

large schemes on well-defined watersheds and without the movement of settlers from their present holdings. The maintenance of valuable live-stock herds has been secured by assuring dependable water supplies on farm stockwatering projects and through the development of 67,850 acres of irrigated land on small irrigation schemes.

*Community Projects.*—The development of community projects is necessarily confined within the narrow reaches of well-defined watersheds where sufficient water resources are available. Where groups of farmers organize a Water Users' Association or the Rural Municipality provides leadership in an irrigation or water storage project, the P.F.R.A. co-operates with the local body. In such projects the usual procedure is for the Government of Canada to assume the capital cost of storage and connecting works, and the local body to assume the responsibility for the distribution of water to the land or along the watershed. The local body also undertakes maintenance and operation.

To Mar. 31, 1950, P.F.R.A. has provided the necessary assistance to construct 195 community projects. The majority of these are located on six watersheds originating in the three Prairie Provinces. Their purpose is to conserve surplus spring runoff water that flows in streams early in the season to supplement short supply later in the year. By maintaining stream flows, farmers are assured of dependable water supplies for live stock and for irrigation use. In addition, community projects provide homes for farmers moved from submarginal areas to where they can be assured a livelihood.

P.F.R.A.'s responsibility for the development of large community irrigation schemes terminates with the construction of primary reservoirs and connecting canals. In special cases where the need for early returns to farmers proved imminent, P.F.R.A. has assisted further in the development of the irrigable land and has maintained a constant surveillance of the project's operations and progress. At times, agreement has been reached between P.F.R.A. and the provincial government concerned, whereby the P.F.R.A. provides engineering and financial assistance to construct primary works and the province agrees to assist with the development of the irrigable area. Such an agreement is in effect in connection with sections of the Swift Current Irrigation Project being developed in Saskatchewan.

*Major Irrigation Projects.*—During recent years P.F.R.A. has administered special votes by Parliament for the construction of special irrigation and reclamation projects that have involved large expenditures of money. These special undertakings by the Government of Canada have extended P.F.R.A. administration beyond the boundaries of the P.F.R.A. area in the three Prairie Provinces into British Columbia.

*St. Mary Irrigation Project.*—The St. Mary Irrigation project has been undertaken by agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta. The Federal Government has agreed to construct the main supply reservoirs and connecting works. The Province has undertaken the responsibility for construction of the auxiliary reservoirs and distributary system from the main works.

The St. Mary River System is by far the most important irrigation project ever undertaken in Canada and when completed will irrigate an area of approximately 500,000 acres. In the chart on p. 369 the federal reservoirs are shown hachured and the federal connecting works by a heavy black line; the provincial reservoirs and distributary system that tie in with these are shown by open blocks. The federal works gather water entirely from the Waterton, Belly and St. Mary Rivers.