

of a province relative to agriculture—shall have effect in and for the province as long and as far only as it is not repugnant to any Act of the Parliament of Canada” As a result of this provision, there exists at the present time a Department of Agriculture, with a Minister of Agriculture at its head, in the Dominion and in each of the nine provinces.

Subsection 1.—Canada's Relationship with FAO*

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 37 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 15 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.

FAO is designed essentially to provide a focal point for the collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of information concerning all aspects of the production, distribution and consumption of food. It may also promote and recommend national or international action and, on request, may furnish technical assistance to nations that are themselves unable to carry out the recommendations of the Organization.

FAO has not, within itself, power to enforce the putting into effect of all the policies it may consider to be desirable as a means of eliminating freedom from want throughout the world. It is limited to advice and recommendation, but this restriction should not limit unduly its ability to give service. It simply means that the Member Nations must maintain the same spirit of co-operation and sincerity that prevailed at the first meeting of the Organization. No organization of this kind can achieve its goal without the wholehearted working together of the Member Nations. Once a staff of experts and specialists has been assembled, the first activity of FAO will, undoubtedly, be an appraisal of the world situation from both the production and the consumption side on the basis of data already available or secured by special surveys where necessary. The information so assembled will be made available to all Member Nations and will include not only basic statistics, but all scientific knowledge including that of biologists, technologists, nutritionists and scientists in other related fields.

Major interest at the second Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization held at Copenhagen, Denmark, Sept. 2-13, 1946, centred in the proposals for a World Food Board submitted by the Organization's Director-General, Sir John Boyd Orr. The interest in the proposal was so great, it appeared for a time that other matters of major concern might not receive the attention they deserved. The discussion and the decision reached indicate that there was general agreement on the need for international machinery of some sort to deal with a long-range world food program. This agreement is reflected in the following recommendations

* This article is concerned mainly with the agricultural aspects of the work of FAO. For details of the first Conference, see pp. 206-211 of the 1946 Year Book.