

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.

By Mar. 31, 1962, the provinces had requested the protection of some 96,000 acres from saltwater flooding. Structures had been completed to protect 81,265 acres (Nova Scotia 44,054 acres, New Brunswick 36,936 acres, and Prince Edward Island 275 acres). This acreage forms parts of approximately 3,500 farms having a total area of over 450,000 acres. Protection of most of the unprotected acreage is being postponed, or is undecided, either because of the high cost of the required works, or until a more economic use of the land is found.

Conventional structures for the protection of marshlands are normally considered to be dykes and aboiteaux, supplemented by stream-bank control works. It has been found feasible to construct aboiteaux or dams across some tidal streams which eliminate the need for dykes and aboiteaux upstream of the proposed site and permit more efficient drainage of the land protected. Two of the more important structures of this type are the Annapolis River Dam in Nova Scotia and the Tantramar River Dam in New Brunswick, both in full operation. Each was undertaken on a share basis with a provincial authority, as they serve as river crossings for traffic and eliminate the need to rebuild highway bridges at these locations in the future. The structures consist of rock-fill dams and freshwater discharge control gates; they were constructed on tidal rivers having tide ranges in excess of 30 feet and 40 feet, respectively. The addition of power-generating facilities to harness some of the energy produced by the tide at Annapolis Royal, N.S., was studied and found possible, but the cost was too high to warrant further consideration.

Canada Water Conservation Assistance Act*

To help municipal and provincial governments with financing major water conservation and control projects, the Canada Water Conservation Assistance Act was passed by Parliament in 1953. Under the Act, the Federal Government may enter into an agreement with any province matching the provincial contribution up to a maximum of 37.5 p.c. of the cost of a major water conservation project that is considered to be beyond the normal financial means of the provincial and municipal governments involved.

The Federal Government has signed three agreements with the Government of Ontario providing federal financial participation in three major water conservation projects. In each project, the estimated cost is to be distributed among the federal and provincial governments and a conservation authority, the two governments each contributing 37.5 p.c. of the cost and the conservation authority the remaining 25 p.c.

The first agreement under the Act was signed Jan. 28, 1961, providing federal assistance to a \$9,640,500 flood control and water conservation project in the Upper Thames

* Prepared in the Water Resources Branch, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Ottawa.