

In view of the large stocks of grain on farms in the Prairie Provinces at the beginning of 1944, together with somewhat higher prices, it is probable that cash income from the sale of these products will be well maintained in 1944. Indications are that although some increase may be experienced in the output of livestock and livestock products, the peak of production has about been reached in most provinces.

Farmers' expenses have also risen. Wages of farm labour in Alberta between 1940 and 1942 rose on an average from \$30 to \$62 a month plus board. There have been increases in prices of feed, equipment and supplies, but on the whole the increase in farm living and operating costs has not risen nearly as much as farm selling prices.

The prices paid to farmers have been increased by subsidies. Middlemen, distributors and processors have in some cases been forced to absorb part or all of the increased prices paid to the farmer.

The list of subsidies now being paid to benefit the farmer as a consumer includes those on pesticides, fertilizers, copra, soy bean meal, molasses and alfalfa meal. Measures have also been taken to assist farmers to obtain necessary supplies which may have been shut off because of wartime difficulties in transportation or the operation of government pools in other countries. Bulk purchases of such things as essential protein feeds are being arranged by the Prices Board and the Commodity Prices Stabilization Corporation through other governments.

A shifting floor beneath a fixed ceiling has been avoided for the farmer in many cases by guaranteed minimum prices. This has been done so that the farmer will not be penalized if he goes ahead to increase production at the request of the government. Minimum prices have been established for wheat, oats, barley, flaxseed and soy beans. Undertakings for market support have been given directly in regard to beef cattle and butter, and the operation of export contracts provides a practical floor in respect to hogs, cheese and eggs.

#### POST-WAR PLANS

The Canadian government in drawing up plans for post-war reconstruction has given particular emphasis to requirements of agriculture. Two committees set up by the government have already submitted reports for the consideration of Parliament, and the government has forecast certain legislation concerning post-war agriculture, which it intends to introduce during the 1944 session. The Advisory Committee on Reconstruction (the James Committee) composed of persons prominent in the fields of education, agriculture and labour, submitted a report which was tabled in the House of Commons at the beginning of the session and which extended over the whole field of Canadian post-war problems. In the main report itself and in the report of the sub-committee on agriculture several definite recommendations were made. Among them were these:

That Canada should take the lead in urging the reduction of every kind of trade barrier.

That Canada should give assistance to an international board which would endeavour to promote the raising of nutritional standards throughout the world by the encouragement of economic growing patterns. It can be shown that higher nutritional standards in many countries can only be reached if such countries instead of keeping land in uneconomic wheat production are willing to import wheat and turn a large part of wheat acreage to production of meat, milk, butter, eggs and similar foods which, unlike wheat, cannot be advantageously imported.

That similar efforts should be made to raise nutritional standards in this country. When changes in growing patterns mean new machinery or capital investment of some kind, assistance involving adequate credit facilities may be necessary.