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PLANNING PROGRESS in ALBERTA

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PROVINCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD



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PLANNING PROGRESS IN ALBERTA
A REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL PLANNING
ADVISORY BOARD

PROVINCIAL PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD

June, 1959

Board Membership and Activities:

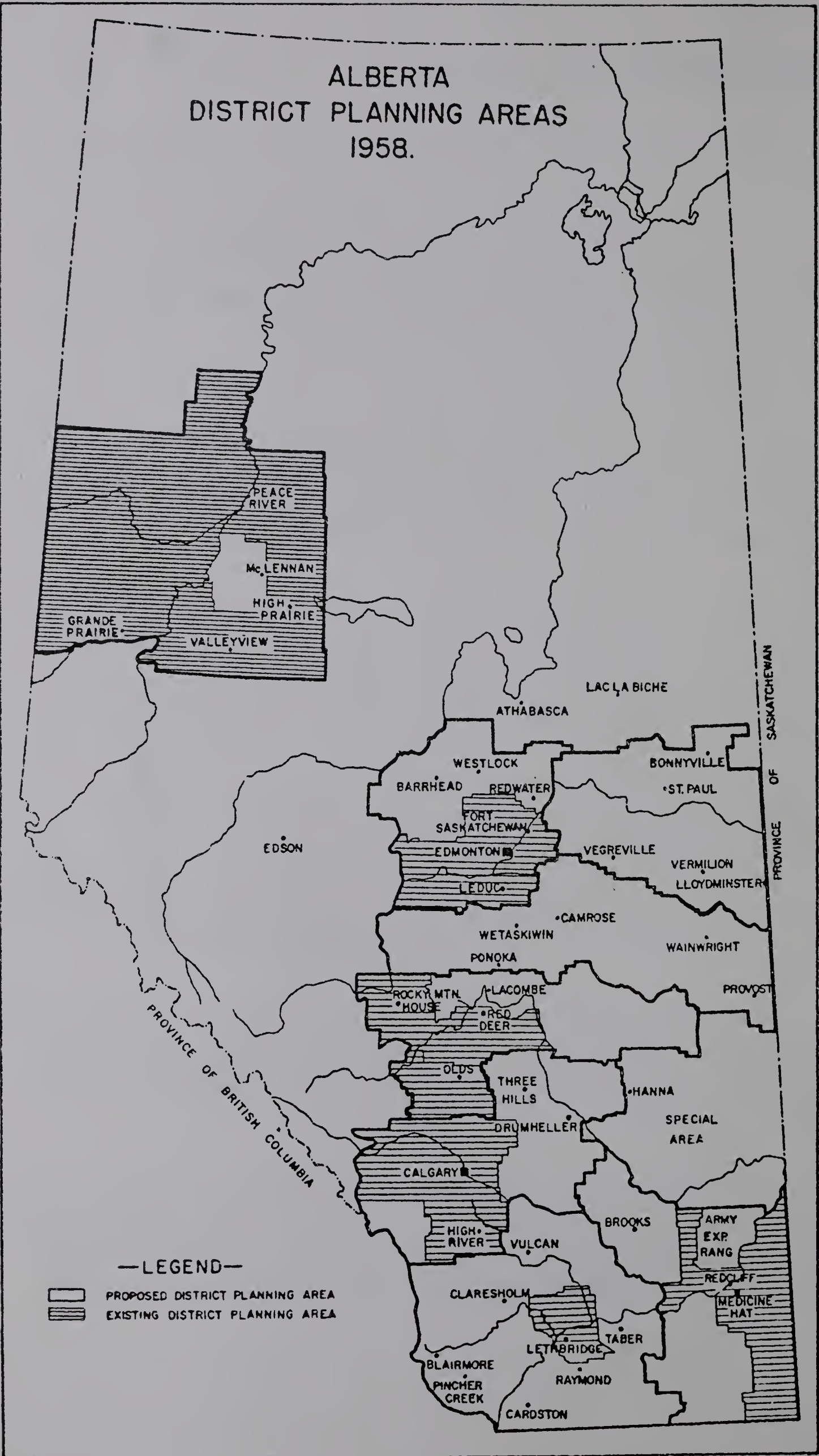
The membership of The Provincial Planning Advisory Board was further increased in 1958 by the addition of representatives from the Department of Lands and Forests and the Department of Education. Present Board membership includes the following: Chairman, J.H. Holloway, Chairman of the Public Service Commission; A.W. Morrison, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs; R.M. Putnam, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; C.W. Lester, Director of Surveys, Department of Highways; H.L. Hogge, Provincial Sanitary Engineer, Department of Health; V.A. Wood, Director of Lands, Department of Lands and Forests; J.W. Chalmers, Director of School Administration, Department of Education; and R.M. Rookwood, Director of Town and Rural Planning, Department of Municipal Affairs.

