

Payments Act. Certain financial assistance in event of crop failure is provided by the Prairie Farm Assistance Act. These measures are discussed in detail in the following paragraphs.

**The Canadian Farm Loan Act.**—Under this Act, long-term farm mortgage credit is available to Canadian farmers through the agency of the Canadian Farm Loan Board established in 1929. Loans are made to buy farm land, livestock and farm equipment, to make farm improvements and to pay debts and operating expenses.

The Board makes first mortgage loans repayable on an amortization plan with equal annual payments for periods not exceeding 30 years and in amounts up to \$15,000 and up to 65 p.c. of the appraised value of the farm taken as security. Funds for lending are borrowed by the Board from the Minister of Finance at current interest rates and are re-lent to farmers at a slightly higher interest rate sufficient to pay the cost of funds and administration expenses. The Board's authorized capital, fixed at \$4,000,000 by amendment passed on Mar. 28, 1957, was increased to \$6,000,000 by a further amendment passed on Aug. 7, 1958. The Board's borrowing power is limited to 20 times the amount of its outstanding capital subscribed by the Government of Canada.

In the year ended Mar. 31, 1958, the Board approved 3,702 loans for a total of \$21,278,450 as compared with 2,921 loans for \$13,978,700 in the preceding year. The amount approved, an increase of 52 p.c., is the largest amount approved in any year since the Board commenced lending in 1929. The average loan was \$5,748 as compared with \$4,785 in the preceding year. Approximately 63.4 p.c. of the total was approved to buy land and pay land-secured debt. At Mar. 31, 1958, the total amount outstanding in loans was \$68,490,523, an increase of \$14,742,159 over the preceding year. This amount was secured by 22,494 mortgages and 1,364 second mortgages.

