

beans, maple products, pulpwood, wheat and soybeans. As at Apr. 1, 1961, 31 of these provincial boards had received an extension of powers for purposes of interprovincial and export trade from the Federal Government. Three had received authority to collect levies in excess of administrative expenses.

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 give groups within a province complete marketing control over any commodity produced in that province, or any area of that province which may be defined.

The Agricultural Stabilization Act.—The functions of this Act, passed in 1958, and its administration are outlined in the Agriculture Chapter in connection with the special article on "The National Agricultural Program", pp. 399-400.

Under the Act, all price support levels must be related to a price formula based on the most recent ten-year average of market prices for the product concerned. In addition, the Agricultural Stabilization Board, unless the Government sets a higher support level, must support the prices of nine key commodities at not less than 80 p.c. of the ten-year average market price. The named commodities are: butter, cheese, eggs, cattle, hogs, sheep, wheat, oats and barley (for the latter three, the support applies to grains produced outside the prairie areas designated under the Canadian Wheat Board Act). Other commodities can be supported at such percentage of the ten-year average market price as may be approved by the Government from time to time. Prices established for the nine named commodities must be announced so that they can apply for 12 months from the effective date. Support of designated commodities is also normally for a 12-month period.

In the first year of operation of the Agricultural Stabilization Board, 21 commodities were under support. In the year ended Mar. 31, 1960, 18 commodities were under support, and the following year, 16 commodities. Most of the commodities were at the 80-p.c.-or-higher level of the ten-year average. The net cost of support in the fiscal year 1959-60 was approximately \$60,000,000, with a higher cost in 1960-61.

The Agricultural Stabilization Board may support the price of products in any one or more of three ways: (1) an offer to purchase by the Board; (2) underwriting the market through producer guarantees, commonly called the "deficiency payment" method; or (3) making such payment for the benefit of producers as may be authorized for the purpose of stabilizing the price of an agricultural commodity. The third method is new under the Agricultural Stabilization Act. All methods have been used during the first years of operation of the Act, although recently there has been some tendency to use the so-called deficiency payment method to a greater degree.

Section 2.—Combinations in Restraint of Trade*

The purpose of Canadian anti-combines legislation is to assist in maintaining free and open competition as a prime stimulus to the achievement of maximum production, distribution and employment in a system of free enterprise. To this end, the legislation seeks to eliminate certain practices in restraint of trade, which serve to prevent the nation's economic resources from being most effectively used for the advantage of all citizens.

By amendments which came into force on Aug. 10, 1960 (SC 1960, c. 45), all the provisions of the anti-combines legislation which previously had been divided between the Combines Investigation Act (RSC 1952, c. 314) and the Criminal Code were amended and consolidated in the Act. The substantive provisions now are contained in Sects. 2,

* Revised by D. W. H. Henry, Q.C., Director of Investigation and Research, Combines Investigation Act, Department of Justice, Ottawa.