

In the Okanagan Valley three new projects have been completed, the Westbank irrigation project and the Bankhead project near Kelowna, and the Cawston Benches project located east of the town of Keremeos. The three projects irrigate 1,782 acres of land and provide locations for 170 veterans of World War II. The Pentiction West Benches project, irrigating approximately 200 acres and accommodating 97 veterans on small holdings was completed in 1953.

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.

**Reclamation Projects.**—*Riding Mountain Reclamation Project.*—At the request of the Manitoba Government extensive investigations have been undertaken by PFRA in the Riding Mountain area where a serious flood problem exists on a number of streams flowing off the north and east slopes of Riding Mountain and Duck Mountain. The land area affected by flooding is in the neighbourhood of 252,000 acres. The cost of reclamation is borne jointly by the Governments of Canada and Manitoba. Construction work consists of clearing and dyking stream channels, prevention of streambank erosion, and aligning channels by building cutoffs and diversions.

*Assiniboine River Project.*—This project is being undertaken by PFRA at request of the Manitoba Government to prevent flooding on the Assiniboine River, particularly between Brandon and Virden and between Portage la Prairie and Headingly, where thousands of acres of valuable agricultural land have been inundated repeatedly. Detailed study is being given to water runoff data in the Assiniboine River Drainage Basin, and the building of water storage works on the headwaters of the Assiniboine River is under way.

*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 early in 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 to assume the cost of building the main protective works, and the Province the costs of settlement, maintenance of works, and internal drainage. One-half of the reclaimed land is to 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 began early in 1953.

*Lillooet Valley Reclamation Project.*—This project was undertaken upon agreement between the Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia and the Pemberton Valley Reclamation District and is located in the Lillooet River Valley above and below the town of Pemberton. Its objective is to protect lands now under cultivation from flooding and to reclaim additional lands by dyking and drainage. The land so far reclaimed amounts to 14,000 acres, which allowed farmers in the district to increase their holdings and permits the settlement of hundreds of additional inhabitants.

**Land Utilization.**—In addition to cultivation and water conservation activities, rehabilitation of drought areas involves the conversion of large tracts of land (proved unsuitable for crop production) to livestock production through cultivation of a permanent grass cover and the relocation of farmers residing thereon. To this end the PFRA land utilization program has constructed 62 operating pasture units, resulting in the reclamation of 1,712,240 acres of submarginal land. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1956, summer grazing was provided for 108,537 head of livestock owned by 5,632 patrons living on lands adjacent to these pastures.

An extensive improvement program is in effect on all pastures and is begun as soon as new areas are enclosed. This policy has more than doubled the 1938 average carrying capacity on pasture land. The improvement policies most extensively practised in al