

The annual competition for the Agricultural Merit Order, organized in 1890, is held successively in each of five regions. Each contest lasts five years and covers various farm enterprises; its objective is to ascertain the personal merit of the competitors who have most distinguished themselves in the agricultural field and can serve as examples. County Farm Improvement Contests have for 30 years promoted better methods of culture designed to increase farm income and 7,800 competitors have benefited from them.

The Drainage Service deals with soil improvement or land reclamation by renting equipment at very low rates to farmers who wish to improve their crop lands. The Department of Agriculture also gives assistance to such projects in the form of grants. Soil improvement measures include large drainage projects carried out by the Department and smaller projects carried out by groups of farmers with government help.

Various forms of assistance are offered toward improvement of crops and livestock. An artificial insemination station operates at St. Hyacinthe for the benefit of breeders' clubs, and plant breeding stations for cereal and forage crops, vegetables and small fruits are maintained in a number of localities. Trained specialists are employed in the work of controlling plant and animal pests and diseases; the main laboratories are situated at Quebec City and field laboratories are located in other districts.

Agricultural co-operation is widespread in Quebec. There are 481 co-operatives with 70,107 members and 87 agricultural societies with 28,317 members to serve local interests and organize county exhibitions. There are also 713 Cercles de Fermières (rural women's clubs) in operation with a membership of 36,903; 390 farmer clubs with a membership of 18,457; and 167 junior farmer clubs in which 4,042 young boys and girls are working on numerous practical agricultural projects. The Farm Credit Bureau was established in 1936 and, by December 1961, had made 64,934 loans to farmers amounting to a total of \$209,589,095.

An Agricultural Research Council was established by the Department in 1957. It is a consultative body composed of professors from the senior agricultural colleges of the province. It has no laboratories but encourages research in all fields of agriculture by means of subsidies to the faculties of agriculture of the provincial universities, to be carried out under the supervision of the university staffs. The Council also has a scholarship plan to encourage the education of young agricultural scientists. The findings of research projects undertaken under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture are published by the Council in *Recherches agronomiques*.

Ontario.—The Ontario Department of Agriculture provides financial assistance and administrative services through its Head Office, 11 branches and two Experimental Farms, and through research and extension work conducted under the direction of the Ontario Research Institute as well as that under way at the Ontario Agricultural College, the Ontario Veterinary College, Macdonald Institute, Western Ontario Agricultural School, Kemptville Agricultural School and the Horticultural Experiment Station.

The Department is divided into four main divisions—Administration, Marketing, Production and Extension, and the Research Institute. The Administration Division is under the direction of an Assistant Deputy Minister and the Marketing and Production and Extension Divisions are under the supervision of a Division Chief. The Ontario Agricultural College, the Ontario Veterinary College and Macdonald Institute report to the Minister and Deputy Minister. The Research Institute is the responsibility of the Director of Research.

The Administration Division is charged with the supervision of the agricultural schools, the Ontario Telephone Service Commission, the Accounts Branch and Personnel.

The Marketing Division is responsible for the administration of the Co-operatives Branch, the Dairy Branch, the Market Development Branch, the Farm Products Inspection Service and the Farm Labor Committee. The services of the Co-operatives Branch are designed to encourage and assist co-operatives to operate sound and successful