

### Commercial Activities.

In addition to promoting an interest in progressive legislation through its educational work, the Canadian Council of Agriculture also endeavors to attend to the farmers' commercial and material interests wherever they are affected by developments within the Dominion field of legislation, or wherever by co-operating with other organizations or agencies agricultural conditions may be improved.

A worthy development in the relationship of the Canadian Council of Agriculture with the interests of the country at large occurred on March 7, 8 and 9, in the year 1916. In the previous November a proposal was made to establish "A Joint Committee of Commerce and Agriculture," to be composed of representatives of the business interests of the Western provinces and representatives of the organized farmers' associations. The object of the organization, expressed in broad terms, was to bring the Western farming and business interests together from time to time to discuss problems affecting their mutual welfare, "in order that in matters where an agreement of opinion is reached, joint action might be taken to further a solution." It was arranged to limit the total representation on the committee to 40, 20 from each side. The first meeting of the committee was held in Winnipeg, in March, 1916, and the number of representatives was then increased to 50, or 25 from each side. The discussions centred mainly around the subjects of mortgage loans and banking credits, and largely as a result of the better understanding which developed out of the first conference, several beneficial changes were made by the banks in their system of dealing with the Western farmers.

Upon the outbreak of the war, and particularly after the federal government took action in controlling the prices of foodstuffs, the Canadian Council of Agriculture occupied a very important position. It was called upon