

Since the beginning of the program several large irrigation projects have been completed. These include works for the irrigation of 6,000 acres at Val Marie, Sask., 3,900 acres at Eastend, Sask., 900 acres at Middle Creek, Sask., and 1,500 acres at Adams Lake, Sask. The foregoing projects will eventually form units in a larger irrigation system on the southern watershed of the Cypress hills covering 20,000 acres of irrigable land, with a main reservoir of 70,000 acre-feet capacity now in construction on Cypress lake. On the northern watershed of the Cypress hills, the Downie Lake irrigation project, also in course of construction, will provide irrigation water for about 10,000 acres. It is important to note that the development of irrigation in the Cypress Hills district will materially stabilize live-stock production on over 3,000,000 acres of range land.

Construction of works have also been completed for the irrigation of 3,600 acres at Wildhorse, Alta., 3,600 acres at Mountain View, Alta., 6,000 acres at Moose Mountain Lake, Sask., and 3,500 acres along the Souris river north of Estevan, Sask. A large number of smaller community irrigation schemes have been completed or are in course of construction.

In the Eastern Irrigation District of Brooks, Alta., existing facilities have been extended to irrigate about 10,000 acres of land near Tilley and further extensions to about 25,000 acres in the Rolling Hills district are in progress.

Altogether, new irrigation works under the rehabilitation program, including large and small projects completed or in progress at the end of 1937, represent a total irrigable area of over 100,000 acres. In addition, extensive repairs have been made to the works of the Canada Land and Irrigation Project to ensure continuance of water supplies to some 45,000 acres of irrigated land near Vauxhall, Alta.

Construction of large community storage dams for stock-watering purposes has been completed or is in progress at many points in the drought area.

LAND UTILIZATION.

During the period of agricultural settlement in the Prairie Provinces some areas of marginal and submarginal land were broken for crop production. Some of this land was subsequently abandoned, but a considerable acreage is still under cultivation with little prospect of producing profitable crops. To rectify this condition, adjustments in land utilization are being made on the basis of information gained through the Dominion Experimental Farms, soil surveys, and economic surveys. The most important development in this respect is the creation on submarginal land of community and reserve pastures.

Community Pastures.—These pastures, which vary in area from about 5,000 to nearly 50,000 acres each, are established on submarginal land in the vicinity of somewhat better farm land. Each pasture is being fenced, supplied with stock-watering facilities, and, where necessary, seeded to grass. Grazing privileges, under government supervision, will be accorded to operators of farms in the vicinity. In this manner the usefulness of certain areas will be increased, and their liability to soil drifting removed.

By Dec. 31, 1937, some 47 areas in Saskatchewan, totalling 503,710 acres, and 8 areas in Alberta, totalling 595,840 acres, had been tentatively selected as community pastures. By the same date, the organization of 16 pastures in Saskatchewan with a total of 175,900 acres was practically completed.