

University of Manitoba's Economic Department was appointed a one-man commission (Barber Commission) to inquire into the dilemma of rising costs of farm machinery and repair parts.

Canada's international relations in the field of agriculture were strengthened by the visits of Canadian agricultural officials to Britain, France and Yugoslavia and, later, of a four-man Yugoslavian agriculture and trade mission to Canada.

In July, an amendment to the Crop Insurance Act received Royal Assent, broadening the scope of the Act to offer farmers from coast to coast greater protection against the vagaries of weather. The new provisions include: insurance up to 80 p.c. of the average yield of a crop; protection against loss of production units such as fruit trees or perennial forage stands; compensation for the cost of summerfallowing when natural causes prevent seeding the following year; and an increase in the federal contribution to the total premium. (See also pp. 482-483.)

In late July, the Minister of Agriculture visited Argentina on invitation of the Argentine Rural Society. During the visit, he and his counterpart in that country reached a common position favouring an increase in world wheat prices to cover rising costs of production.

In September, an important milestone was reached in Canada's determined fight against animal disease. On a farm near Montmagny, Que., the Minister of Agriculture turned veterinarian briefly to take a blood sample from a cow to mark completion of the initial testing of the nation's cattle herds for brucellosis. Now only the Scandinavian countries exceed Canada in freedom from that disease. In another problem area, announcement was made of the payment of compensation to livestock owners for losses suffered through the disease anthrax.

In October, the Act establishing the Canadian Dairy Commission was proclaimed. Apart from the Canadian Wheat Board, it marks the first entry of the Federal Government into a national marketing agency for agricultural products. The Commission is responsible for stabilizing the price of manufacturing milk and cream to provide efficient producers with a fair return for their milk and to assure consumers of an adequate supply of dairy products. It administers federal support funds and determines a basis of payments for the benefit of milk and cream producers. (See also p. 482.)

Also in October, Canada's Minister of Agriculture was elected vice-chairman of the meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of member countries of the UN Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) held in Paris. The meeting reviewed the agricultural policies and goals of member countries and their relation to international trade and the needs of developing countries.

On Dec. 2, the Agricultural Stabilization Board announced a deficiency payment of \$6.38 per standard ton of sugar beets marketed by growers during the 1965 crop year. A few days later, the Board also announced an interim deficiency payment of \$3.00 per ton on the 1966 sugar beet crop.

Significant for grain growers was the announcement in December of two new oat varieties, Sioux and Kelsey. These varieties have considerable resistance to disease and are higher yielding than standard varieties.

During 1967, the Centennial Year, there were many remarkable developments in Canadian agriculture, including the implementation of the new dairy policy, the successful conclusion of the Kennedy Round with its promise of reduced tariffs for many agricultural products and items of interest to farmers, changes in the anti-dumping code, the conclusion of an International Wheat Arrangement, and the formation of a task force to study Canada's agricultural future. In the production field, Canadian farmers sold products estimated to bring their cash receipts to a new high of \$4,400,000,000. Net income, however, which includes inventory changes, fell below that of 1966.

Domestically, one of the more profound events was the policy announced by the newly founded Canadian Dairy Commission (CDC). The Government subsidy was