

throughout the country whose main duties consist of giving practical advice and supervision to veteran-builders and inspecting the actual construction, remodelling or extension of homes and other buildings.

Each field supervisor is responsible for the sound appraisal of properties and the implementing of the Branch's supervised credit program through which veterans are assisted in the organizing and managing of their farms. A continuous and progressive on-the-job program of staff training is conducted to ensure that the supervisors keep abreast of the latest developments and newest techniques in land appraisal, farm organization, farm management and construction, with particular emphasis on the farm organization and credit requirements necessary for developing each unit to its highest and best use.

The Branch, through its field supervisors, commenced a comprehensive survey during the 1957-58 fiscal year of the progress and future credit requirements of full-time farming veterans already settled under the Act. A summary of the first 3,000 surveyed showed that the credit required to put their units on an economic basis averaged \$9,823. Of this, \$2,288 was the balance of the VLA contract debt still outstanding, \$839 represented credit presently extended from other sources, and \$6,696 was the amount of additional credit needed. As security for the total credit required by these veterans already settled, after expenditure of the additional credit needed, it was estimated that there would be resources available on the average of \$23,256.

While the summary of the first 3,000 surveyed disclosed the average total credit required to be \$9,823, the range was from nil to \$40,000 with the great majority being in the range of \$5,000 to \$20,000. Of the 3,000 surveyed, only 7.8 p.c. required total credit of over \$15,000, and only 2.1 p.c. required total credit in excess of \$20,000. The survey also indicated that, after expenditure of this additional credit and the reorganization of the enterprise where necessary, the average net annual income of these farmers, including allowances for rent of home and for farm perquisites, would be raised from the present average of \$3,291 to \$5,218, or by 58 p.c.

At the end of March 1958, 78,121 veterans had received financial assistance under the various types of settlement provided in the Act and a total of \$404,745,079 had been expended. Active accounts numbered 58,771 at Mar. 31, 1958, including 1,558 Indian veterans settled on Indian reserves whose accounts are administered by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. During the fiscal year 1957-58, approvals for assistance were made on behalf of 2,820 veterans of World War II and the Special Force, including 443 for full-time farming, 1,690 for part-time farming, 28 for commercial fishing, 21 for settlement on Indian reserves, and 638 for home building on city-size lots. There were also 731 additional loans made to established full-time farmers under the provisions of Part III of the Act. These approvals involved the expenditure of more than \$20,000,000 in public funds during the year.

To Mar. 31, 1958, a total of 23,470 houses had been completed and another 1,424 were under construction. There were 1,656 houses completed in 1957-58, 1,414 new houses were started and another 911 veterans received approval to effect additions or improvements to their homes and other buildings.

A total of 4,260 appraisals were carried out during 1957-58, including 931 relating to applications for additional loans under Part III from full-time farming veterans already established. Also included were 386 appraisals made for other government departments and agencies, many of them involving properties of very considerable value with several approaching or exceeding \$1,000,000. From inception of operations under the Act, VLA field supervisors have made more than 100,000 appraisals.

During the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1958, \$12,497,869 became due under Veterans' Land Act contracts with veterans who paid, including prepayments, \$12,696,653. The excellent repayment record of the settled veterans is also shown by the fact that, on Mar. 31, 1958, less than 2 p.c. of the active accounts had arrears in excess of \$200, if on an annual or semi-annual payment basis, or \$100 if paying monthly. The total amount returned to the Treasury from current active accounts represents 106.5 p.c. of the total amount due