

PART III.—ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT*

A special article presenting information on the administration and control of the financial affairs of the Federal Government appears in the 1956 Year Book at pp. 101-107.

Section 1.—Departments, Boards, Commissions, etc.

The following paragraphs indicate the functions of the various departments of government and the special boards and commissions in connection with the work of government.

Though it is not possible, owing to the limitations of space, to enumerate in this Section the details of each service or the divisions or sections of all the departments, the main branches are given along with those services that differ in some quality from the larger class of subjects handled by a department. The work of many of these departments and boards is given in detail in later Chapters of this volume. The Index will be useful in locating required information.

Department of Agriculture.—This Department was established in 1867 (30 Vict., c. 53) and undertakes work on all phases of agriculture. Research and experimentation are carried out by the Research Branch; the maintenance of standards and protection of products by the Production and Marketing Branch; reclamation and development by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and the Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Administration; security and price stability policies are administered under the Prairie Farm Assistance Administration and Agricultural Stabilization Board.

Air Transport Board.—The Air Transport Board was established in 1944 by amendment of the Aeronautics Act. The Board is responsible for the economic regulation of commercial air services in Canada. The regulatory function relates to Canadian air services within Canada and abroad, and to foreign air services operating into Canada. It involves the licensing of all such services and the subsequent regulation of the licensees in respect of their economic operation and the provision of service to the public. The Board reports to Parliament through the Minister of Transport.

Auditor General's Office.—This Office originated in 1878 (41 Vict., c. 7) and currently functions under the Financial Administration Act (R.S.C. 1952, c. 116). The Auditor General is responsible for examining accounts relating to the Consolidated Revenue Fund and to public property, and for reporting annually to the House of Commons the results of his examinations. He also audits the accounts of various Crown corporations and other instrumentalities.

Board of Grain Commissioners.—Constituted in 1912 under the Canada Grain Act, 1912—now Canada Grain Act, 1930 (R.S.C. 1952, c. 25)—the Board of Grain Commissioners provides general supervision over grain handling in Canada, by licensing elevator operators, inspecting and weighing grain en route to and shipped from terminal elevators, and other services. The Board, comprising a Chief Commissioner and two Commissioners, has authority to inquire into any matter relating to the grading and weighing of grain, deductions for dockage or shrinkage, deterioration of any grain during storage or treatment, unfair or discriminatory operation of a grain elevator, etc. The Board publishes its regulations in the *Canada Gazette* and reports to Parliament through the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Board of Transport Commissioners.—The powers of this Board, which was organized as the Board of Railway Commissioners in 1904, have been extended from time to time until today it has regulatory and judicial functions dealing with almost all aspects of railway activity including location, construction and operation of lines, rates and charges. It is also entrusted with the regulation of other transportation and communication agencies, including express companies, telegraph companies, telephone companies other than those provincially or municipally controlled, international bridges and tunnels, inland shipping and pipelines. The Board reports to Parliament through the Minister of Transport.

Canadian Government Specifications Board.—This is a co-operative body in which Government and industry participate on a voluntary basis. It was formed June 13, 1934, as the Canadian Government Purchasing Standards Committee, under the auspices of the National Research Council. It undertakes the preparation of specifications in commodity fields and for materials, processes and equipment in which government departments and agencies may be interested and arranges for testing and research work.

* As at Sept. 1, 1958; changes taking place between that date and the date of going to press are carried in an Appendix to this volume and in the accompanying chart showing the organization of the Government of Canada.