

The Agricultural Products Marketing Act does not give the local or provincial marketing board any greater control over agencies outside the province than is possible through the control of the commodity by the board and whatever contractual arrangements it may make with such agencies outside the province. It does make it possible, however, for marketing boards to provide groups within a province complete marketing control over any commodity produced in that province, or any area of that province which may be defined.

In administering the Agricultural Products Marketing Act, the Governor in Council has generally extended powers as requested, providing that those presenting the application can show that there is some benefit to them in having these powers in interprovincial and export trade and that the powers to be extended are within the authority of the province to grant in the particular case under consideration.

**The Agricultural Stabilization Act.**—The Agricultural Stabilization Act was passed in 1958 as the successor to the Agricultural Prices Support Act. Payments related to aids to marketing were common prior to 1940. These included guaranteed advances, bonuses, premiums for quality, assistance in building cold storage and other facilities for warehousing products as well as numerous types of transportation and price assistance, mostly on an *ad hoc* basis.

In 1944, partly if not wholly as a result of the acceptance by farmers of price ceilings during the war years, Parliament provided a formal basis for agricultural price support for all products except wheat; wheat was provided for under special legislation. The Agricultural Prices Support Act and the Agricultural Stabilization Act which succeeded it in 1958 provided for a three-man administrative board which in recent years has had as its members permanent civil servants.

Under the Agricultural Prices Support Act, provision was made on a permissive basis for a General Advisory Committee. This Committee at that time was chaired by the President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and included all provincial Deputy Ministers of Agriculture or their representatives, as well as producer representatives from the main agricultural regions and commodity groups. Under the new Agricultural Stabilization Act the Minister is required to name an Advisory Committee of up to ten members who shall be farmers or representatives of farm organizations. In addition, the Board under each Act, as seemed appropriate from time to time, called in special advisory committees either from the trade or from producer groups to assist in the Board's operations in a particular field.

The Agricultural Stabilization Board has at its disposal a revolving fund of \$250,000,000 which is \$50,000,000 higher than that made available to its predecessor. This fund is maintained at that amount by annual appropriations by Parliament to cover any loss that may take place during the year and, if there should be any surplus to the Board's account, it is to be turned over each year to the general Consolidated Revenue Fund.

During the period in which the Agricultural Prices Support Act was operative, the Board used a total working capital of approximately \$600,000,000 in supporting 11 different commodities at various times during the 12-year period 1946-58. Of this amount it recovered through resale of commodities purchased approximately \$500,000,000, leaving a total net cost to the Canadian taxpayer of \$100,000,000 for its operations over the period.

In the first year of operation of the Agricultural Stabilization Board, 21 commodities were under support with a price prescribed in terms of a percentage of a 10-year average market price. In the year ended Mar. 31, 1960, 18 commodities were under support. Most of the commodities were at the 80-p.c. or higher level of the 10-year average. The net cost of support in the fiscal year 1957-58 was approximately \$15,000,000 and in the fiscal year 1958-59, \$60,000,000.