

amount of financial assistance awarded is largely dependent upon the type and size of the project contemplated. At all times the P.F.R.A. policy, with respect to assistance provided, is to assist farmers to rehabilitate themselves. Authority to proceed with construction is first secured through the respective provincial water rights departments. Water conservation projects in this category are classified either as "individual farm projects" or as "community projects" undertaken by a group of farmers.

*Individual Farm Projects.*—During 17 years of operation P.F.R.A. has provided assistance to farmers to construct 46,759 individual farm projects in the form of dugouts and small dams, many of which are suitable for irrigation. The objective is to provide adequate water-storage facilities where water shortages exist, and to assure dependable water supplies through irrigation for domestic requirements, for stock-watering and for the production of live-stock feed.

Of the 46,759 projects completed by Mar. 31, 1952, 38,416 have been designed as dugouts, 5,928 as stock-watering dams and the remaining 2,415 projects as small irrigation schemes. The construction of these projects has extended the benefits of water to all parts of the dry area. By so doing, a much larger number of farmers have been rehabilitated than would have been possible through the construction of 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 stock-watering projects and through the development of 90,000 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. The usual procedure is for the Government of Canada to assume the capital cost of storage and connecting works and the provincial 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, 1952, P.F.R.A. has provided the necessary assistance to construct 244 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