

pastures are: regrassing—since 1938 approximately 193,083 acres of land in community pastures have been regrassed; development of stock watering sites—to Mar. 31, 1956, over 1,000 stock watering dams, dugouts and wells have been constructed in community pastures; and pasture management and controlled grazing.

### Maritime Marshlands Rehabilitation Act

The marshlands of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are among the more productive soils in Canada when protected from tidal flooding and properly cultivated. They are composed of deposits laid down by tidal waters and are for the most part adjacent to the Bay of Fundy.

The initial areas were reclaimed as early as 1630 and since that time about 80,000 acres have been protected by dykes and aboiteaux, but through a variety of circumstances—loss of cattle markets, loss of hay markets and the increase in labour costs—maintenance of these protective structures was not adequately carried out and deterioration resulted. Because the marshlands, when protected, are important in the agricultural economy of the provinces concerned, the Government of Canada and the Provincial Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick passed legislation permitting a program of reclamation and rehabilitation of these lands. The federal Act (the Maritime Marshlands Rehabilitation Act) was passed in 1948 and complementary provincial marshland reclamation Acts were passed by the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Governments in 1949. These Acts permitted agreements to be signed whereby the Government of Canada would construct or reconstruct the protective works and would assume the responsibility of maintaining these works until they were turned over to the Provinces. The Federal Government is responsible also for any engineering work in connection with the complete program. The Provinces are responsible for the organization of the marsh areas, the freshwater drainage and acquisition of any land required and for the initiation and follow-up of a suitable land-use program. Because of the small area of marshland in Prince Edward Island no provincial legislation was considered necessary in that Province.

By Mar. 31, 1956, the Provinces had asked to have 151 areas considered for reclamation purposes. These comprised 35,565 acres in New Brunswick, 46,251 acres in Nova Scotia and 275 acres in Prince Edward Island. This total of 82,091 acres constitutes an integral part of the estimated 490,000 acres of farm land in the three provinces.

Investigations to determine the advisability of constructing a large structure to eliminate the need for many miles of dyke and many aboiteaux are 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 all major works were completed in 1956.

### Subsection 2.—Provincial Projects

**Saskatchewan.\***—The Conservation and Development Branch, established in 1949, 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, 1956.

**Water Rights.**—Under the Water Rights Act, 5,719 water storage projects for domestic irrigation, municipal and industrial purposes covering 460,702 acre-feet of water have been licensed, and there are 111 gauging stations being maintained to complete hydro-

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