Co-ordination between various branches of the Provincial Government on planning matters has been extended by the broadening of Board membership. The Town and Rural Planning Branch continues to work closely with the Lands Branch, Department of Lands and Forests, on the subdivision of Crown Lands, the location of parks and the development of summer resorts on lakes and rivers. Representation of the Department of Education on the district planning commissions has been under active consideration. The development of a proposed new town in the Swan Hills area, north of Whitecourt, is now the subject of detailed discussions among the various departments concerned.

Recommendations were made on the status of the new towns of St. Albert and Hinton, with the result that the latter was established as an ordinary town with its own council effective January 1, 1959.

A recommendation was made to the Board of Public Utility Commissioners on the definition of the Edmonton Metropolitan Area under Part X of the Public Utilities Act, and the definition of the Calgary Metropolitan Area is now under consideration.

ALBERTA DISTRICT PLANNING AREAS 1958.



—LEGEND—

- PROPOSED DISTRICT PLANNING AREA
- EXISTING DISTRICT PLANNING AREA

The Board held a total of 36 meetings, considering a total of 311 items and issuing 136 Board Orders.

District Planning Commissions:

The sixth district planning commission in Alberta was established in the Peace River Area by Order-in-Council in July, 1958 with an initial membership consisting of representatives from the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie, five towns, six villages, three municipal districts and seven improvement districts. The commission was appointed as an approving authority under the Subdivision Regulations, effective January 1, 1959.

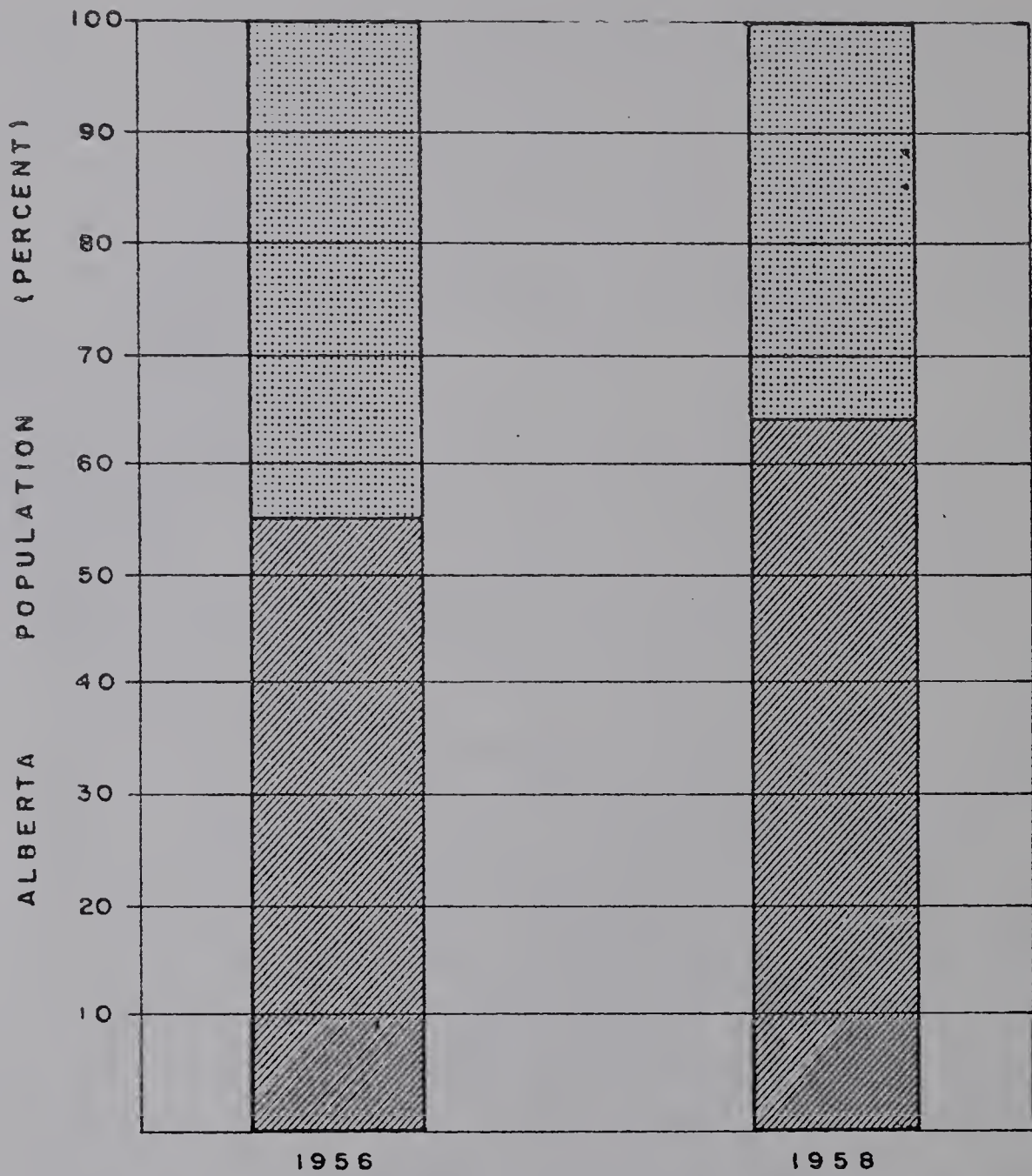
Several new members were added to the other district planning commissions during the year, including the Town of Montgomery, which joined the Calgary District Planning Commission and the Villages of Bowden and Blackfalds, which joined the Red Deer District Planning Commission.

