

Community projects utilize the waters of well-defined watersheds and are built to serve the needs of groups of farmers. Each project is justified on the basis of its individual merit and the major share of cost is borne by PFRA.

During the 27 years in which PFRA has been engaged in this work, the program has resulted in the construction of close to 79,000 individual and neighbour projects and about 800 community water storage and development schemes.

Major Projects.—While the immediate needs of farmers are being met by PFRA, attention has also been given in more recent years to the construction of larger irrigation and reclamation projects involving the development of many thousands of acres of land. Such undertakings are in line with the long-range land-use plan to provide for expansion and stability in Canada's growing economy. Of an estimated 3,000,000 acres of potentially irrigable land in Western Canada, 1,500,000 acres have been or are in process of being developed. The intention is, when conditions warrant, to develop the remainder of this valuable resource.

The development of these large irrigation and reclamation works in Western Canada which, either because of their size or their location, have not been included under the regular PFRA appropriation, have been in recent years under the supervision of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. They are undertaken by agreement between the Federal Government and the provincial government concerned, on a cost-sharing basis. Special authorization of Parliament is required for such construction.

St. Mary 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 Federal Government 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, involving the diversion 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 can be brought under irrigation.

Bow River Project.—The Bow River Irrigation Project, situated west of Medicine Hat in Alberta and having an irrigation potential of 240,000 acres, was taken over by the Federal Government from the Canada Land and Irrigation Company in 1951; the Company had developed about 57,000 acres before financial difficulties caused work to be suspended. PFRA commenced the orderly rehabilitation of the project works and is proceeding with the development of the remainder of the area. The Federal Government is responsible for settlement of the areas surrounding Vauxhall and Hays. These areas have provided farms for 436 settlers, 162 of whom have now been established in the Hays district.

South Saskatchewan River Development Project.—In July 1958 agreement was reached between the Federal Government and the Province of Saskatchewan to start construction on the South Saskatchewan River Project, a large-scale multi-purpose water conservation project proposed for development in south-central Saskatchewan. The purpose of the project is to make better use of the water resources of the river through irrigation, river control, power, urban water supply and recreation. Control will be achieved by two dams, the major one on the South Saskatchewan River at a point approximately half-way between the towns of Outlook and Elbow and the other at the divide between the valleys of the