

still very popular. Over 6,000 competitors have already benefited from these contests which promote better methods of culture designed to increase farm income. In 1955, a group of 275 farmers registered for these competitions.

The Drainage Service deals with soil improvement or land reclamation by dredging the large watercourses with its own equipment or under contract and by renting equipment at very low rates to farmers who want to improve their croplands. The Department of Agriculture also gives assistance in the form of grants towards such projects. Soil improvement measures include large drainage projects carried out by the Department and smaller projects carried out by groups of farmers with government help. In the past five years 500,000 acres of land have been improved or reclaimed and 400,000 acres of underground drainage have been completed. In 1954, 19,500 farmers benefited from help given by this Service.

Various forms of assistance are offered towards improvement of crops and livestock. An artificial insemination station operates at St. Hyacinthe for the benefit of 34 breeders' clubs, and plant breeding stations for cereal and forage crops, vegetables and small fruits are maintained in a number of localities. Trained specialists are employed in the work of controlling plant and animal pests and diseases; the main laboratories are situated at Quebec City and field laboratories are located in different districts or in schools.

Agricultural co-operation is widespread in Quebec. There are 660 co-operatives with 68,000 members and 90 agricultural societies with 30,000 members to serve local interests and organize county exhibitions. There are also 850 Cercles de Fermières (Women's Institutes) in operation with a membership of 49,000; 450 farmers' clubs with a membership of 22,000, and 140 junior farmer clubs where 3,450 young boys and girls are working on numerous practical agricultural projects.

The Farm Credit Bureau was established in 1936. During 19 years of operation the Bureau has placed at the disposal of 36,000 farmers of Quebec a sum of \$114,000,000 and has established 17,000 young men on farms.

**Ontario.**—The Ontario Department of Agriculture provides financial assistance and administrative services to agriculture through its Head Office, 11 branches, and three experimental farms, and through research and extension work carried on at the four educational institutions under its administration. In addition to general administration the Head Office administers the policies providing assistance to farmers and settlers in northern Ontario in connection with land breaking and clearing and with improving farms and livestock.

The Live Stock Branch promotes livestock improvement policies, licenses and examines stallions and gives support to purebred live stock associations.

The Field Crops Branch assists in the development of good cultural practices and promotes the use of improved strains of seed, the improvement of pastures, and the eradication of weeds.

The Dairy Branch provides an inspection, instruction and supervision service to all dairy factories and promotes the production of clean milk on farms.

The Farm Economics Branch conducts cost studies on agricultural production in co-operation with agricultural organizations.

The Fruit Branch enforces fruit and vegetable regulations, provides information to growers, and administers the Co-operative Marketing Loans Act.

The Co-operation and Markets Branch administers the Farm Products Marketing Act, the Ontario Food Terminal Act and the Farm Products Containers Act.

The Milk Control Board, under the Milk Industry Act, regulates and supervises the marketing of fluid milk.

The Agricultural and Horticultural Societies Branch gives assistance to agricultural and horticultural fairs and exhibitions, plowing matches and other competitions, and administers the Community Centres Act.