

To Mar. 31, 1953, P.F.R.A. provided the necessary assistance to construct 254 community projects. The majority of these are located on six watersheds originating in the three Prairie Provinces. Their purpose is to conserve surplus spring runoff water that flows in streams early in the season to supplement short supply later in the year. By maintaining stream flows, farmers are assured of dependable water supplies for live stock and for irrigation use. In addition, community projects provide homes for farmers moved from submarginal areas to where they can be assured a livelihood.

P.F.R.A.'s responsibility for the development of large community irrigation schemes terminates with the construction of primary reservoirs and connecting canals. In special cases where the need for early returns to farmers proved imminent, P.F.R.A. has assisted further in the development of the irrigable land and has maintained a constant surveillance of the project's operations and progress. At times, agreement has been reached between P.F.R.A. and the provincial government concerned whereby P.F.R.A. provides engineering and financial assistance to construct primary works and the province agrees to assist with the development of the irrigable area. Such an agreement is in effect in connection with sections of the Swift Current Irrigation Project being developed in Saskatchewan.

Major Irrigation Projects.—During recent years P.F.R.A. has administered special votes by Parliament for the construction of water conservation and development projects that involve large expenditures of money. These undertakings have extended P.F.R.A. administration beyond the boundaries of the P.F.R.A. area in the three Prairie Provinces into British Columbia.

St. Mary Irrigation Project.—The St. Mary Irrigation project has been undertaken by agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta. The Government of Canada has agreed to construct the main supply reservoirs and connecting works. The Province of Alberta has undertaken the responsibility for construction of the auxiliary reservoirs and distribution system from the main works to the land.

The St. Mary River System is by far the most important irrigation project undertaken in Canada and when completed will irrigate an area of approximately 510,000 acres. Construction of the St. Mary Dam, key structure on the whole project, was completed in 1951. It stands 195 feet high and is 2,536 feet wide, and creates a reservoir capable of storing 320,000 acre-feet of water. Approximately 200 miles of main canal have been built and 10,000 acres of land have been developed, together with over 100 miles of the distribution canal system. Further lands will be developed in 1953 and 1954.

South Saskatchewan River Development.—This development in central Saskatchewan is a proposed multipurpose project to be used for developing power and irrigation, the irrigable area lying between the town of Elbow and the city of Saskatoon. The key structure on the project will be a dam on the South Saskatchewan River located at a point midway between the towns of Outlook and Elbow.

The plan is to stabilize agriculture in the south-central area of the Province where prolonged droughts have created serious economic problems for over 50,000 farmers. Full use will be made of the river's control, power, urban water supply and recreational benefits. Considerable investigational work has been undertaken on this project, a full report of which was presented to the Government of Canada in 1951. In view of the large expenditure involved in this proposed development,