

Policies and projects of the Department conducted under these four broad headings are co-ordinated within the Department and with similar work done by other departments and institutions, both federal and provincial. The results of work in these various fields and information on the policies of the Department in general are given to farmers and the public through bulletins, the press, radio and the screen.

Generally, Canadian farmers entered 1950 in a strong financial position. At no time has farm investment been on a sounder foundation. Many long-term commitments have been liquidated, or have been considerably reduced, and a large quantity of farm machinery and equipment has been acquired, mostly for cash or on large down-payments. Farmers have never been so well represented as they are to-day through national and provincial organizations and co-operatives; nor have they been so well protected by measures for security in marketing as they are by legislation passed by Parliament in the past decade.

Subsection 1.—General Policy and Price Support

Export Contracts.—During the War and immediate post-war years, Canada supplied the United Kingdom with vast quantities of food and agricultural supplies under annual agreements between Governments. These agreements now cover fewer commodities and smaller quantities. The contracts for 1950 are as follows:—

Bacon.—The contract for the calendar year is for approximately 60,000,000 lb. Grade A Wiltshire at \$29 per cwt. f.o.b. Canadian seaboard. The bacon is being purchased at \$32.50 per cwt. and the difference of \$3.50 is defrayed by the Government.

Cheese.—This agreement calls for the shipment of 85,000,000 lb. of cheddar cheese at 25 cents a pound f.a.s. Canadian seaboard. The cheese is being purchased at 28 cents, and the difference of 3 cents is being paid by the Canadian Government.

Wheat.—Exports of wheat are administered by the Canadian Wheat Board. The five-year agreement with Great Britain terminated on July 31, 1950, with the shipment of 140,000,000 bu. from the 1949 crop and thereafter wheat will be exported in accordance with the International Wheat Agreement. The initial price for the 1950-51 crop will be \$1.40 per bushel for No. 1 Northern in store Fort William-Port Arthur or Vancouver. The final price which producers will receive depends upon the international wheat situation as it develops and the success of the Wheat Board in selling wheat at the best available prices.

Oats and Barley.—The initial prices for oats and barley from the 1950-51 crop remain as for the previous year; No. 2 Canada Western oats in store Fort William-Port Arthur, 65 cents a bushel, and for No. 3 Canada Western six-row barley in store Fort William-Port Arthur, 93 cents a bushel.

Agricultural Prices Support Act.—One of the most important pieces of farm legislation enacted within recent years is the Agricultural Prices Support Act, which enables the Federal Government, acting through a Board, to support the price for an agricultural product—except wheat which is handled separately