

Agriculture.—The granting of foreign credits has enabled large shipments of foodstuffs to be made to European nations, thereby sustaining agricultural employment and income. Negotiations are carried on with the United Kingdom, periodically, to renew and extend agreements covering the quantities and prices of various commodities to be sold to that country during the next year or two. To implement these agreements the Canadian Government has used its wartime agricultural boards. When the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act expired on May 15, 1947, the authority for their continued existence was provided for under the Agricultural Products Act, 1947. To ensure the fulfilment of commitments to the United Kingdom, a number of agricultural products are subject to export permit control. To this end, also, the Canadian Wheat Board Act was amended in 1947 to require all cereal grains grown in the Prairie Provinces and any other areas that might be designated to be delivered to the Wheat Board. Another amendment forbids anyone, except by permit, to buy and sell wheat in interprovincial or export trade until Aug. 1, 1950. To protect farmers against the fall of farm prices in the transition period, the Agricultural Prices Support Act was passed in 1944. The Act was invoked in 1946 to support the price of potatoes. The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation program has been giving particular attention to the establishment of large irrigation projects in the Prairie Provinces, so as to stabilize further the agricultural economy of that region. Canada has supported the basic principles of the International Food and Agriculture Organization; was an active participant in establishing this Organization at Quebec and has taken a leading part in the deliberations at conferences held at Copenhagen, Denmark, and Washington, U.S.A. (See also Chapter XII on Agriculture.)

Labour.—By the middle of 1946, most controls over the free movement of labour had ended, and in November, 1946, wage controls were dropped. The last control over labour, except under P.C. 1003, 1944, ended with the expiry of the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act on May 15, 1947. Collective bargaining and industrial disputes affecting the war effort under Federal jurisdiction in the later stages of the War and suspended the operation of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act. In the summer of 1947, collective bargaining and labour relations within provincial jurisdiction were returned to the provinces. At the same time, the Federal Government introduced a Bill in Parliament to replace the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act and P.C. 1003, 1944. The Bill was laid over to 1948 for action. If passed then it will be known as the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act, and will cover about 250,000 workers under Federal jurisdiction, i.e., employed on railways, canals, telegraphic and telephonic communications extending beyond a province, inland and ocean navigation and shipping, air transportation, radio broadcasting and works outside of exclusive provincial jurisdiction or declared to be for the advantage of Canada or of two or more provinces. Provision is made also for any province to place any industry within its jurisdiction under the operation of the Act. The proposed legislation incorporates most of the provisions of P.C. 1003, 1944, but these have been materially revised in the light of wartime experience and the altered circumstances of peacetime conditions. One of the objectives behind the legislation is that it may serve as a model for