

with 7,149,860 in 1943. Encouragement to produce quality hogs was enhanced by the payment of Dominion Government bonuses on hogs of the most desirable grades, beginning early in 1944. These premiums were \$3 on Grade A carcasses and \$2 on Grade B1 carcasses.

The British bacon contract called for the delivery of a minimum of 900,000,000 lb. of bacon and pork products in the calendar years 1944 and 1945, but deliveries in 1944 alone were estimated to be in the vicinity of 755,000,000 lb. and at the end of 1944 Britain indicated a desire for a minimum of 600,000,000 lb. in 1945. Hog producers have been asked to maintain their production, although some decline in marketings is expected, particularly in the Prairie Provinces, where wheat production competes strongly with hogs for the farmers' effort.

Beef Cattle.—Slaughtering of cattle in 1943 were larger than for any previous year, with a total of 1,044,744 head. It was estimated that 1944 marketings will reach a new high of 1,300,000. This increase in slaughtering of cattle together with those of other kinds of live stock put great strain on packing-plant facilities, and there was considerable agitation on the part of producers that beef cattle again be allowed to enter the United States and so relieve crowded stockyards. The Government is committed to remove all restrictions on the shipment of beef cattle to the United States as soon as the British, Canadian and United States war needs are met. It was decided, however, to continue prohibiting beef exports to the United States for the present because it had already been agreed that, in the best interests of the United Nations, Canada should export all surplus beef to the United Kingdom and because marketing channels were similarly congested in the United States with cows and unfinished cattle. A large outlet for beef producers was opened in the United Kingdom when a two-year contract for all surplus beef in Canada for both 1944 and 1945 was signed. It was estimated that about 140,000,000 lb. would be shipped to Britain in 1944. Agricultural authorities stated that, while every effort should be made to maintain beef marketings in 1945, a further expansion in production was not recommended.

Dairy Products.—Milk production in 1944 was estimated at about 17,600,000,000 lb., and Canada's agricultural program for 1945 calls for a 3-p.c. increase to 18,100,000,000 lb. In making this recommendation agricultural authorities recognize that, even though the basic industry of dairying has an assured market for its products, it may not be possible to continue its expansion.

In 1944, production of creamery butter was 298,252,000 lb. as compared with 311,700,000 in 1943; but cheddar cheese production rose from the 1943 figure of 164,553,000 lb. to 178,200,000 lb. in 1944. The British cheese contract calls for delivery of 125,000,000 lb. of cheddar cheese for each of the two years ending Mar. 31, 1945, and Mar. 31, 1946. The recommended production for 1945 was for an amount equal to that of 1944.

The production of evaporated whole milk increased to 179,500,000 lb. in 1944 from the 1943 output of 178,368,000 lb.; while condensed whole milk advanced from 26,915,000 to 33,700,000 lb.; whole milk powder from 15,000,000 to 16,700,000 lb.; and skim-milk powder from 22,400,000 to 30,000,000 lb. in 1944.

Eggs and Poultry.—The poultry industry continued to expand, with 1944 egg production estimated at 380,900,000 doz. compared with 333,000,000 doz. in 1943. To the end of October, 1944, purchases by the Special Products Board for