

## Section 2.—The Grain Trade

### Subsection 1.—Governmental Agencies Regulating or Co-operating with the Grain Trade

The agencies exercising control of the grain trade in Canada are: the Board of Grain Commissioners, which administers the provisions of the Canada Grain Act, 1930; and the Canadian Wheat Board, which operates under the Canadian Wheat Board Act, 1935. An article on the Canadian Wheat Board and its operations down to February, 1939, was specially prepared for the 1939 Year Book by T. W. Grindley, Ph.D., Secretary of the Board, and appears at pp. 569-580 of that edition.

#### THE BOARD OF GRAIN COMMISSIONERS\*

The Board of Grain Commissioners was established in 1912 under the authority of the Canada Grain Act (c. 27, 1912). It is a quasi-judicial and administrative body of three, a Chief Commissioner and two Commissioners, reporting to the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

The Canada Grain Act has been called the Magna Charta of the Canadian grain trade or, more particularly, of the Canadian farmer, and the Board's chief duties are to ensure that the rights conferred on the different parties by the provisions of the Act are properly protected. The provisions of the Act are designed to give the Dominion Government complete power to control the handling of grain by means of powers vested in it in the matters of interprovincial transportation and patents and copyrights. Transportation of grain is restricted except from or to licensed elevators, and restriction is placed on the use of established grade names. The Board manages and operates seven public terminal elevators situated at Port Arthur, Ont., Moose Jaw and Saskatoon, Sask., Lethbridge, Edmonton and Calgary, Alta., and Prince Rupert, B.C., but it has no power or duties in the matter of grain prices. Also, the Act does not provide for any control or supervision of the grain exchanges.

The bulk system of handling grain in Canada has developed a system of independent inspection, grading and weighing of grain with official registration of warehouse receipts. These essential services are administered by and directly under the control of the Board and the cost of the Board's administration is met by the fees charged for them (approximating, on the average, two-fifths to three-fifths of one cent per bushel). In addition, the Board maintains Executive Offices, Licence and Bonding, Statistics, Accounts and Research Branches and the total personnel maintained varies from 700 to 900 according to the volume of each year's crop. The Executive Offices and the head offices of the Branches are situated in Winnipeg, Man., but branch offices are maintained at points from Montreal in the East to Victoria in the West.

All operators of elevators in Western Canada and of elevators in Eastern Canada that handle western-grown grain for export, as well as all parties operating as grain commission merchants, track buyers of grain or as grain dealers, are re-

\* Prepared from material supplied by J. Rayner, Esq., Secretary, Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada, Winnipeg, Man.