

works to protect the area from flooding and to settle about 100,000 acres of arable land; the Government of Canada will assume the cost of building the main protective works, and Manitoba the costs of settlement, maintenance of works, and internal drainage. One-half of the reclaimed land is to be reserved for the re-settlement 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 and will be completed in 1960. It is expected that the Manitoba Government will begin settlement of the 100,000 acres immediately.

*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, amounting to 14,000 acres, allowed farmers in the district to increase their holdings and permitted the settlement of hundreds of additional inhabitants.

**Land Utilization.**—In addition to improved cultural methods and water conservation activities, rehabilitation of drought areas involves the conversion to grass production of large tracts of land that have proven unsuitable for cereal crop production. By agreement with the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, these submarginal lands are leased to the Federal Government which agrees to finance the construction, maintenance and improvement of pasture facilities in these areas. The farmers located within the pasture areas are assisted in re-establishing themselves in new locations.

Since the inception of the land utilization program in 1937, a total of 1,815,265 acres of land has been developed into 64 separate community pastures. These pastures make it possible for the farmers in the surrounding area to stabilize their farm income through increased livestock production. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1959, grazing was provided for 117,032 head of livestock owned by 5,835 patrons.

An extensive improvement program in effect on all pastures is begun as soon as new areas are enclosed, a policy that has more than doubled the carrying capacity of this pasture land. The improvement policies most extensively practised in all pastures are the re-grassing of depleted areas, the development of sufficient stock-watering sites, and the following of proven pasture management policies such as controlled grazing and maintaining a 50-p.c. grass carryover where feasible. Since 1938, over 200,000 acres of land in community pastures have been re-grassed, and more than 1,300 stock-watering dams, dugouts, springs and wells have been constructed.

#### **Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Act Administration (MMRA)**

Under the terms of this Act, Canada has undertaken to protect and rehabilitate the tidal marshlands in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island in co-operation with the respective provincial governments. The principal function of MMRA is to carry out these responsibilities by constructing dykes, aboiteaux (tide control dams) and breakwaters to prevent tidal flooding of valuable agricultural lands. Headquarters of the MMRA organization is at Amherst, N.S.

The construction of large structures near the mouths of some rivers to hold back the tides has made it possible to eliminate the need for many miles of dykes and of numerous small aboiteaux. Such structures not only reclaim larger areas of land but very substantially reduce maintenance costs and provide roadways where bridges would otherwise have been required.

By Mar. 31, 1959, the provinces had asked to have over 150 marsh areas with a total area of 94,252 acres included in this reclamation program: Nova Scotia, 52,521 acres; New Brunswick, 41,456 acres; and Prince Edward Island, 275 acres.