

Under the Water Conservation Assistance Act of 1953, which enables federal participation up to 37½ p.c. of the cost of dams and other major water projects, three water conservation programs have been initiated in Ontario—the Ausable River, Upper Thames and Metropolitan Toronto and Region. The over-all cost is estimated at \$34,500,000, of which the Federal Government is committed to pay \$13,000,000.

Other federal agencies and programs (federal and federal-provincial) concerned with water are: the Fraser River Board, which carries out research in co-operation with British Columbia on flood control, hydro-power development and the like; the Prairie Provinces Water Board, comprised of one member from each of the Prairie Provinces and two from the Federal Government to recommend on allocation of water from interprovincial streams; the Nelson River Investigation, established in 1963 to study power sites on the river and make recommendations for their development; the Nelson River Programming Board and Administrative Committee; the Greater Winnipeg Floodway Program to construct a floodway past Winnipeg at a total cost of \$63,000,000 of which the Federal Government will contribute \$37,000,000; the Ottawa River Engineering Board, a joint Ontario, Quebec and federal organization for hydrologic study of the river; and a considerable number of varied hydrologic and water quality studies conducted by the Department of Fisheries, the Canada Department of Agriculture, the Department of National Health and Welfare, the National Research Council, the Department of Transport, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Department of Forestry and Rural Development and several other agencies.

### **Lands, Forests and Wildlife**

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act of 1935 provided for rehabilitation of areas subject to drought and wind erosion in the Prairie Provinces and in 1937 was amended to broaden its scope to include land utilization and resettlement. In the main, the PFRA's land use programs have involved the establishment of community pastures on land submarginal for cereal crop production, and over the years this program has resulted in the establishment of 84 community pastures with a total acreage of 2,325,000 at a total cost of \$9,274,000. The PFRA also operates tree nurseries at Indian Head and Sutherland in Saskatchewan, which distributed more than 10,000,000 trees to farmers during 1965-66.

The Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act, proclaimed in 1961, arose out of recognition of a national interest in achieving better land use, improving the viability of farm units at present uneconomic, and of improving employment and income opportunities in rural areas. In many areas of Canada, income is unacceptably low and land use faulty or inefficient. To some considerable degree these economic, social and conservation problems have been caused by farm mechanization which places smaller, less-mechanized farmers at a disadvantage; a notable symptom of this is the decrease in the number of farms in Canada from about three quarters of a million in 1931 to less than half a million at present—a trend that is continuing.

The Act, amended in 1966 as the Agricultural and Rural Development Act and supplemented by the Fund for Rural Development Act of 1966, is enabling legislation intended to be complementary and supplementary to existing federal and provincial legislation in respect of renewable resources and rural social and economic development; to aid in correlation and expansion of existing programs; and to fill gaps. As such it has considerable potential as an instrument for programs of alternate land use, soil and water conservation, development of rural income and employment opportunities, and for research. ARDA is a federal-provincial program which operated from its inception to Mar. 31, 1965 under a federal-provincial General Agreement, and after that time under the Rural Development Agreement covering the period 1965-70. Under the General Agreement, ARDA-approved projects involving a federal share totalling \$34,517,000, of which \$13,484,000 was expended during the period. The federal share is usually in the order of 50 p.c. of total cost. The Rural Development Agreement provides for the expenditure of \$175,000,000 during the