

duction plans of Canadian farmers. Reductions in acreage sown to wheat have been accompanied by substantial increases in coarse grains, oil seeds, fodder and pasture. Payment of subsidies and other forms of government assistance have aided and stimulated production of foodstuffs. Improvements in processing techniques have opened new outlets for farm produce. The introduction of rationing of butter and meat has facilitated an equitable distribution and protected the interests of the Canadian consumer.

Three new organizations which will have much to do with shaping future developments in agriculture were brought into being early in 1943. An Agricultural Food Board will be responsible for directing policies affecting war-time food supplies. An Agricultural Advisory Committee, comprising representatives of the provinces and of organized farmers, will assist in maintaining close relationship between the Dominion Department and those immediately identified with production throughout the country. The third body, the Joint Agricultural Committee of Canada and the United States, will keep an eye on food production and distribution in the two countries in order to further programs that are of concern to both.

The Bacon Board, which has functioned since the early months of the War, was reconstituted during 1943 as a Meat Board and its operations extended to cover other meats as well as pork and its products.

Farm Labour.—During the first two and a half years of the War there was a steady migration of farmers' sons and hired men from farms to join the Armed Forces or to take more remunerative jobs in industrial plants. In March of 1942 provision was made for the indefinite postponement of compulsory military services for all farmers, farmers' sons and farm labourers actually engaged in essential farm work on Mar. 23, 1942. Moreover, it was further provided that those so engaged at that date, who sought to leave the farm for other employment, except to enlist in the Armed Forces, might be re-employed only as determined by the Selective Service Director. The only exception was in the case of seasonal employment in such industries as fishing and lumbering. All other agricultural workers were "frozen" to the land for the duration.

While this program has helped, it is estimated that on Mar. 1, 1943, there were approximately 345,000 fewer male workers on farms than at the corresponding date of 1939, a decrease of 25 p.c. The rate of departure from farms, however, dropped sharply during 1942 and the number of male farm workers on Mar. 1, 1943, was only 65,000 below the figure for Mar. 1, 1942.

Manpower shortages were accentuated by the backward weather conditions which prevailed over much of the country in the spring of 1943 and resulted in overlapping of important farm work. Employment of high-school students and of farm commando groups or similar groups organized in cities and towns has contributed in some measure toward relieving the shortage of farm help.

Relaxation in the restrictions placed on the manufacture of needed farm machinery has helped to offset the labour shortage. Rationing of machinery with a view to equitable distribution has helped to put the available supplies to use where the need was greatest.

Prices of Farm Products.—Farm prices in general have materially increased since the War began, especially in the case of meat animals and live-stock products.

The price increase that occurred during the spring and summer of 1941 gave rise to the fear that price inflation was imminent. Believing such a development to be undesirable, the Government took steps to strengthen and extend the measures