

obtains control of the land. The land is then leased to the Government of Canada which in turn agrees to construct, maintain and improve community pasture facilities in the area selected. In this way, land subject to the hazards of soil drifting is removed permanently from cultivation and is again protected by a grass cover.

As these submarginal and marginal lands are converted into productive pastures, livestock production on the surrounding farms is being increased, thus making possible a greater diversity of farm income. Since the community pasture program began in 1937, a total of 2,136,000 acres of land has been developed into 69 separate pasture units. These pastures, primarily intended for reserve grazing areas to supplement farm and ranch pastures, are now providing controlled spring, summer and fall grazing for 139,000 head of stock annually, belonging to approximately 7,000 farmers and ranchers. In addition, a considerable tonnage of hay and some grass seed has frequently been harvested from these pastures. This program of pasture improvement carried on by PFRA has provided leadership to farmers in the development of their own farm pastures.

The resettlement of farmers from these submarginal areas has been handled jointly by the Federal Government and provincial governments concerned. Where available, the provincial governments provide suitable Crown land on which to resettle farmers. PFRA in turn accepts responsibility for moving the farmers and their effects to the new locations, and for developing the submarginal areas for pasture purposes. Every effort is made to resettle farmers on lands located close to existing or proposed pastures. Where no suitable Crown lands are available, PFRA provides its own through irrigation development. Two such schemes have been built specifically for resettlement purposes in Alberta: a large block of land adjacent to the Eastern Irrigation District, called the Rolling Hills Project, to which have been moved 118 farm families from the drought areas; and the Bow River Irrigation Project where 162 farm families are now settled in an area of approximately 27,000 acres called the Hays District.

On somewhat the same principle, six resettlement and rehabilitation projects have been built in the heart of the drought area in southwestern Saskatchewan. The only difference is that for these projects the purposes and objectives of the resettlement and rehabilitation program have been achieved without necessarily involving the movement of farmers to new locations. The six schemes—the Val Marie, West Val Marie, Eastend, Consul, Maple Creek and Swift Current Irrigation Projects—are subdivided into 40-to-80-acre plots which are leased out or sold to farmers in surrounding districts for feed production. On the irrigated land, farmers can be assured of producing adequate and dependable winter feed supplies as well as reserves of feed to carry stock over prolonged drought periods.

In a similar manner hundreds of farmers have been rehabilitated without the necessity of moving from their farms by the development of farm-size and small community irrigation schemes built throughout the prairies with PFRA assistance.

Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Act

The MMRA program was instituted by federal legislation in 1948 to provide assistance to the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island in preserving and developing tidal marshland areas, most of which are situated adjacent to tributaries of the Bay of Fundy. The areas are subject to flooding by tide water unless protected by systems of dams or dykes and aboiteaux (freshwater control structures). The soils are potentially productive and when properly used yield excellent crops.

Responsibility for the rehabilitation of approved marshland areas is shared by the provincial and federal governments. The latter undertakes the construction of works required to prevent flooding of lands by saltwater, maintains the structures until this responsibility is turned over to the provinces, and provides engineering services required in connection with the program. The provincial governments organize the owners of land and ensure that the marshland areas are adequately drained and that suitable land-use policies are developed and encouraged.