

transportation was particularly difficult in the severe winter of 1942-43 and two plans were authorized in the early summer of 1943 directed towards bringing feed grain from Western Canada in the summer and autumn months.

Some measure of assistance was continued to enable farmers to obtain fertilizers at lower prices and a plan of zoning the fertilizer industry did much to reduce the price to the farmer. The general object of the fertilizer program since the outbreak of war has been to increase the available supply and to direct its use to essential food crops and to the feed crops which are so necessary in increasing the supply of meats, dairy and poultry products urgently needed in the war effort.

The Board has continued its activities in supervising and assisting in the equipping of plants engaged in the dehydrating of vegetables for Great Britain and the Canadian Armed Forces. Nearly 900 tons, dried weight, of vegetables, including potatoes, cabbage, carrots, onions and turnips, were dehydrated from the 1942 crop and the quantity from the 1943 vegetable crop will be considerably larger.

Assistance was continued to the apple growers of Nova Scotia and British Columbia in 1943 to offset the serious loss of the overseas market since the outbreak of war. Fortunately Great Britain was able to take comparatively large quantities of both fresh and dried apples from the 1943 crop which enabled the crop to be disposed of to better advantage than in previous war years.

In co-operation with the Fats and Oils Administration, the Board encouraged the production of rape and sunflower seed. The oil from rape seed is a valuable lubricant used extensively in naval vessels, while the sunflower provides an excellent edible oil.

In 1943 the Board sponsored a war-time garden campaign. It was realized that the extra vegetables which would be grown in the home garden would not affect the commercial or market gardener but would, on the contrary, supplement the overall supply and help in some measure to relieve transportation of bulky vegetables. Reports indicate the campaign was most successful and it is estimated that 57,500 tons of vegetables were grown in 209,200 war-time gardens in Canadian cities and towns with a population of 1,000 or more.

The Board, through its Technical Advisor, continued its activities in reviewing priorities received by the Department of Munitions and Supply for new building construction in the agricultural industry and for priorities for new machinery for agricultural processing. Close contact was also kept with the office of the Administrator of Farm Machinery.

The increasing requirements in the domestic market and the interrelation of agricultural supplies with the Government price-fixing policy necessitated close collaboration with the Food Administration of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

Agricultural Food Board.—In March, 1943, the Agricultural Food Board was established. In co-operation with the Agricultural Supplies Board, the Agricultural Food Board assists in the development of programs of the Department of Agriculture for the war-time production of food. Among its other duties, the Board is responsible for the payment of subsidies which may be necessary to assure the required production of essential foods. The necessary production must be assessed in the light of commitments for Great Britain and of the requirements for Canada and the Allied Nations. During 1943 it became necessary to subsidize fluid milk, butter fat and milk used for cheese and concentrated products, certain vegetables used for canning and fruit used in the manufacture of jam.