

Construction work to deepen and straighten the channel leading from Lillooet Lake to Green Lake, below the town of Pemberton, was completed in 1949. The construction of dykes and drains to reclaim the flooded areas along Miller Creek to Ryan Creek and Green River to Miller Creek was completed in 1952. No damage from flooding occurred in the protected areas during 1952-53.

### Land Utilization

In addition to cultural and water-conservation activities, the rehabilitation of drought areas involves the conversion of large tracts of land proved to be unsuitable for crop production, which had initially been cultivated to a permanent grass cover for live-stock production, and the relocation of farmers residing thereon. To this end, P.F.R.A.'s Land Utilization Program has constructed 59 operating pasture units, resulting in the reclamation of 1,652,020 acres of submarginal land. During the 1951-52 construction season 61,820 additional acres were fenced and included in the pasture system.

During the year ended Mar. 31, 1953, summer grazing was provided for 93,207 head of live stock owned by between 5,500 and 6,000 patrons living on lands adjacent to these pastures.

An extensive pasture improvement program is in effect on all pastures and is immediately initiated as soon as new areas are enclosed. This policy has more than doubled the 1938 average carrying capacity on pasture land. The three improvement policies most extensively practised in all pastures are: (1) regrassing—since 1938 approximately 175,000 acres of land in community pastures have been regrassed; (2) development of stock-watering sites—to Mar. 31, 1953, over 1,000 stock-watering dams, dugouts and wells have been constructed in community pastures; and (3) pasture management and controlled grazing.

### PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE ACT

The Prairie Farm Assistance Act, passed in 1939 and administered by the Federal Department of Agriculture, provides for direct money payments by the Federal Government, on an acreage basis, to farmers in areas of low crop yields in the Prairie Provinces and the Peace River District of British Columbia. The Act was designed to assist the municipalities and provinces, in years of crop failure, to meet relief expenditures which would normally be too great to be assumed by them. The Act provides that payments be made to farmers under certain conditions and terms and, in order that the Federal Government's costs may be defrayed to some extent, it is required that 1 p.c. of the purchase price of all grains (wheat, oats, barley and rye) marketed in the Prairie Provinces be paid to the Federal Government and set aside in a special fund for the purposes of the Act.

If the farmer, who may be an owner, a tenant, or a member of a co-operative farm association engaged in farming, is located in a crop-failure area, he may be awarded assistance on not more than one-half of the cultivated land or a maximum of 200 acres. The rates of payment range up to \$2.50 per acre.

From the inception of the scheme to Mar. 31, 1953, the total amount paid out under the Act was \$143,327,607. The amount collected under the 1-p.c. levy to Feb. 28, 1953, was \$69,329,954.