

parts of the western provinces. The vigilance of the Food and Drugs Division is directed towards the maintenance or adjustment of the standards of foodstuffs to meet war-time requirements, particularly with regard to those constituents that came from countries where trade relations are difficult if not impossible. The Quarantine and Sick Mariners' Division now treats members of the Merchant Marine who are taken ill while awaiting convoy, and provides for the institutional retention of those in Canada who are too sick to continue service and who are citizens of countries occupied by the enemy.

Agricultural Supplies Board.—The Agricultural Supplies Board is a war-time control body operating under the Department of Agriculture. It is the responsibility of the Board to ensure that Canadian agriculture is conducted during war-time in a manner to fulfil so far as possible the needs of Canada, the United Kingdom and the Allied Nations for food and other agricultural products. Combined with this, of course, is the responsibility of ensuring that the supplies needed for agricultural production in Canada, such as seeds, fertilizers, feeds, etc., are made available in sufficient quantity. In accomplishing its duties, the Board works in close co-operation with the Provincial Departments of Agriculture, most of whom have, in turn, provincial production committees working with field officers and directly with the farmers. The work of the Board in the early years of the War is outlined in previous issues of the Year Book and the present review brings that material up to date.

The increased tempo of the War abroad combined with full employment and increased payrolls at home caused a marked increase in the demand for agricultural commodities and for a much wider range of products. By the summer of 1942, instead of surpluses of a number of products threatening to accumulate, the necessity of restricting consumption became evident in some instances. From time to time as these changes in the food position developed, the Government, through the Board, took steps to deal with the situation. As requests came from the United Kingdom for an increased volume of first one product and then another, plans were made to encourage Canadian output. Frequent conferences to form programs were held with provincial government officials and with representatives of farm organizations. In view of this changing picture of food requirements, it was considered advisable in the late summer of 1942 to analyse the entire productive position and to plan for the output needed in 1943. A central committee, representative of all interested Government Departments and Boards undertook this work and in December, 1942, a conference was held at Ottawa, attended by representatives of all Provincial Departments of Agriculture, delegates of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and editors of Canadian farm papers, to reach an agreement on agricultural production objectives for each province in order that the overall need for the Dominion as a whole might be achieved. This conference, the tenth held with provincial agricultural representatives since the outbreak of war, marked the first occasion on which it was possible to present with confidence, definite requirements for almost every kind of agricultural product four months or more before seeding time. While all these suggested objectives were not entirely achieved during 1943, largely because of a shortage of farm labour and equipment, the plan undoubtedly directed production into the farm enterprises most urgently needed for war-time purposes. A similar conference was held in December, 1943, to plan the farm program for 1944.

Assistance to Agriculture.—The need continued for the movement of large quantities of western feed grains to Eastern Canada and British Columbia for live-stock feeding and the freight assistance policy was extended indefinitely. Rail