

for Canada's 1947 agricultural program were discussed at a Dominion-Provincial Conference in Ottawa, on Dec. 2, 3, and 4, 1946. This was the 14th Agricultural Conference held since the outbreak of war in 1939 and the 5th annual conference convened under the auspices of the Agricultural Supplies Board. The major problem under consideration was the distribution of Canada's agricultural land resources in such a way as to provide for the optimum production of major grain crops needed for human food and live-stock feeding. At the Conference held in December, 1947, to discuss production for 1948, it was generally agreed that the over-all production reached in 1947 was a basic position which could well be maintained in 1948. In his address to the Conference, Rt. Hon. James G. Gardiner, Federal Minister of Agriculture, suggested that the time had probably come when no attempt should be made to establish objectives for individual commodities, as had been done in the past. Rather, it was the opinion of the Federal Department of Agriculture, that a general program should be agreed upon, and the Provincial Governments and farmers within the provinces would then be in the best position to propose changes in acreages based upon marketing possibilities as they developed.

Contributing to the present high level of farm output are greater and improved farm mechanization; greater use of fertilizers and lime; more general use of improved varieties of crops—higher yielding, earlier maturing, insect or disease resistant varieties; and improved breeding and feeding of live stock and poultry.

Farm Income

Changes in the kind of agricultural production during and since the Second World War, in the nature and volume of domestic and export demand, and changes in farm prices have resulted in greatly increased cash and net farm income. Cash income received by Canadian farmers from the sale of farm products and from supplementary payments during 1947 amounted to \$2,002,195,000 (see Table 3, p. 354) which exceeded the 1946 figure by \$232,563 or 13.1 p.c.

Post-War Subsidy and Price Policy

As reported in the 1947 edition of the Year Book, most of the agricultural subsidies administered by the Department of Agriculture in 1946 and early 1947 were eliminated. Effective Oct. 22, 1947, the subsidy of 25 cents per bushel on wheat and barley, and 10 cents per bushel on oats—when these grains are used for live-stock feed—were discontinued and price ceilings were removed. At the same time, the grain grower was protected by the establishment of a floor price at which the Canadian Wheat Board is prepared to purchase wheat, oats and barley. At the end of 1947, the principal agricultural items remaining under price control were wheat, flax and sunflower seed. In order to protect the producers of meat, dairy and poultry products, however, virtually all feed grains and live-stock feeds remain subject to export control.

With the removal of ceiling prices and subsidies on feed grains, and ceiling prices on feedstuffs, these commodities advanced in price and live-stock farmers experienced a corresponding increase in their costs of production. This was offset by the removal of the domestic ceiling prices on meats and the negotiation at a higher price of the contracts with the United Kingdom for bacon, beef, cheese and eggs.

Under these circumstances it was not necessary to draw upon the provisions of the Agricultural Prices Support Act, 1944, and place a support price under any of the chief agricultural commodities. This Act provides for the support of agri-