

Pasture Development.—Through the Lands Branch of the Provincial Department of Agriculture the Province has transferred title to 1,061,749 acres and leased without change another 385,646 acres of grazing land to PFRA for the development of community pastures. Outside the PFRA program, the Province developed an improved 638,359 acres, making a total of 2,085,754 acres in all, available as community pasture land. The 78 pastures outside the PFRA program are operated by co-operative associations, by municipalities or by the Provincial Department of Agriculture; those operated by the Province provided grazing in 1954 for 11,237 cattle owned by 710 local farmers.

Development of Land for Cultivation.—Crown lands, either under cultivation or suitable for cultivation, are leased for a 33 year period. The Province may either reimburse farmers in cash for the cost of clearing and breaking virgin land or the farmers may retain crop shares equivalent in value to costs sustained. To Mar. 31, 1955 the investment of the Province, recorded by the Lands Branch of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, for land clearing and breaking amounted to \$3,939,101 and included work done in six settlement projects involving 282 farm units where 50 acres were cleared and broken before the land was leased.

Alberta.*—Sect. 69 of the Alberta Water Resources Act gives the Minister of the Department of Agriculture wide powers to investigate the water resources of the Province, and extensive surveys have been carried out to determine the distribution and extent of the available water supplied in the Province and the most beneficial use for irrigation, water power and other purposes. The Water Resources Branch of the Provincial Department of Agriculture carries out the administration of licensing of water power projects and is responsible for administering the construction work in several irrigation projects. The Branch handles licensing of irrigation projects and allocation of water for domestic and irrigation purposes. Other work includes the administration of drainage districts, co-operation on the Peace River Dug-out Project and deals with river protection projects where flooding is a problem.

In more recent years much of this work has been carried out by the Federal Government in co-operation with the Provincial Government. Stream measurement is now being done by the Hydrometric Service of the federal Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and irrigation surveys are carried out largely by the Water Development Organization under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. The Engineering and Water Resources Branch of the federal Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and the power companies operating in the Province also assist in the program.

The Calgary Power Company has completed a fairly extensive and detailed water power survey of the Bow River and its tributaries and as a result the Company has constructed a number of water power reservoirs and power stations on the stream. Also, in co-operation with the Provincial Government, the Company has made a preliminary survey of Lesser Slave River and the Athabasca River from Athabasca to McMurray and is now engaged in a study on the headwaters of the North Saskatchewan River.

By Order in Council, Feb. 17, 1941 the St. Mary and Milk River Water Development Committee was set up to investigate and report on the many phases of irrigation development of southern Alberta (including water supplies available to Canada from the Waterton, Belly, St. Mary and Milk Rivers); the most feasible plan to put these waters to the most beneficial use; the benefits that such water development projects would confer on federal and provincial interests; the allocation of costs; and methods that might be adopted to finance such developments. The Committee completed a very thorough investigation and published a full and comprehensive report, not only on the projects on the international streams, but also on other projects in Alberta.

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