

### Land Utilization

In addition to cultural and water-conservation activities, the rehabilitation of drought areas involves the conversion of large tracts of land proved to be unsuitable for crop production, which had initially been cultivated to a permanent grass cover for live-stock production, and the relocation of farmers residing thereon. To this end the P.F.R.A.'s Land Utilization Program has constructed 57 operating pasture units, resulting in the reclamation of 1,590,200 acres of submarginal land. During the 1951-52 construction season, 149.5 miles of pasture fence were built which enclosed 69,120 acres in sections of three new pastures under construction and included extensions to eight established pastures. The three new pastures under construction are the Royal Pasture near Shellbrook, Sask., the Mantario Pasture near Alsask, Sask., and the Antelope Pasture near Laverna, Sask. Although these pastures were not completed entirely, the demand of local residents persuaded P.F.R.A. to begin pasture operations in 1952.

During the year ended Mar. 31, 1952, summer grazing was provided for over 70,000 head of live stock owned by between 5,500 and 6,000 patrons living on lands adjacent to these pastures.

An extensive pasture improvement program is in effect on all pastures and is immediately initiated as soon as new areas are enclosed. This policy has more than doubled the 1938 average carrying capacity on pasture land. The three improvement policies most extensively practiced in all pastures are: (1) regrassing—since 1938 approximately 160,000 acres of land in community pastures have been regrassed; (2) development of stock-watering sites—to Mar. 31, 1952, nearly 1,000 stock-watering dams, dugouts and wells have been constructed in community pastures for the purpose of facilitating the more efficient utilization of grass resources; and (3) pasture management and controlled grazing—with the application of scientific principles to the proper utilization of grass resources on pasture lands, P.F.R.A. has been able to greatly increase the beneficial use of grass resources.

### PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE ACT

The Prairie Farm Assistance Act, passed in 1939 and administered by the Federal Department of Agriculture, provides for direct money payments by the Federal Government, on an acreage basis, to farmers in areas of low crop yields in the Prairie Provinces and the Peace River District of British Columbia. The Act was designed to assist the municipalities and provinces, in years of crop failure, to meet relief expenditures which would normally be too great to be assumed by them. The Act provides that payments be made to farmers under certain conditions and terms and, in order that the Federal Government's costs may be defrayed to some extent, it is required that 1 p.c. of the purchase price of all grains (wheat, oats, barley and rye) marketed in the Prairie Provinces be paid to the Federal Government and set aside in a special fund for the purposes of the Act.

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 Feb. 23, 1952, the total amount paid out under the Act was \$138,665,114. The amount collected under the 1 p.c. levy to Dec. 31, 1951, was \$58,455,486.