

Subsection 2.—Provincial Projects

Saskatchewan.*—The Conservation and Development Branch of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture was established in 1949 to administer water rights in the province and to carry on an active program in irrigation, drainage, flood control and land reclamation and development. Program emphasis has varied from year to year; drainage and flood control were of greatest importance during most of the 1950's but, because of the drier weather during the past four years, irrigation and community pasture development have taken precedence. The following is a summary of Branch activities to Mar. 31, 1961.

Water Rights.—Surface and ground water resources of the province are administered by the Water Rights Division of the Branch. At Mar. 31, 1961, 6,204 projects were licensed and 1,636 authorized under the Water Rights Act, involving total storage of 457,584 acre-feet; two hydro-electric developments were licensed and three other licences had been applied for under the Water Power Act; 123 water-well drillers were licensed and 1,293 wells were reported drilled under the Ground Water Conservation Act.

Irrigation Development.—Up to the end of March 1961, 54 irrigation projects had been initiated on which topographic surveys had been conducted on 440,289 acres (approximately one-half on the South Saskatchewan River). In addition, 340 miles of ditch had been constructed and 1,716 water-control structures built. Forty-six Water Users' Districts had been organized (one new district added in 1961) comprising some 203,749 acres.

Drainage and Flood Control.—By the end of March 1961, some work had been done on 461 drainage and flood-control projects. Topographic surveys had been carried out on 196,785 acres, some 682 miles of ditch dug, and 977 control structures built. A total of 8,393,178 acres had been organized into 79 conservation areas.

Land Development and Pasture Construction.—A total of 154 land-development and community pasture projects had been worked on up to the end of March 1961. Some 73,785 acres of forage had been seeded and 1,166 miles of fence constructed. Approximately 715,460 trees had been planted under the afforestation program.

Community Pastures.—Through the Lands Branch of the provincial Department of Agriculture, the province had transferred title to 1,196,437 acres and had leased without charge another 356,517 acres of land to PFRA for community pastures. Outside the PFRA program, the province at Mar. 31, 1961 had another 915,946 acres in 136 community pastures operated by co-operative associations, by municipalities or by the provincial Department of Agriculture; during 1961, 26 pastures operated by the province provided grazing for 25,335 head of cattle owned by 1,621 local farmers.

Development of Land for Cultivation.—Crown lands, either under cultivation or suitable for cultivation, are leased for 33-year periods. The province may 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, 1961, the investment of the province for land clearing and breaking amounted to \$8,720,476, 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 supply 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 administers the licensing of water power projects and the construction work in several

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

† Revised in the Deputy Minister's office, Alberta Department of Agriculture.