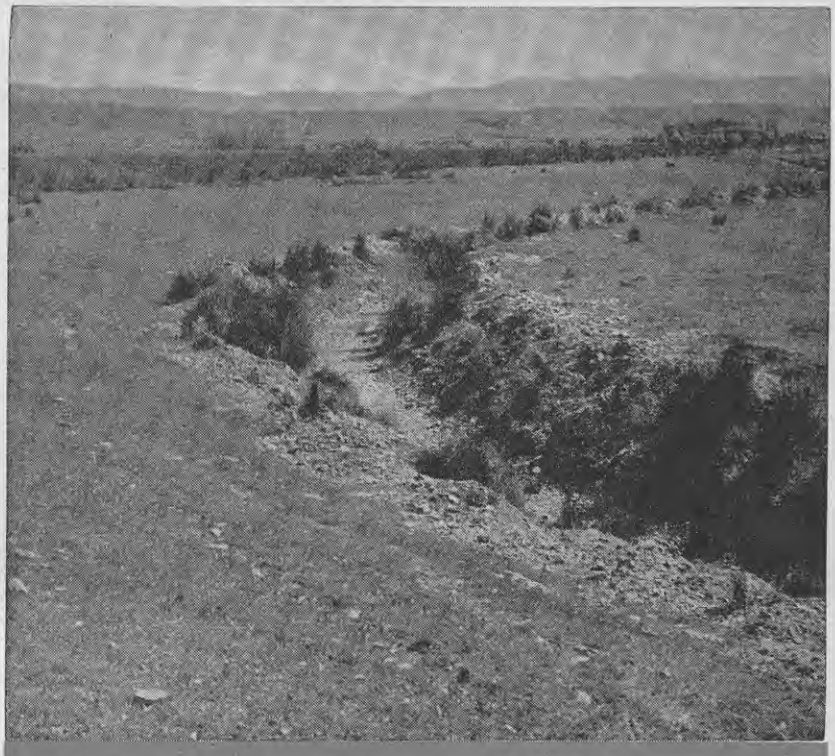
TABLE I—LAND UTILISATION IN SUMMER 1954-55

	Acres	Effective valley floor Per cent.
Pasture under 1 year old ..	294	
Lucerne under 1 year old ..	402	
	696	2.4
Pasture 1 to 5 years old ..	3,710	
Pasture over 5 years old ..	22,036	
	25,746	88.9
Lucerne over 1 year old ..	1,557	5.4
Cash crops	94	0.3
Summer fodder crops ..	290	1.0
Winter fodder crops	417	1.4
Fallow	163	0.6
Effective valley floor ..	28,963	100.0
Waste, buildings, etc. ..	544	
Total valley floor ..	29,507	

indicated by the 3710 acres of pasture which had been sown in the previous 5 years (annual average of 2.6 per cent.), and the reason given is the reduced irrigation water supply for the 1954-55 season. Many farmers stated that because of the dry soil conditions that year they would not risk sowing down pasture.

Some excellent irrigated pastures of up to 40 years old were seen, and the low level of pasture renewal emphasises the fact that adequately irrigated pastures have a long productive life. On the other hand, dry-land pastures deteriorate in only a few years. A typical pasture mixture includes perennial ryegrass (20lb.), cocksfoot (3lb.), cowgrass (3lb.), and white clover (2lb.). These are generally sown in November and December

FARMING IN IDA VALLEY



The application of irrigation water introduced problems of underground seepage and waterlogging in low-lying parts. It is estimated that nearly 1000 acres in the valley are poorly drained.

▼ Irrigating pasture by wild flooding.