

The processing industry, federal and provincial governments and universities cooperated in setting up the \$5 million POS Pilot Plant Corporation (protein, oil and starch) in Saskatoon, a non-profit corporation directed by subscribing members.

Credit. Canada has been selling grain on credit since 1952. The original program provided for grain sales on terms up to three years at commercial rates of interest. In 1968 the government approved a broadened and improved program to improve Canada's competitive position in export markets. It allowed exporters to respond quickly to export opportunities in developing countries and on more favourable credit terms in some circumstances.

All credit sales are now on terms of three years or less. Sales of western wheat, barley and oats, which are marketed by the Canadian Wheat Board, are financed under the Canadian Wheat Board Act with a government guarantee of repayment. Credit sales of other grains are insured under the Export Development Act.

Food aid. The Canadian food aid program has expanded from \$2 million in 1962-63 to \$203 million in 1978-79. Since 1963 food aid under bilateral and multilateral aid programs has been administered by the Canadian International Development Agency. Most of the food consists of wheat and wheat products, but rapeseed and rapeseed oil are also included. In recent years about 60% of Canada's food aid was extended to foreign governments under bilateral programs, with the remaining 40% going through multilateral channels, mainly the world food program. Over the last 10 years about 85 countries have received food aid from Canada. Regular contributions of flour are also made to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. Canada's minimum annual wheat and flour aid commitment under the food aid convention of the International Wheat Council is 495 000 tonnes. This commitment has always been exceeded, usually by a wide margin.

The Canadian Grain Commission

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A Canadian grain commission was established by the Canada Grain Act in April 1971, replacing the board of grain commissioners for Canada, established in 1912. It reports to the minister of agriculture, and has headquarters at Winnipeg and offices across Canada, the largest in Vancouver, Thunder Bay and Montreal.

The commission administers the Canada Grain Act, including inspection, weighing and storage of grain; fixes maximum tariffs for charges by licensed elevators; establishes grain grading standards; and operates the Canadian government elevators at Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Prince Rupert. In the latter part of 1978 steps were taken toward turning the elevators over to the private sector. All elevator operators in Western Canada and in Eastern Canada handling western-grown grain for export, as well as grain dealers in Western Canada, must be licensed by the commission. On a fee basis, the commission provides official inspection, grading and weighing of grain, as well as registration of terminal elevator and eastern elevator receipts. The economics and statistics division of the commission is the basic source of information on grain handled through the Canadian licensed elevator system. The commission is also responsible for administering the Grain Futures Act which provides for supervision of grain futures trading.

The commission's grain research laboratory conducts surveys of the quality of each year's grain crops and of grain moving through the Canadian elevator system. It provides information on quality of varieties and grades of grain to the inspection division, collaborates with plant breeders in studies on new grain varieties and undertakes basic research in relation to quality characteristics of cereal grains and oilseeds.

The commission's assistant commissioners — one in Alberta, two in Saskatchewan, one in Manitoba and one in Ontario — investigate complaints of producers and inspect licensed elevators. Grain elevators, equipment and stocks of grain may be inspected at any time.

The commission sets up western and eastern grain standards committees which participate in establishing grain grades and grade specifications and recommend standard and export standard samples for various grades. It also appoints grain appeal tribunals to