

Rehabilitation and Development Act (see p. 423). Over this period, many policies and projects were undertaken, varying widely in nature and scope but all having as their basic objective the better utilization of Canada's land and water resources as a means of providing greater security and stability for Canadian agriculture.

For the most part centred in Western Canada, this work has involved the introduction of systems of farming, land use and water supply that would provide greater economic security for the agricultural population on the prairies and, more recently, the development of larger and more comprehensive land utilization and water development schemes to serve entire agricultural districts and prairie communities. Cultural improvements have led to an almost completely new approach to the economics and practice of dry-land farming. Techniques in soil management and methods of making more efficient use of limited supplies of soil moisture have been developed and are in common use, helping materially to minimize the drought problems in certain areas. The provision of adequate farm water supplies for domestic, stockwatering and crop-growing purposes has also been of great advantage throughout the drought region; in particular, the provision, through irrigation, of assured feed supplies to carry livestock through the winter and through periodic dry periods has given much greater stability to the livestock industry and has encouraged agricultural diversification in the plains region.

Other major projects bringing about adjustments in the pattern of land use on the prairies have been the permanent removal from cultivation of lands that have proven submarginal for cereal crop production, the fencing, regrassing and other improvement of such areas for community pasture purposes, and the resettlement and rehabilitation of farmers operating such lands, principally to irrigation projects.

While such adjustments have been of considerable benefit to the agricultural economy in the prairie region, new and growing demands on Canada's land and water resources, from agricultural and urban centres alike, have made necessary an entirely new and comprehensive approach to the resource development problem. This has included the construction of larger and more extensive multi-purpose water conservation schemes to support greater urban and industrial growth and to supply water for large-scale irrigation, etc.; the implementation of appropriate alternative land-use projects to make more efficient utilization of Canada's land resources; and the introduction of new and more imaginative programs in local rural development, designed to raise the general standard of living of people within such areas. In the light of these objectives, an increasing amount of attention has been directed recently by federal agencies to this type of development.

Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act was passed by the Parliament of Canada in April 1935 to provide for the rehabilitation of drought and soil drifting areas in the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. An initial appropriation of \$4,750,000 was made to cover the cost of rehabilitation activities for a period of five years, and an Advisory Committee was established by the Act to give leadership to the program. The Experimental Farms of the federal Department of Agriculture played an important role. As the PFRA developed, however, a separate administration was set up in Regina in 1936 to direct water development, while the cultural improvement program continued under the direction of the Experimental Farms. Then, by amendment to the Act in 1937, PFRA was extended to include land utilization and resettlement. It was realized, however, that for the development of a sound agricultural economy on the prairies, more long-term measures for rehabilitation would be necessary. In 1939, therefore, additional financial allocations were made and the five-year limitation to the PFRA was removed.

The PFRA has completed its 28th year of operation and throughout these years a broad and varied program of rehabilitation has been conducted. A résumé of the current activities being carried out by PFRA follows.