

of this kind when a program for the succeeding year was planned in the light of known food, feed and supply requirements. It has been found from experience that such conferences go a long way toward directing production into farm enterprises most urgently needed for wartime requirements.

*Assistance to Agriculture.*—The need continued for the movement of large quantities of western feed grains to Eastern Canada and British Columbia for livestock feeding under the Freight Assistance Policy. Rail transportation continued to be particularly difficult throughout 1943-44.

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 ensure equality of supply and also 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 direct its use to essential food crops and feed crops which are so necessary in increasing the supply of meats, dairy and poultry products.

The Board has continued its activities in supervising and assisting plants engaged in the dehydration of vegetables for the United Kingdom and the Canadian Armed Forces. Nearly 6,000 tons dried weight, a very large increase over the previous year, of vegetables, including potatoes, cabbage, carrots, onions and turnips were dehydrated from the 1943 crop. The quantity required from the 1944 crop, that is during the year 1945, will be somewhat larger.

Assistance was continued to the apple growers of Nova Scotia and British Columbia in 1944 to offset the serious loss of the overseas market since the outbreak of war. Fortunately the United Kingdom was able to take comparatively large quantities of both fresh and dried apples from the 1944 crop which enabled the crop to be disposed of to better advantage than in previous years.

In 1944 the Board sponsored a wartime 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 60,500 tons of vegetables were grown in 226,000 wartime gardens in Canadian cities and towns with a population of 1,000 or more.

The Board through its Technical Adviser, 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.

*Whey for the Manufacture of Penicillin.*—An interesting development during 1944 was the demand for whey for the production of milk sugar to be used in the preparation of the new drug "penicillin" Manufacturers of penicillin have found that increasing the quantity of milk sugar increases the yield and keeping qualities of the drug and the added sugar has a stimulating effect on the patients. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1945, about 1,500 farmers in Ontario and Quebec provided 65,000,000 lb. of whey through cheese factories. From this milk sugar for the manufacture of penicillin, and whey powder, a useful ingredient for poultry and livestock feed, was processed. Requirements in 1945 will be considerably higher.