch. April 2, 1951.
2. Canada. Department of Agriculture. PFRA. Water Development Board South Saskatchewan River Project Map showing proposed South Saskatchewan River Project and extent of irrigation legend, n.d.
3. Canada, Department of Agriculture. PFRA. North Saskatchewan Irrigation Project showing Reservoirs, Main canals, irrigable areas. Jan., 1943.
- l. Israelsen, O.W. Dominion of Canada Objectives related to Agriculture in its Arid Regions. n.d.
- i. The Grass Roots of our Canadian Future. Address delivered by E.C. Hope, Economist for the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to the joint Conference of the Canadian and Ontario Association Real Estate Boards, Farm Brokers Division, Montreal, Oct. 25, 1949.
- i. Hope, Ernest C. "The Export Market and The Farmer", Public Affairs Vol. XII, No. 3, spring, 1950.
- l. Recommendations and General Considerations from the Report of the Royal Commission on the South Saskatchewan River Project, 1952. Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1952.
- l. Report of the Royal Commission on the South Saskatchewan River Project, 1952. Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1952.

E. Items from the United States Government.

1. United States. Department of the Interior. Bureau of Reclamation.  
Reclamation Anniversary Facts 1902-1952 Washington: Interior-Duplicating  
Section, 1952.

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F. Miscellaneous Items

1. Should the Irrigated Farm Land bear the entire cost of the construction  
and development? n.p., n.d.
2. A Suggested Sales Policy for Irrigated land in the proposed South Saskatchewan  
River Project. n.p., n.d.
3. Soils, n.p., n.d.