

aspects such as marketing, irrigation, soil zones, the Canadian Wheat Board and other topics dealt with in former Year Books and still of current interest are listed in Chapter XXIX of this Year Book under the heading "Special Material Published in Former Editions of the Canada Year Book."

Section 1.—Federal Government in Relation to Agriculture*

The creation of the Department of Agriculture is provided for in Sect. 95 of the British North America Act (1867) which states in part that "in each province, the legislature may make laws in relation to agriculture in the province" and 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 as it is not repugnant to any Act of the Parliament of Canada". As a result of this provision there now exists a Department of Agriculture, with a Minister of Agriculture at its head, in the Federal Government and in each of the provinces except Newfoundland where agricultural affairs are dealt with by the Agricultural Division of the Department of Mines and Resources.

Subsection 1.—General Policy and Price Stability

All the activities of the Department of Agriculture are directed toward the production of marketable farm products. Apart from the initial research and experimentation in connection with operations on the farm itself it is essential that processing, grading and inspection of farm products should be of a high standard if markets both at home and abroad are to be retained and new ones developed; so that the inspection and grading activities of the Department have become of increasing importance. By inspection and grading the buyer is able to obtain a product suited to his requirements; the producer is compensated according to the grade of his product and is thus encouraged to produce a high quality commodity.

The results of experimental and research work and the policies of the Department in general are made available to farmers and to the public through bulletins, the press, radio, television and the screen. Releases on market conditions and prices are a regular feature of this publicity.

The Federal Government has passed a number of Acts designed to give price stability in marketing agricultural products. The most important of these is the Agricultural Prices Support Act, 1944, which permits the Federal Government to stabilize the price of any agricultural product, except wheat and coarse grains which are marketed under other legislation, by outright purchase or by underwriting the market through guarantees or deficiency payments. The following products have been supported under the Act when occasion arose: potatoes, apples, dried white beans, extracted honey, dry skimmed milk, creamery butter, shell eggs, cheese, hogs and cattle.

Under the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act, 1939, price support may be extended by the Government to assist in financing initial payments made by co-operatives to primary producers on delivery of the products for sale. Initial payments are subject to negotiation between co-operative and government but may not exceed 80 p.c. of the average returns for like grades and qualities during the previous three years and the Government guarantees banks against loss in advancing funds to co-operative organizations with whom agreements have been signed. The legislation has been used extensively by co-operatives and agreements through the years have covered onions, potatoes, corn, many seed crops and ranch bred fox and mink pelts.

* Except as otherwise indicated this material was prepared under the direction of Dr. J. G. Taggart, C.B.E., Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa.