

areas of the prairies. By establishing a dependable water supply for domestic use, for stock-watering and for the production of feed and seed through irrigation, many prairie farmers have been rehabilitated without the necessity of moving to a new location.

The development of community water conservation projects is confined to the more well-defined watersheds. Where agricultural groups wish to utilize water on a community basis, PFRA may agree to finance the construction of the capital works provided the province or local organization involved assumes responsibility for the development and maintenance of the project after it has been completed. To Mar. 31, 1958, PFRA provided the necessary assistance to construct 421 community projects, the majority of which are located in the six watersheds originating in the three Prairie Provinces. These projects conserve surplus spring run-off water making it available for use during dry periods.

In addition, PFRA has established and continues to administer, five community irrigation projects in the drought area of southwestern Saskatchewan in accordance with the Government of Canada's rehabilitation and re-settlement policies. These projects are located at Val Marie, Eastend, Consul, Maple Creek and Swift Current and obtain their water supply from creeks originating in the Cypress Hills. The irrigable land on these projects is apportioned out in 40- to 60-acre plots to farmers in surrounding districts on the basis of need, for the production of assured livestock feed supplies.

Major Irrigation Projects.—*St. Mary Irrigation Project.*—To make available for irrigation a larger percentage of the water flowing through southern Alberta in the Waterton, Belly, St. Mary and Milk Rivers, a program to extend the original St. Mary Irrigation Project was undertaken by an agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta. The Government of Canada agreed to construct the main supply reservoirs and the connecting canals, while the Province of Alberta undertook the responsibility for construction of the irrigation distribution system. When completed, this project will extend irrigation to approximately 510,000 acres of land in the area south of Lethbridge and east beyond Medicine Hat.

Construction of the St. Mary Dam, key structure on the whole project, was completed in 1951. During 1958 the second phase, involving the diversion of the Belly River into the St. Mary Reservoir, was completed. The third step, which is the diverting of the Waterton River into the St. Mary Reservoir by way of the Belly River diversion, is under construction. The present storage and distribution facilities extend irrigation to 296,000 acres of land in the St. Mary Project. With the addition of resources of the Waterton River, a further 214,000 acres of land will be brought under irrigation.

British Columbia Projects.—Irrigation development in British Columbia has been undertaken in connection with the Veterans' Land Act and at the request of the British Columbia Government. 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.

Three irrigation projects in the South Thompson Valley area—the Johnstone Western Canada Ranching Irrigation Projects No. 1 and No. 2, and the Chase Irrigation Project with a total of 809 acres of land—have been developed for the benefit of about 40 veterans of World War II.

In the Okanagan Valley, the Penticton West Bench Project, completed in 1953 to irrigate 205 acres and accommodate 94 veterans, was extended in 1958 to provide an additional 69 small holdings for veterans. Three other irrigation projects have been completed in the Okanagan Valley for the settlement of war veterans—the Cawston Benches project east of the town of Keremeos, and the Westbank and Bankhead projects near Kelowna. Together they provide 1,782 acres of irrigated land for 170 veterans.

Major Reclamation Projects.—*North West Escarpment Reclamation Project.*—At the request of the Manitoba Government extensive investigations have been undertaken by PFRA in the Riding, Duck and Porcupine Mountain areas and Whitemud River watershed, where serious flood and erosion problems exist in an area containing over 252,000