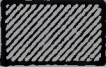
With rare exceptions, the commissions continue to be popular with their member municipalities and increasingly valuable as a means of reducing the volume of work performed by the Town and Rural Planning Branch. Together with the Technical Planning Boards of Edmonton and Calgary, the commissions are now responsible for subdivision approvals and technical advice on local planning to 64 percent of the population of the Province. In 1956 approximately 55 percent of the population of the Province was included within the district planning areas. Sixty-nine municipalities are now commission members and contributed \$110,000.00 in the past year towards the operating costs of the commissions, an equal amount being contributed by the Provincial Government.


Town and Rural Planning Branch:

(1) Regional Planning: During the year the staff of the branch completed general planning studies for the Pembina oil field area. The report will be published in the near future and will be used

GROWTH OF DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSIONS



POPULATION IN DISTRICT PLANNING AREAS 

POPULATION IN REMAINDER OF PROVINCE 

by the local authorities and the Pembina Planning Advisory Commission as the basis for planning future development in the area.

Also completed during the year was a pilot survey of lake-shore development at Pigeon Lake, in association with the Provincial Parks Board. The survey will be used as a model for conducting similar surveys at other lakes and the results will be used in determining suitable locations for parks for use by the general public, as well as the location and designing of subdivisions for summer cottages.

