

As of March 1958, approximately 75,704 acres of marsh were protected from tidal flooding by structures which were either complete or in process of being built or rebuilt. The individual marsh areas form parts of approximately 3,300 farms having a total area of about 500,000 acres.

On the Annapolis River at the town of Annapolis Royal, N.S., and on the Tantramar River near the town of Sackville, N.B., work has been undertaken to dam these tidal rivers to protect large areas of marshlands. Both dams are designed to carry highway traffic, and will be completed in 1960. A similar structure, built on the Shepody River in New Brunswick, has been operating satisfactorily for two years.

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, 1959.

Water Rights.—Under the Water Rights Act, 5,844 water storage projects for domestic irrigation, municipal, industrial and other like purposes have been licensed, and an additional 330 projects are in the development stage. There are 145 gauging stations being maintained by the federal Water Resources Branch under co-operative agreement to continue hydrometric surveys and a surface water inventory, and records are available for an additional 170 stations. The Chief Engineer of the Water Rights Office represents the Province of Saskatchewan on the Prairie Provinces Water Board.

Irrigation Development.—By the end of March, 1959, 125,708 acres of topographic surveys and 242 miles of profile surveys were completed on irrigation projects; 306 miles of ditch were built and 287 miles maintained; 1,452 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; 656 miles of ditch and 225 miles of road were built and 157 miles of ditch maintained; 37 miles of dyke were built and 874 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, 13 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

* Revised by the Deputy Minister, Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture.