

If the farmer, who may be an owner, a tenant, or a member of a co-operative farm association engaged in farming, is located in a crop-failure area, he may be awarded assistance on not more than one-half of the cultivated land or a maximum of 200 acres. The rates of payment range up to \$2.50 per acre.

From the inception of the scheme to Mar. 6, 1950, the total amount paid out under the Act was \$124,794,758. The amount collected under the 1 p.c. levy was \$45,008,887.

#### MARITIME MARSHLANDS REHABILITATION ACT

The marshlands of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are among the more productive soils in Canada when protected and properly cultivated. They are composed of deposits laid down by tidal waters and are, for the most part, adjacent to the Bay of Fundy.

The initial areas were reclaimed as early as 1630 and since that time about 80,000 acres have been protected by dykes and aboiteaux. These structures prevented flooding by tide water and permitted cultivation after drainage had been carried out. The original structures were made by hand labour and simple tools. Earth-moving equipment was not used until some time after 1940.

Through a variety of circumstances, i.e., loss of cattle markets, loss of hay markets and the increase in labour costs, maintenance of the protective structures was not adequately carried out and in many cases deterioration of the structures resulted. Because the marshlands, when protected, can play such an important role in the agricultural economy of the provinces concerned, the Government of Canada and the Provincial Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick passed legislation permitting them to carry on a program of reclamation and rehabilitation of these lands. The federal Act, the Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Act, was passed in 1948. Complementary provincial marshland reclamation Acts were passed by both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in 1949. These Acts permitted agreements to be signed whereby the Government of Canada would construct or reconstruct the protective works, normally called dykes, aboiteaux and breakwaters, and also committed them to the responsibility of maintaining these works until such time as they could be turned back to the provinces. The Federal Government is responsible also for any engineering work in connection with the complete program. The provinces are responsible for the organization of the marsh areas, the fresh-water drainage and acquisition of any land required. They are responsible also for the instigation and follow-up of a suitable land-use program.

In 1949 an administrative and operational group was established in the Maritimes by the Department of Agriculture and the program of reclamation was initiated. In this program modern design and construction principles will be used for the construction of protective structures, bearing in mind the basic principles of the older methods used. It is estimated that 70,000 or 80,000 acres will, eventually, be protected from the tide, well drained and well farmed.

At Aug. 31, 1950, there were 70 areas under construction comprising about 30,000 acres, 250 of which were in Prince Edward Island. By the end of 1950, 20 of these areas will be well protected and approximately 15 others will have received work of some description placing them in a position to withstand the action of tidal water until major reconstruction can be carried out.

Investigations to determine the advisability of constructing a fairly large structure to eliminate the need for many miles of dyke and many aboiteaux will be carried out on the Annapolis River in Nova Scotia and on the Tantramar and Shepody Rivers in New Brunswick. Progress has been made in the establishment of standard structures and standard methods of modern construction.