

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, 1960, 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—July 31, 1959.....	45,341	34,369,654	758
Aug. 1, 1959—July 31, 1960.....	50,047	38,492,505	769
Aug. 1, 1960—Dec. 31, 1960.....	67,677	57,984,073	859

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, 1960, 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.....	35,189,079	14,388	99.9
Aug. 1, 1958—July 31, 1959.....	34,299,832	69,821	99.8
Aug. 1, 1959—July 31, 1960.....	38,131,615	360,890	99.0
Aug. 1, 1960—Dec. 31, 1960.....	13,437,179	44,546,894	23.1

Prairie Farm Assistance Act.—The Prairie Farm Assistance Act, passed in 1939, provides for direct money payments by the Federal Government on an acreage-and-yield basis to farmers in areas of low crop yield in the Prairie Provinces and in the Peace River area of British Columbia. Its purpose is to assist in dealing with a relief problem which the provinces and municipalities could not do alone and to enable the farmers to put in a crop the following year. Payments for the 1959 crop as at July 31, 1960 totalled \$20,429,463. Total payments made under the Act since 1939 amounted to \$248,208,345.

Payments are made from the Prairie Farm Emergency Fund to which farmers contribute 1 p.c. of the value of all sales of wheat, oats, barley, rye, flaxseed and rapeseed. The additional funds required are provided from the federal treasury. The total collected through the 1-p.c. levy in 1959 was \$6,326,924. The total amount collected since 1939 was \$120,312,114.

The average yield of wheat in a township or block of sections is the basis on which payments are made. If the average yield is eight bushels per acre or less, all farmers within that area receive payments except those on the sections having a yield of 12 or more bushels per acre. The smallest isolated block eligible for payment is one-third of a township (12 sections) provided such block is rectangular in shape. A block as small as one section within an ineligible township is eligible for payment if a side lies along the boundary of an eligible township.

If an area consisting of one-third or more of the cultivated lands in any six or more adjoining sections could not be seeded or summerfallowed because of flooding or other natural causes beyond the control of the farmers, such area is eligible for award at \$4 per acre on one-half of the cultivated acreage of each farmer. Only those farmers who make their homes and are ordinarily present in the spring wheat area are eligible for award and no award can be made with respect to more than 200 acres of the cultivated land of a farmer.