

**Standards and Inspection.**—The Department has been steadily establishing and improving standards of quality for agricultural products for over 50 years. This work originated in an effort to improve the quality of export commodities and has gradually been extended to include many products that move in interprovincial trade. Most provinces have adopted these standards for enforcement on products marketed within their boundaries.

Grade standards are established and enforced for dairy products, meats, eggs and poultry, fresh and processed fruits and vegetables and seeds and are widely recognized outside Canada. Many Canadian foods and agricultural products command premium prices because of the strict quality standards maintained.

*Dairy Products.*—Producers, processors and consumers all derive benefits from grading and inspection services of the Dairy Products Division. Authority to carry out such services is contained in the Canada Dairy Products Act which established national standards for dairy products and regulates interprovincial and international trade. Grade names and standards have been prescribed for cheddar cheese, creamery butter and dry skimmed milk and each of these products must be graded before entering into interprovincial or international trade. Dairy products for which grade names have not been established, such as ice cream, evaporated milk and process cheese, are required to meet prescribed standards for composition, packing and marking before being exported from Canada, imported into Canada or moved from one province to another. Authority to carry on the grading and inspection of dairy products made and sold within the province of origin is derived from legislation passed by the province concerned. Nine provinces have either passed or are preparing to pass legislation concurrent with that contained in the Canada Dairy Products Act and Regulations thereunder.

*Meats.*—In addition to the veterinary inspection of carcasses for wholesomeness, inspection and grading of meats for quality is of importance. All hogs slaughtered at inspected and approved plants are rail graded, that is, the farmer is paid on the dressed weight and quality of the carcass. All beef carcasses in inspected plants are graded and the better grades are marked with the national brands according to standards of 'Choice', 'Good' or 'Commercial' qualities. Lamb and veal carcasses are graded on an optional basis.

Wool is inspected and graded in registered wool warehouses.

*Eggs and Poultry.*—There are 1,274 registered egg grading stations for the grading and packing of eggs; and 43 registered egg breaking stations for the processing, grading and packing of frozen egg products. Registered poultry processing and eviscerating stations for the processing, eviscerating, grading and packing of poultry total 338. Because of a rapidly increasing demand for eviscerated poultry the quantity processed in registered processing and eviscerating plants has increased—from approximately 4,000,000 lb. in 1950 to 45,046,959 lb. in 1954.

Inspection of eggs, poultry and frozen egg products is compulsory on all sizable quantities intended for export, and also for interprovincial poultry shipments of 10,000 lb. or over. These products are also checked periodically for grade when offered for wholesale and retail sale. The sale of eggs by grade at retail is compulsory throughout Canada and the sale of poultry by grade at retail is compulsory in many of the larger consuming centres.

*Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.*—Grades are established for all principal fruits and vegetables produced in Canada. Practically all products for which grades are established must be inspected and certified if for shipment out of Canada. In addition inspection and certification is compulsory on specified products if produced in certain provinces and shipped to another province. To provide this service, mostly seasonal in nature, a staff of inspectors is maintained throughout the foremost producing areas across Canada. In the larger distributing centres an inspection staff is maintained to administer grading,