

### Subsection 2.—Provincial Projects

**Saskatchewan.\***—The Conservation and Development Branch of the provincial Department of Agriculture was established in 1949. Its functions include the 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. 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 to Mar. 31, 1958.

*Water Rights.*—Under the Water Rights Act, 5,840 water storage projects for domestic irrigation, municipal, industrial and other like purposes covering 463,450 acre-feet of water have been licensed, and there are 133 gauging stations being maintained by the Federal Water Resources Branch under co-operative agreement to continue hydrometric surveys and a surface water inventory. The Chief Engineer of 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 Mar. 31, 1958, 94,964 acres of topographic surveys and 169 miles of profile surveys were completed on irrigation projects; 303 miles of ditch were built and 186 miles maintained; 1,454 structures were installed and 74 maintained; and 7,490 acres were levelled.

*Flood Control Development.*—Topographic surveys of 146,436 acres and 6,389 miles of profile surveys were completed on drainage projects; 748 miles of ditch and 225 miles of road were built and 136 miles of ditch maintained; 37 miles of dyke were built and 783 structures installed in drainage systems.

*Development of Under-utilized and Misused Lands.*—A total of 61,015 acres of tame perennial forage crops were seeded, mostly for fodder production; 991 miles of fence and 72 watering sites were built or rebuilt in departmental, municipal or co-operative pastures; 750,000 trees were planted; and 97 conservation and development areas totalling 12,000,000 acres were established.

*Community Pastures.*—Through the Lands Branch of the provincial Department of Agriculture, the province has transferred title to 1,194,574 acres and leased without charge another 341,876 acres of land to PFRA for community pastures. Outside the PFRA program, the province has another 797,454 acres in 110 community pastures operated by co-operative associations, by municipalities or by the provincial Department of Agriculture; in 1957, 18 pastures operated by the province provided grazing for 17,395 head of cattle owned by 959 local farmers.

*Development of Land for Cultivation.*—Crown lands, either under cultivation or suitable for cultivation, are leased for a 33-year period. The province may either reimburse farmers in cash for the cost of clearing and breaking virgin land or the farmers may retain crop shares equivalent in value to costs sustained. To Mar. 31, 1958, the investment of the province for land clearing and breaking amounted to \$6,528,652, and included work done in six settlement projects involving initial clearing and breaking on about 200 farm units before the land was leased.

**Alberta.**—The Alberta Water Resources Act gives the Minister of the Department of Agriculture wide powers to investigate the water resources of the province and extensive surveys have been carried out to determine the distribution and extent of the available water supplied in the province and the most beneficial use for irrigation, water power and other purposes. The Water Resources Branch of the provincial Department of Agriculture

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