

Subsection 2.—Provincial Projects

Saskatchewan.*—The Conservation and Development Branch, Provincial Department of Agriculture, was established Apr. 1, 1949. This Branch is responsible for the introduction of measures and a course of action that will promote greater stability in the expanding agricultural economy of the Province. The activities of the Department for which the Conservation and Development Branch is responsible are directed to the following: (1) the development of irrigation farming; (2) the reclamation of agricultural and pastoral lands by flood control and drainage; (3) the restoration of misused lands for grazing and winter-feed production; (4) the improvement of unoccupied land for agricultural settlement; (5) the development of under-utilized land for the uses to which it is best suited; and (6) the construction of community pastures not provided for in the agreement with the Federal Government or outside the area served by the P.F.R.A. program.

The work of the Department in the field of agricultural rehabilitation and reclamation is based on the co-ordination of the federal P.F.R.A. program and the Provincial Department of Agriculture conservation and development activity. A closely knit working arrangement is fostered with respect to the development of federal and provincial projects.

The following is a summary of the activities of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture in accordance with the division of responsibility covered by the working arrangement set out above.

There were nine dry-land feed and fodder projects under development on Apr. 1, 1950. These projects were located in areas of the Province where winter feed is normally in short supply and where lands have been under-utilized or, having once been settled for farming, have been abandoned because they were not suitable for arable agriculture. The area within the boundaries of the projects totalled 20,950 acres with 13,120 acres seeded or in preparation for seeding.

The Department of Agriculture is developing three irrigation feed and fodder projects located in, or close to, the winter-feed-deficient areas of the Province. The area in these projects totalled 3,455 acres and 2,255 acres had, up to June, 1950, been prepared for irrigation, seeded or were in the process of being seeded to forage crops.

During 1949 the installation of secondary distribution systems by the Provincial Department of Agriculture to service irrigation projects, for which storage and main canals had been constructed by the P.F.R.A., brought an additional 13,700 acres in Saskatchewan under ditch. During the same year, 20 Water Users Districts were established. This activity enabled 630 farmers who had designed irrigation systems to form associations for the group responsible for operating and managing irrigation schemes.

The activity in the developing and promoting of community pastures, outside the scope of the P.F.R.A. program, resulted in the construction and improvement of 12 pastures. These pastures are operated as community pastures by the Department of Agriculture, or by the municipal authorities in the municipality in which they are located, or by co-operative community pasture associations.

Activity in the development of unoccupied land for agricultural settlement brought about the partial improvement of a small number of farm units in the northeastern part of the Province. The work performed on some 26 half-section

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