

Intensive farming is practised in the Okanagan and South Thompson Valleys. The land developed for irrigation by PFRA is used mainly for the growing of small fruits and vegetables and for dairying. New projects are constantly being investigated as potential development areas.

Major Reclamation Projects.—*Riding Mountain Reclamation Project.*—Extensive investigations have been undertaken by PFRA in the Riding Mountain area at the request of the Manitoba Government. A serious flood problem exists on a number of streams flowing off the north and east slopes of Riding Mountain and Duck Mountain, causing damage to a large area of valuable agricultural land. PFRA was asked to devise and carry out a plan to relieve a land area of over 252,000 acres affected by flooding.

The cost of reclamation in the area is borne jointly by the Government of Canada and the Government of Manitoba. Construction work so far has centred mainly along Edwards and Mink Creeks in the Riding Mountain area. The work consisted of clearing and dyking stream channels and straightening the alignment of channels by building stream cutoffs and diversions. The larger portion of the work on these two streams was completed in 1951.

Stream bank erosion studies are also being continued on streams of Riding Mountain to stabilize stream banks and minimize erosion problems. It will be necessary to continue the studies for a number of years before definite results can be presented.

Saskatchewan River Reclamation Project.—Surveys and investigations were made by PFRA to determine the possibility of successfully reclaiming land for agriculture in the Pasquia area of the Saskatchewan River delta region near the town of The Pas in Manitoba. As a result, an agreement was reached on Apr. 17, 1953, between the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba for the construction of the necessary reclamation works to protect the area from flooding and to settle about 96,000 acres of suitable land. The Government of Canada is assuming the costs of building the main protective works, and the Province is assuming the costs of settlement, maintenance of works, and internal drainage. Half of the reclaimed land will be reserved for the resettlement of farmers from drought areas and the remainder is to be sold. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the lands will go to the Federal Government as a partial reimbursement of the costs of building the main protective works. Construction was started early in 1953; it will take three years to complete the works consisting of dykes, drains and diversion of streams.

Assiniboine River Project.—This project is being undertaken at request of the Manitoba Government to prevent flooding on the Assiniboine River, particularly between Brandon and Virden and between Portage la Prairie and Headling where thousands of acres of valuable agricultural land have been inundated repeatedly. All the studies undertaken are in conjunction with the Red River Basin investigation currently being carried out.

Several alternative plans are being investigated to divert excess water from the Assiniboine River during flood stages. Detailed study is being given to water runoff data in the Assiniboine River Drainage Basin and the possibility of building water-storage works on the headwaters of the Assiniboine River.