

**World War II Period.**—The outbreak of war in 1939 brought many changes to Canadian agriculture and to the activities of the Department. The appointment of an Agricultural Supplies Committee (later Board) provided the machinery whereby the Department could move to keep Canadian agriculture functioning in such a manner as to meet the needs of the people of Canada and their allies. The Board undertook various programs for assisting production, including the provision of aid to producers whose natural markets were lost because of the War and the conservation of supplies of materials needed in production. Other Boards set up to handle specific commodities followed the general pattern of operation established by the Supplies Board.

The loss of export markets for wheat resulted in the introduction of a scheme for reducing the acreage sown to wheat. Along with this, a system of delivery quotas was adopted to ensure that every farmer should have a fair opportunity to market a portion of his crop. In order to compensate farmers for loss of income arising from their inability to sell as usual, payments were made to encourage the seeding of coarse grains and the extension of summer-fallow on land that otherwise would be sown to wheat. In 1942, the Wheat Acreage Reduction Act was passed, placing the program on a definite statutory basis and representing the first occasion on which the Department had sought by legislation to directly influence production programs. Having accomplished its purpose, the program was discontinued after the 1943 season. More than \$85,000,000 was distributed to farmers and land-owners during the three years that the program operated.

Another important policy of the Department initiated during the war years was that of paying freight assistance on feeds. Under this program substantial payments were made against the cost of moving feed grains from the Prairie Provinces to Eastern Canada and British Columbia, thus stimulating the output of live-stock products and aiding in the marketing of coarse grains. From the inception of the policy up to Mar. 31, 1953, assistance was given on the movement of 31,381,865 tons of feed grain. Total cost during the period was \$188,212,524.

The Federal and Provincial Governments have, through legislation and in other ways, provided marketing aids related to research, education, information, inspection, grading and many other service measures designed to assist in correcting the maladjustments in marketing within agriculture and between agriculture and the rest of the economy.

**The Post-War Period.**—In 1944, the Agricultural Prices Support Act was passed with the stated purpose of "endeavouring to ensure adequate and stable returns for agricultural products during the transition from war to peace and to endeavour to secure a fair relationship between the returns from agriculture and those from other occupations". This assistance was to compensate for the controls placed on the prices of agricultural products during the War.

The Prices Support Board, established under the Act, is authorized to purchase products outright or to underwrite the market through guarantees or deficiency payments to producers. A working capital revolving fund of \$200,000,000 is provided for its operations. In 1950, the Act was extended on a continuing basis.

The rehabilitation of dyke-land in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick was provided for under the Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Act. This measure, passed in 1948, empowers the Department of Agriculture to undertake the construction of