

Policies and projects conducted under these 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 to the public through bulletins, the press, radio and the screen.

Generally, Canadian farmers entered 1952 in a strong financial position and 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 during the past decade.

### Subsection 1.—General Policy and Price Support

The most important of the special Acts passed in recent years to assist the farmer are described below.

**Agricultural Prices Support Act, 1944.**—Under this Act, the Federal Government, acting through a Board, may stabilize the price of any agricultural product (except wheat, which is handled separately) by outright purchase or by underwriting the market through guarantees or deficiency payments. The net cost of operations under the Act, from its inception to the end of 1951, has been approximately \$10,000,000, although at times the Board has had title to products valued at more than \$35,000,000.

**Agricultural Products Board Act, 1951.**—This Act authorizes the establishment of a Board to buy, sell, export and import agricultural products when directed by the Governor in Council. When so designated by the Agricultural Prices Support Board, the Board may act as agent for the purchase and disposal of agricultural products under provisions of the Agricultural Prices Support Act.

**Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act, 1939.**—This Act aids farmers in pooling returns from the sale of their products by guaranteeing initial payments and thus assisting in orderly marketing. The legislation has been used extensively by co-operatives, and agreements throughout the years have covered onions, potatoes, corn, many seed crops, and ranch-bred fox and mink pelts.

**Agricultural Products Marketing Act, 1949.**—A number of provincial governments have passed legislation providing for the establishment of a board to regulate or control the marketing of agricultural products produced and marketed within the province concerned. The Agricultural Products Marketing Act permits such provincial marketing legislation to be applied in the same way to the marketing of agricultural products outside that province and in export trade.

**Prairie Farm Assistance Act, 1939.**—The Federal Government under this legislation makes cash payments each year to farmers in areas within the Prairie Provinces that have had low crop yields because of drought or other causes. The award to a farmer is based upon the acreage of the farm and the average yield of wheat in the township in which the farm is located. The maximum amount payable on any one farm is \$500. Contributory payments are made by the farmers in the form of a levy of 1 p.c. on the value of all grains marketed. Additional amounts required are provided from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.