

**Subsection 1.—The Dominion Government.**

A short sketch of the functions of the Dominion Department of Agriculture is published at pp. 212-223 of the 1936 Year Book, and an outline of agricultural progress in Canada and the Dominion Experimental Farms System appears at pp. 221-228 of the 1937 Year Book. In the 1938 Year Book a special article on the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Program of the Dominion Government appears at pp. 223-230 and in the 1939 Year Book an article on the historical background of Canadian agriculture appears at pp. 187-190. The problems of the Entomological Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, in controlling noxious forest insects are reviewed in a special article that appears in the chapter on Forestry at pp. 254-263 of the 1939 Year Book, since it is closely related to the subject of forest resources.

**AGRICULTURAL MARKETING LEGISLATION, 1939.**

The Dominion Government enacted special legislation in the 1939 session of Parliament to deal with the marketing of agricultural products. The keynote of the new legislation is co-operative endeavour as exemplified in the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act and the Wheat Co-operative Marketing Act. In addition to these two Acts, Parliament passed the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, the Cheese Factory Improvement Act, and the Live Stock and Live Stock Products Act.

With the exception of the Live Stock Act, which deals mainly with the inspection and operation of stockyards and the transportation and inspection of live stock, live-stock products, and poultry (see under Dominion Legislation, 1939, in Index), the above legislation is discussed in detail below.

**The Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act, 1939**

The main purpose of the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act is to make it possible for an organization of producers or processors to finance its producers through the marketing period. To this end a co-operative association may enter into an agreement with the Dominion Government to make an initial payment, through a selling agency set up under the Act, to primary producers; the Government guarantees that, if the average sale price of the agricultural product marketed falls below the initial payment, the Government assumes responsibility for such loss. The Act covers all farm products except wheat, which is dealt with under the Wheat Co-operative Marketing Act.

Co-operative associations already in operation and newly organized co-operatives may come under the provisions of the Act, if they make an agreement with the Minister of Agriculture to pursue the "co-operative plan" as outlined in the Act.

The co-operative plan is defined in the Act as an agreement or arrangement for the marketing of agricultural products that provides for three things: (1) Equal returns to primary producers for agricultural products of like grade and quality; (2) the return to primary producers of the proceeds of the sale of all agricultural products, delivered thereunder, produced during the period agreed upon, after deducting processing, carrying, and selling charges; (3) an initial payment to primary producers of a percentage not exceeding 80 p.c. of the average wholesale price of an agricultural product over the period of three years immediately preceding the year of production.