

During 1948, net and gross farm income had both reached an all-time high point; farm operating expenses continued their upward climb and prices paid and received by farmers showed increases.

During the fiscal year 1948-49, the activities of the Agricultural Prices Support Board were increased.

An important piece of legislation was the Agricultural Products Marketing Act. This Act, passed in April, 1949, provides for the marketing of agricultural products in interprovincial and export trade. The Act states that:—

“Whereas it is desirable to improve the methods and practices of marketing agricultural products of Canada; and whereas the legislatures of several of the provinces have enacted legislation respecting the marketing of agricultural products locally within the province; and whereas it is desirable to co-operate with the provinces and to enact a measure respecting the marketing of agricultural products in interprovincial and export trade . . . The Governor in Council may by order grant authority to any board or agency authorized under the law of any province to exercise powers of regulation in relation to the marketing of any agricultural product locally within the province, to regulate the marketing of such agricultural product outside the province in interprovincial and export trade and for such purposes to exercise all or any powers like the powers exercisable by such board or agency in relation to the marketing of such agricultural product locally within the province.”

The soil conservation program of the Federal Government was expanded in 1948-49. The current program covers large rehabilitation schemes in British Columbia and the Prairie Provinces (Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act) and in the Maritimes.

The Maritime Marshlands Rehabilitation Act was passed in May, 1948. Under an arrangement to take effect in 1949, the Federal Government will assume full responsibility for all engineering requirements and the construction and reconstruction of the main protective works. The marsh owners of the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will be responsible for the drainage of canals and ditches behind the main works, and organization of the marsh associations for better farm operation and practices.

It is estimated that there are approximately 100,000 acres that can be reclaimed.

Production Programs.—The annual Dominion-Provincial Conference held Dec. 6 to Dec. 8, 1948, was chiefly concerned with market outlets for the 1949 crop. International exchange problems continued to hamper economic recovery and to impede a return to multilateral trade. On the whole, the general objective was a maintenance of the current level of farm output.

Farm Income.—Farm cash income from the sale of farm products (including supplementary payments) established an all-time high record in 1948 of \$2,470,611,000, 25 p.c. above the 1947 figure of \$1,973,853,000. This marked increase in cash income was, in part, due to higher prices for farm products and, in part, to the payment on wheat participation certificates and oats and barley equalization fees.

Post-War Subsidy and Price Policy.—The extension of the Transitional Measures Act for another year to Mar. 31, 1950, continues the Government's power to maintain existing price controls on agricultural and other commodities, although all domestic farm-products were decontrolled by July, 1949.

Along with removal of price control most subsidies had been discontinued by 1948. The payment of three “wartime” subsidies has continued: freight assistance on western feed grain shipped into the eastern provinces and British