

Since then, 75 pastures have been developed, comprising some 2,250,000 acres of land providing controlled summer grazing for 150,000 head of cattle owned by more than 7,500 patrons. Current pasture development under PFRA, and under the cost-sharing Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act program, is based on the need to diversify production as a means of improving the position of low income farmers.

### **Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Act**

The MMRA program was instituted in 1948 by federal legislation to assist Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island in preserving and developing tidal marshlands, mainly in the Bay of Fundy area. The Federal Government constructs the protective works and the provinces make arrangements with land owners, provide drainage ditches and encourage proper use of the land. In all, 123 areas totalling more than 81,000 acres have been protected by 250 miles of dyke and 437 aboiteaux, or tidal dams.

One of the modern engineering techniques employed by the MMRA involves construction of large dam structures near the mouths of tidal rivers. These permanently reclaim the lands along such rivers, provide highway crossings and eliminate the continual change in stream-bed location which is characteristic of tidal rivers. The three major structures are: Shepody Dam, completed in 1955 at a total cost of \$1,573,000, provides protection of a permanent nature to some 5,500 acres of fertile marshland from saltwater flooding and has reduced maintenance costs to only a fraction of what they were; Annapolis River Dam, completed in 1960 at a total cost of \$2,500,000 (\$915,000 paid by the Province of Nova Scotia) is a multi-purpose project providing a much needed highway crossing and protection of about 4,300 acres of rich farm land from saltwater flooding; and Tantramar River Dam, completed in 1960 at a total cost of \$905,000 (\$201,000 paid by the Province of New Brunswick) protects about 18,000 acres of marshland from flooding and provides a crossing over the Tantramar River for the Trans-Canada Highway.

The conservation problems which were the original basis for the MMRA have been largely overcome and, since the inception of the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act program in 1961, the MMRA Administration has functioned in part as a regional ARDA office, and at the request of the provinces has provided engineering assistance on soil and water conservation problems in 37 areas of the Maritime Provinces.

### **Canada Water Conservation Assistance Act**

This Act was passed in 1953 to enable federal participation up to 37.5 p.c. of the cost of construction of dams and other major water conservation and control projects. To date (mid-1964) only Ontario has participated, its three projects being the Ausable River Conservation Program, the Upper Thames River Conservation Program and the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Program. The over-all cost is estimated at \$34,500,000, of which the Federal Government has agreed to provide a maximum of about \$13,000,000. To Mar. 31, 1964, the Federal Government had contributed \$2,800,000.

### **Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act**

The Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act was proclaimed in June 1961 and is an important element in Canadian agricultural policy and renewable resources management policy at both national and provincial levels. The Act authorizes the Federal Government to enter into agreements with provincial governments for the joint undertaking of: (1) projects for the alternate use of lands classed as marginal or of low productivity; (2) projects for the development of income and employment opportunities in rural agricultural areas; (3) projects for the development and conservation of soil and water resources; and (4) projects for research relative to the foregoing. Discussions with the provincial governments, beginning in 1961, resulted in the signing, by October 1962, of a general ARDA agreement between the Federal Government and all provincial governments. The General Agreement, operative until 1965,\* provides a more detailed interpretation of the Act and establishes an operating policy.

\* The first Federal-Provincial Conference on ARDA, held Nov. 26-27, 1964, resulted in the acceptance of a new General Agreement to come into effect Apr. 1, 1965, covering ARDA operations until 1970; the total federal contribution was raised from \$50,000,000 to \$125,000,000.