

all main protective works and to do all the engineering required, on condition that the provinces assume responsibility for the proper use of the lands protected and for necessary drainage works. The Act provides for the development of new areas in addition to the reconstruction and repair of existing works.

Another measure which is of considerable importance in price stabilization is the Agricultural Products Marketing Act, 1949. A number of provincial governments have passed legislation providing for a Board to control or regulate the marketing of agricultural products produced within the province concerned. This Act enables such provincial marketing legislation to be applied in the same way to the marketing of agricultural products outside that province and in export trade.

In retrospect, the development of the Department of Agriculture over the past century falls into a fairly well-defined pattern. Initially, agriculture itself played a minor role in the departmental activities but, as the country opened up and farming became more extensive and correspondingly more important in the country's economy, it gradually made increasing demands for governmental recognition. Sound policies for the development and regulation of Canadian agriculture were developed within the Department of Agriculture during the first decades of the present century. Drought and depression in the 1930's left a permanent mark on the industry and altered, in considerable degree, the cultural practices over large areas of the country. War imposed new strains on the agricultural economy but it also paved the way for lasting advances in many lines of production. Finally, in the post-war period, Canadian agriculture has broken new ground in the fields of planned production and marketing.

Progress is not necessarily measured in terms of costs. Nevertheless, some indication of the broadening of departmental activities is given by the amounts of money spent over the past 45 years. These outlays, averaged for five-year periods from 1906 to 1950, are as follows:—

<i>Period</i>	<i>Average Annual Expenditure</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Average Annual Expenditure</i>
	\$		\$
1906-10.....	1,444,868	1931-35.....	8,501,910
1911-15.....	3,321,233	1936-40.....	20,961,666
1916-20.....	5,049,727	1941-45.....	75,548,381
1921-25.....	7,037,296	1946-50.....	84,463,223
1926-30.....	7,822,326		

While the Department of Agriculture has progressed steadily during the past hundred years, the most spectacular advances have been made during the two latest decades. The Department has now developed to the point where it is of major importance in Canada's administrative set-up.

Subsection 1.—General Policy and Price Stability

All the activities of the Department are directed toward the production of marketable farm products. Apart from the initial research and experimentation in connection with operations on the farm itself, it is essential that processing, grading and inspection of farm products should be of a high standard if markets both at home and abroad are to be retained and new ones developed. It is with this end in view that the inspection and grading activities of the Department have become of increasing importance. By inspection and grading the buyer is able to obtain a product suited to his requirements; the producer is compensated according to the grade of his product and is thus encouraged to produce a high-quality commodity.