

Commodity Boards.—Working in close collaboration with the Agricultural Supplies Board and the Agricultural Food Board are three commodity boards, which procure and forward Canadian farm products contracted for under agreements with other governments. The Meat Board (previously the Bacon Board) acts as the agency which implements the agreements with the British Ministry of Food for bacon and other meat products. The Dairy Products Board acts in a similar capacity with respect to Canadian cheddar cheese needed by the United Kingdom and takes such measures as will ensure needed supplies of other dairy products for overseas and for Canadian markets. The Special Products Board is responsible for supplying Canadian farm products (other than meat and dairy products) such as eggs, fruit, vegetable products, flax fibre and seed to the United Kingdom or any Allied country.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics.—The great and many-sided expansion of Canadian statistics in numerous fields during the past twenty years, and the work that the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has done to provide a statistical background for economic study, have greatly facilitated the conversion from a peace economy to a war economy. Far more is known about production, internal trade, prices, the balance of international payments, etc., than during 1914-18, and this knowledge has been extensively used by the Government.

Co-operation with the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.—After the creation of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board the Chief of the then Internal Trade Branch, afterwards the Assistant Dominion Statistician, was seconded thereto to act as liaison officer between the Board and the Bureau. A number of statistical undertakings were carried out, the staff being supplied by the Board but organized by the Bureau. Statistics on coal were collected and compiled for the Coal Administrator. (At a later date the same work was carried on for the Department of Munitions and Supply.) At the request of the Hides and Leather Administrator a monthly series of statistics of hides, skins, and leather was instituted. The work on prices was expanded considerably, particularly as regards cost-of-living statistics, and extensive price records furnished regularly to the Board.

Under the Wartime Prices and Trade Board order to license persons and firms selling or buying for resale, commodities and specified services, the Bureau developed a Records Division for this work. Over 330,000 businesses were licensed and coded by kind of business. A complete classification was set up which served as a basis for sending out orders, bulletins, posters, circulars, etc., for the Board. This organization was completed under the direction of what is now the Merchandising Statistics Branch of the Bureau. After it had been thoroughly established on a routine basis it was taken over for direct administration by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

Co-operation with the Foreign Exchange Control Board and Other Departments.—The work of the International Payments Branch has been closely co-ordinated with other Government departments to meet the increased official demands for balance of payments information with respect to both past record and future outlook. The complexity of the economic and financial organization of the Dominion during the War has created new requirements for statistical information with the necessity of frequent reviews of the balance of payments situation.

To make effective use of information produced by administrative controls, four officers of the staff of the International Payments Branch are working on the premises of the Foreign Exchange Control Board. Information produced from this and other official sources is co-ordinated for balance of payments purposes with statistics collected directly by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.