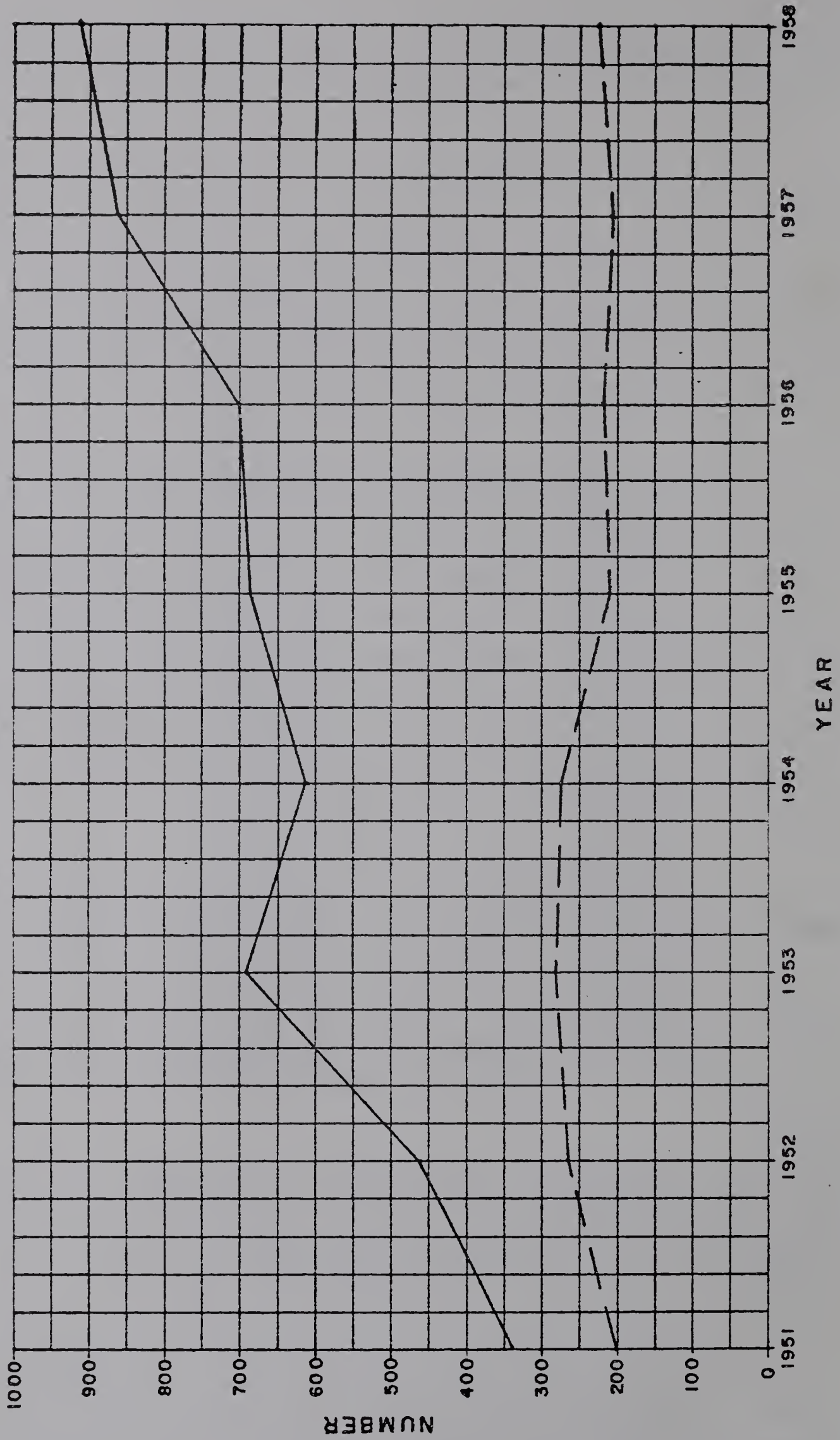
(2) Planning Assistance to Municipalities: The expanded program of planning surveys is now well underway and survey work is proceeding in the Cities of Wetaskiwin and Drumheller, and the Towns of Lacombe, Taber and Cardston. The surveys are being conducted in close association with local councils and planning advisory commissions representing the major citizen groups and interests in each of the centres. In this way, the local inhabitants take an active part in all stages of plan preparation, thus helping to insure that the plans which result are actually put into effect.

The staff of the Town and Rural Planning Branch continues to advise municipalities and other areas, where technical assistance is not available locally, on zoning by-laws and other matters concerning the planning of development. Seven new zoning by-laws were enacted and an additional seven by-laws were prepared by the branch on behalf of various towns, villages and municipal districts.

(3) Subdivisions: The number of subdivision plans submitted for approval continues to increase. 912 plans were approved for registration during the year ending March 31, 1959 as compared with 841 for the year ending March 31, 1958. It is interesting to note that five years ago the corresponding figure was 696 and that ten years ago the figure was only 282. The number of proposed subdivisions and transfers inspected on the ground was larger than in the previous year, although with the available staff

ACTIVITIES OF THE TOWN & RURAL PLANNING BRANCH

SUBDIVISION PLANS APPROVED FOR REGISTRATION ———
 NUMBER OF TRANSFERS SUBMITTED - - - - -



it was still only possible to inspect 137.

(4) Proposed Town for the Swan Hills Oil Field: Following a number of enquiries from oil companies actively engaged in the development of this area, a meeting was held in January to which were invited representatives of all the companies known to be operating in the area together with representatives of the Government Departments concerned with the location and development of a proposed new town. The various factors affecting the location, size and servicing of the town were discussed and arrangements were made for the branch to undertake the necessary investigations to determine a suitable location. These investigations are now proceeding under the general direction of the Provincial Planning Advisory Board and with the participation of many of the Board members.

A preliminary ground inspection has been carried out by the staff of the Town and Rural Planning Branch and all available information has been mapped. The question of water supply has proved an important one and an exploratory drilling contract has been let. A questionnaire has been circulated to all oil companies as a basis for estimating the size of the core of permanent population for the proposed new town.

The Departments of Lands and Forests (Lands Branch, Forestry Branch and Technical Division), Health (Sanitary Engineering Branch), Agriculture (Water Resources Branch) and the Research Council (Groundwater Section) are all working together with the Town and Rural Planning Branch on this project, and the Departments of Education (School Administration Branch) and Highways (Locations Branch) are being kept informed of developments. These arrangements again indicate the advantages of the broadening of Board membership which has been accomplished during the past few years.

