

**Farm Labour.**—The spectacular accomplishments of Canadian farmers during the war period are all the more remarkable in the light of the handicaps under which they worked. Almost from the start of the War, young men and women left the farms for the Armed Services and industry so that the strain on those remaining was greatly increased. While some relief was afforded by temporary assistance from students, home defence troops and other part-time workers, as well as by seasonal transfer of agricultural workers from one region to another to assist with harvesting, these measures were only a partial offset to the losses of regular farm help. In 1942 indefinite postponement of compulsory military service was decided upon for farmer's sons and farm labourers in order to cope with the farm labour situation. In addition to the labour shortage, farm machinery was in short supply and had to be placed on a ration basis to assure distribution where the need was greatest.

**Prices and Income.**—During the War, prices of farm products rose appreciably, particularly in the case of live-stock products. In 1941 price ceilings were imposed but certain farm products were exempt from the regulations. Coupled with price control was a policy of bonuses and subsidies employed to encourage production along certain lines, while freight assistance on the movement of feed grains and subventions on fertilizers helped to keep down production costs. Farm cash reached a peak in 1944 with a figure of \$1,826,493,000 and while there was a slight reduction during 1945, cash income was maintained at a high level to the end of that year.

When the War ended there were no serious marketing problems in sight for Canadian farmers. Contracts with the United Kingdom continue to the end of 1946 in a number of instances and while these are for specified minimum amounts, as much more as can be made available will be accepted. In addition, UNRRA is in the market for large quantities of foodstuffs of all kinds so that the problem of disposing of embarrassing surpluses is unlikely to arise for some time to come. At the same time, steps have been taken to prevent any serious collapse of farm prices. The Agricultural Prices Support Act, passed during 1944, is designed to assist in maintaining adequate and stable returns for agriculture during the transition period from war to peace. Under the Act, a Board is set up which will have power to buy and sell any farm product, except wheat, and thus establish a level below which no one need sell; the Board will also pay subsidies in order to maintain domestic and export prices at similar levels.

### **The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations\***

The first Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) which was held at Quebec City from Oct. 16 to Nov. 1, 1945, was attended by representatives of thirty-seven countries, which became Members of the Organization, and representatives of four observer countries (four other Member Nations were not represented at the Conference).

The permanent organization was created by the signing of the constitution by the representatives of the countries attending; the Chairman and the Heads of Committees of the Interim Commission which had been established at the Conference at Hot Springs, Virginia, in May-June 1943, presented reports of their work; a Director General and an Executive Committee of fifteen members were elected, and reports were prepared on the organization and administration of FAO and on the policies and programs of work to be undertaken.

\* This article is concerned mainly with the agricultural aspects of the work of FAO. The relationship of the forestry industry to the program is outlined at p. 264 and of the fisheries industry at p. 291.