WITH $26,000,000 in federal funds already appropriated and an additional $90,000,000 under congressional consideration, the state department of public works has begun clearing the way for construction of a gigantic drainage program which will improve 12,000,000 acres of land in the alluvial sections of Louisiana and add approximately $260,000,000 to the state's agricultural income.

Agricultural development in the alluvial areas, where properly drained, will produce even more fertile and productive rice than the Mississippi Delta of our sister state.

There are 1,386,000 acres in the Red River delta area at which work will begin under construction. Improved drainage will add 300,000 acres of cropland to this area.

The federal government is to pay the costs of opening up and dredging main canals, bayous and lateral streams, while the property owners of subdivisions in the alluvial areas will furnish the rights-of-way and the state will furnish engineering supervision and available funds.

Mr. Pyburn said the many parishes affected by the drainage project have been alert to the possibilities of the drainage project. He pointed out that the $3,000,000 in new available in the state's surplus fund and all that is now needed is authorization of the appropriation by the Legislature.

The project has been under study for the past four years and it was not until a major portion of the flood control program was completed that the engineers could find a feasible solution of the drainage problem.

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