

3.—Loans Made under the Farm Improvement Loans Act, by Purpose and Province, 1962 and 1963, with Cumulative Totals from 1945—concluded

Province	1962		1963		Cumulative Totals 1945-63	
	Loans	Amount	Loans	Amount	Loans	Amount
	No.	\$	No.	\$	No.	\$
Province						
Newfoundland.....	30	59,768	37	77,699	556	805,123
Prince Edward Island.....	905	1,180,571	962	1,348,515	16,136	17,022,937
Nova Scotia.....	666	986,285	578	864,685	11,589	12,450,863
New Brunswick.....	508	790,287	510	848,502	9,809	11,990,153
Quebec.....	3,244	5,515,926	2,871	5,598,713	107,768	141,794,060
Ontario.....	13,508	23,436,214	14,582	26,472,190	175,495	235,795,733
Manitoba.....	9,639	15,036,525	10,037	16,877,079	129,706	157,586,570
Saskatchewan.....	20,368	31,828,477	23,519	41,639,177	306,832	388,705,162
Alberta.....	21,523	34,886,360	22,085	37,763,054	294,313	367,821,606
British Columbia.....	2,230	4,368,798	2,192	4,464,950	31,264	42,001,095

Agricultural Stabilization Act.—The Agricultural Stabilization Act (SC 1958, c. 22, proclaimed Mar. 3, 1958) established the Agricultural Stabilization Board and repealed the Agricultural Prices Support Act, 1944. The Board is empowered to stabilize the prices of agricultural products in order to assist the agricultural industry in realizing fair returns for labour and investment, and to maintain a fair relationship between prices received by farmers and the costs of goods and services that they buy.

The Act provides that, for each production year, the Board must support, at not less than 80 p.c. of the previous ten-year average market or base price, the prices of nine commodities (cattle, hogs and sheep; butter, cheese and eggs; and wheat, oats and barley produced outside the prairie areas as defined in the Canadian Wheat Board Act). Other commodities may be supported at such percentage of the base price as may be approved by the Governor in Council. Since the Act came into force, the following farm products, other than the nine named commodities, have been supported at one time or another: honey, potatoes, soybeans, sunflower seeds, sugar beets, tobacco, turkeys, apples, peaches, apricots, raspberries, asparagus, tomatoes, milk for manufacturing and skim milk powder. The Board may stabilize the price of any product by an offer-to-purchase, by a deficiency payment or by making such payment for the benefit of producers as may be authorized.

In stabilizing prices of certain commodities by means of deficiency payments, the price stabilization program has been assisting the agricultural industry to make production adjustments from a position of excessive supply to one of more normal relationship between supply and demand. The institution of limited deficiency payments by the Board assists in the adjustment of production in a relatively short time. During the period of adjustment, the Board guarantees a minimum average return to producers for a limited quantity of product.

During the six fiscal years that the Act was in operation prior to Mar. 31, 1964, the cost of stabilization programs averaged \$57,000,000 a year. The Board has available a revolving fund of \$250,000,000. Losses incurred are made up by Parliamentary appropriations and any surplus is paid back to the Consolidated Revenue Fund. An Advisory Committee named by the Minister of Agriculture and composed of farmers or representatives of farm organizations assists the Board in its operations.

Crop Insurance Act.—To assist in making the benefits of insurance protection on crops available in all provinces, the Crop Insurance Act was passed in 1959. This Act does not set up any specific insurance scheme but rather permits the Federal Government to assist the provinces to do so by making direct contributions toward the cost of providing crop insurance. The initiative for establishing schemes to meet their own regional requirements rests with the provinces. Schemes may be organized on the basis of specific crops