

Visual inspection is of little value for most of these products and laboratory testing is necessary; the laboratory services of the Division maintain branch offices across Canada. Testing seeds is a complex matter, for they must be tested for germination, variety, purity and freedom from weeds and other kinds of seeds before they are graded. All feeding stuffs, fertilizers and pesticides are subject to registration and this is refused if the use of products would be dangerous, if the ingredients or analyses are unsatisfactory or if the claims made regarding their value are incorrect or misleading.

Plant Protection.—The Division of Plant Protection functions with regard to plants and plant products much as the Health of Animals Division does with animals, and it administers the Destructive Insect and Pest Act. Imported nursery stock and plant material are all subject to inspection as protection against the introduction of insects and diseases. Extensive inspection is maintained within Canada to identify, localize and exterminate dangerous enemies of crops and trees. Provision is also made for the inspection of potato crops to be used for seed for domestic and export markets, and for the issuance of health certificates required for a wide range of plant products.

Standards and Inspection.—The Department has been steadily establishing and improving standards of quality for agricultural products for over fifty 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, wool, eggs, poultry, fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, honey and maple products. These grades are widely recognized outside Canada and 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 establishes national standards for dairy products and regulates interprovincial and international trade. Grade names and standards are 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 are not 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.

Meats and Wool.—In addition to 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 prescribed standards. Lamb and veal carcasses are graded on an optional basis. Wool is inspected and graded in registered wool warehouses.

Eggs and Poultry.—There are 1,243 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 381. 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 134,789,695 lb. in 1956