

immediate needs was also initiated in 1935. Other services, such as the Economics Division, were assisted where special knowledge was required for rehabilitation measures.

The major activities of the P.F.R.A. Administration, with headquarters at Regina, Sask., include the construction, for the Government of Canada, of all projects concerned with water conservation and land utilization in the Prairie Provinces. The five principal phases of investigational study in the field of engineering include surveys (exploration), soil mechanics, drainage, hydrology and design. These studies are undertaken by P.F.R.A. to gather the fundamental groundwork of technical and other basic information that is required before construction of any project is undertaken. Considerable work in each of these fields of study was undertaken during the year ended Mar. 31, 1952, together with co-operative studies using the services of existing government departments.

### Water Conservation

**Small and Community Projects.**—P.F.R.A. provides engineering and financial assistance to farmers in the construction of water conservation works within drought areas of the three Prairie Provinces as a rehabilitation measure. The amount of financial assistance awarded is largely dependent upon the type and size of the project contemplated. At all times 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 18 years of operation, P.F.R.A. has provided assistance to farmers to construct 48,324 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.

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 a group of farmers organizes a water-users' association or a rural municipality provides leadership in an irrigation or water-storage project, 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.