

By Mar. 31, 1955 the Provinces had asked to have 138 areas considered for reclamation purposes. These comprised 35,045 acres of marshland in New Brunswick (including 8,058 salt or unprotected marsh), 39,829 acres in Nova Scotia (including 5,486.5 salt or unprotected marsh) and 275 acres in Prince Edward Island. The 75,149 acres of marshland in the three Provinces constitute an integral part of their estimated 436,000 acres of farm land.

Investigations to determine the advisability of constructing a large structure to eliminate the need for many miles of dyke and many aboteaux were being carried out on the Annapolis River in Nova Scotia and on the Tantramar and Shepody Rivers in New Brunswick. Construction on the Shepody River project was started in 1953 and is scheduled for completion in the fiscal year 1955-56.

Subsection 2.—Provincial Projects

Saskatchewan.*—The Conservation and Development Branch, established in 1947, was made responsible for: administration of water rights; irrigation development, engineering and structures; flood control and drainage; restoration of abandoned, under-utilized and misused lands; and construction of provincial community pastures outside the area covered by the agreement with PFRA and not provided for in the agreement with the Federal Government.

The Provincial Department of Agriculture's conservation and development activity in the field of agricultural rehabilitation and reclamation is based on co-operation with the Federal Government's PFRA program with which a close working arrangement is maintained. Following is a summary of the activities of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture as at Dec. 31, 1954:—

Water Rights.—Under the Water Rights Act 5,439 water storage projects for domestic irrigation, municipal and industrial purposes covering 429,708 acre-feet of water have been licensed, and there are 111 gauging stations being maintained to complete hydro-metric surveys and a surface water inventory. The Water Rights Office represents the Province of Saskatchewan on the engineering committee of the International Joint Commission and on the Prairie Provinces Water Board.

Irrigation Development.—By the end of 1954, 112,070 acres of topographic surveys and 148 miles of strip topographic surveys were completed on irrigation projects; 285 miles of ditch were built and 134 miles maintained; 1,317 structures were installed and 4,993 acres were levelled.

Drainage Development.—Topographic surveys covered 123,804 acres and 4,211 miles of strip topographic surveys were completed on drainage projects; 372 miles of ditch and 154 miles of road were built and 126 miles of ditch maintained; 301 structures were installed in drainage systems.

Development of Under-utilized and Misused Lands.—A total of 43,387 acres of tame perennial forage crops were seeded, mostly for fodder production; and 551 miles of fence were built or rebuilt in the establishment of departmental, municipal or co-operative pastures.

Miscellaneous Project Work.—Such projects included: regrassing about 14,775 acres; planting 545,900 trees; constructing 112 dams and dugouts (with the co-operation of groups of farmers in the area of northern Saskatchewan outside the boundaries of the PFRA program); and organizing 32 conservation areas covering 2,961,587 acres, in order to help local farmers install and maintain drainage and other conservation works.

* Prepared under the direction of W. H. Horner, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Sask.