

**The Agricultural Products Act.**—To enable the Federal Government to fulfil its obligations under the food agreements and also to export food supplies to distressed countries, Parliament, in the spring of 1947, passed the Agricultural Products Act. Under this Act, the Minister of Agriculture may sell or export agricultural products and establish commodity boards vested with the necessary regulatory powers. This Act is on an annual basis but may be continued in force for further 12 months periods with the approval of Parliament.

## Section 2.—Government in Relation to Agriculture

It is provided in Sect. 95 of the British North America Act that “in each province the legislature may make laws in relation to agriculture in the province”; it is also declared “that the Parliament of Canada may from time to time make laws in relation to agriculture in all or any of the provinces; and any law of the legislature 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 Canada and in each of its nine provinces.

### Subsection 1.—Canada’s Relationship with FAO\*

Canada has continued to take an active part in the work of FAO. The Third Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from Aug. 25 to Sept. 11, 1947. The outstanding single action of the Conference was the approval of the Report of the Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals and the creation of a Council of FAO, popularly known as the World Food Council. This Council is made up of official representatives of eighteen Member Governments and has an independent Chairman appointed by the Conference. It will meet at intervals between annual sessions of the Conference to keep the world food and agriculture situation under constant review and to recommend national and international action as required. It will also exercise general supervision over FAO administration and policy, replacing the FAO Executive Committee.

In selecting members of the Council, consideration is given to the inclusion in the membership of a balanced geographical representation of nations. Members of the Council are to be elected for three years but, in the initial term, one-third are to serve for one year, one-third for two years, and one-third for three years.

The most serious problem confronting the newly formed Council is the current food shortage. In accordance with the recommendation of the Geneva Conference the task of international allocation of scarce foods and supplies has been assumed by FAO. The International Emergency Food Council has been dissolved and its functions, organization and staff transferred to a new International Emergency Food Committee of the Council of FAO. The Geneva Conference found that the serious food deficit which had been forecast previously had been greatly accentuated as a result of hazardous weather and the deterioration of crops in many parts of the world.

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\* For details of first and second Conferences of the Food and Agriculture Organization see pp. 206-211 of the 1946 Year Book and pp. 329-330 of the 1947 Year Book.