

Total licensed grain storage capacity in Canada therefore amounted to 644,000,000 bu. Grain elevators provided over 10,000 wage-earning jobs with average wages of \$76 a week.

The Canadian Wheat Board has been operating since 1935 under the Canadian Wheat Board Act and relevant regulations. The Board is the sole selling agency in domestic and export markets for those crops named as grains under the Act and grown in the designated areas of Western Canada. These crops include spring and winter wheat, Durum wheat, oats, barley, rye, flaxseed and rapeseed. Before the opening of each crop year, the Board announces initial prices for each of these crops and then, as they are sold, returns are pooled by grade, out of which interim and final payments are made to each producer.

Producer marketing boards, authorized under provincial legislation, are active in the marketing of most other agricultural products. In 1962, the number of such boards was 80, compared with 31 in 1956. Some marketing boards limit their functions to negotiation of price and other terms of sale and are most effective for canning crops and other products that are normally sold on a contract basis. Other marketing boards have the power to direct the sale of produce as to time, place, quantity and quality, to set prices and to impose service charges. Still other boards function largely to negotiate terms of sale but designate an agency to handle a portion of the product sold.

The main commercial effort of Canadian farmers on a co-operative basis is in the marketing of their products. Sales of farm products through co-operatives averaged \$975,000,000 in the two-year period 1961-62. This amount was equal to one third of all farm produce sold through commercial channels. The largest number of co-operative marketing associations serve dairy farmers. These numbered over 360 in 1962 and the number of associations handling livestock and livestock products was over 330. In volume of sales, the three wheat pools are foremost. They own and control country elevators throughout the western provinces and also terminal facilities at the Lakehead and Vancouver.

In 1963, commercial refrigerated space available for the storage of perishable food products in Canada amounted to 148,000,000 cu. feet in 3,114 warehouses. Of this space, about 62,000,000 cu. feet was in 263 warehouses constructed under the Cold Storage Act. The average wages and salaries of workers in the storage warehousing industry in 1962 was about \$3 a week more than in the grain elevator trades.

The final link in the food chain from producer to consumer is the retail chain store or the independent grocery. Modern retail stores feature self-service but they are still employers of a large number of workers—in 1962, they employed 77,000 persons and their total wage and salary bill was over \$4,000,000. While labour productivity at the retail level has increased notably in recent years with the development of self-service, the trend toward greater variety of high quality, conveniently packaged and often pre-cooked foods has probably resulted in higher marketing costs. It is estimated that the farmers' share of the consumer dollar in 1962 averaged 43 cents compared with 58 cents in 1950. However, with the rise in *real* income,\* the quantities of the various food items that the consumer can buy with an hour's wages was higher in 1962 than a decade earlier. In 1962, an hour's wages in the manufacturing industries would buy 7.7 loaves of bread compared with 6.3 in 1950; or 8.0 qt. of milk compared with 5.6; 3.1 lb. of butter instead of 1.5; and 2.3 lb. of beef instead of 1.9.

**Food Costs.**—Because of improved efficiency, both in farm production and in the processing and marketing of farm products, the consumer now enjoys a wide range of quality foods at moderate cost. Prices paid by the consumer for food have risen proportionately less since prewar than have the prices of the goods and services farmers buy; food prices are now about 153 p.c. higher than in 1935-39 while commodities and services used by farmers have risen 191 p.c. Prices received by farmers are up by 164 p.c. but

\*Income adjusted for the rise in consumer prices.