

**Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act.**—This Act, which came into force on Nov. 25, 1957, provides for an advance payment to producers for threshed grain (wheat, oats and barley) in storage other than in an elevator and prior to delivery to the Canadian Wheat Board, exclusive of grain deliverable under a unit quota. Advance payments of 50 cents per bu. of wheat, 25 cents per bu. of oats and 35 cents per bu. of barley are made, subject to certain restrictions as to quota and acreage. Maximum advance payment per application is \$3,000.

At Dec. 31, 1958, the following advance payments had been made:—

<i>Period</i>	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Total Advance</i>	<i>Average Advance</i>
	No.	\$	\$
Aug. 1, 1957—July 31, 1958.....	50,412	35,203,467	698
Aug. 1, 1958—Dec. 31, 1958.....	39,569	30,717,854	776

Repayment is effected by deducting 50 p.c. of the initial payment for all grain delivered subsequent to the loan, other than for grain delivered under a unit quota. The amounts deducted are paid to the Board until the producer has discharged his advance.

At Dec. 31, 1958, refunds had been made as follows:—

<i>Period</i>	<i>Total Refunded</i>	<i>Total Advance Outstanding</i>	<i>Percentage Refunded</i>
	\$	\$	
Aug. 1, 1957—July 31, 1958.....	35,003,656	199,811	99.4
Aug. 1, 1958—Dec. 31, 1958.....	9,327,651	21,390,203	30.3

**Prairie Farm Assistance Act.**—The Prairie Farm Assistance Act, passed in 1939, provides for direct money payments by the Federal Government on an acreage basis to farmers in areas of low crop yield in the Prairie Provinces and in the Peace River area of British Columbia. The object of the Act is to assist the provinces and municipalities to meet, in times of crop failure, relief expenditures which would normally be too great for them to assume.

Payments for the 1957 crop year at July 31 totalled \$17,731,295. They were allocated as follows: Manitoba, \$1,716,239 in 7,744 awards; Saskatchewan, \$9,908,372 in 33,362 awards; Alberta, \$5,735,887 in 19,778 awards; and British Columbia, \$370,797 in 1,258 awards.

Among the conditions under which payments are made to farmers is a requirement that 1 p.c. of the purchase price of all grains (wheat, oats, barley and rye) marketed in the Prairie Provinces be paid to the Federal Government and set aside for the purposes of the Act. For the crop year 1957-58 this levy produced \$6,114,475. Since 1939 levies have raised \$107,311,190 and PFAA has paid out \$204,353,900 in 954,110 awards.

### Subsection 3.—Canada's Relationship with FAO

The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, currently consisting of 77 member governments, was created for the purpose of promoting national and international action to improve the efficiency of the production, processing, distribution and utilization of all food and agricultural products, with the aim of assisting all countries to raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living of their people. It collects and disseminates information to help its member governments and others who wish it, to improve their methods of cultivation, fishing, forestry, marketing, agricultural credit and so on.

The Conference of the FAO meets every two years and its Council, representing 24 member nations (the number is to be increased to 25 by 1960), meets about twice a year or whenever necessary. The Conference reviews the world situation in food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry as well as the operation of the FAO Secretariat. The Council, meeting more frequently, keeps an eye on price trends and supplies.