

11.—Percentage Distribution by Provinces of Wheat, Barley and Oats in the Census Years 1870-1910 and in 1917.

Crop and Year.	Maritime Provinces.	Quebec.	Ontario.	Manitoba.	Saskatchewan.	Alber-ta.	Other prov-inces.	Total.
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Wheat—								
1870.....	2.5 ¹	12.4	85.1	—	—	—	—	100
1880.....	4.	6.2	84.7	3.2	—	—	1.0	100
1890.....	—	3.9	50.5	38.1	4.0	—	3.5	100
1900.....	—	3.5	51.5	33.0	7.8	—	4.2	100
1910.....	—	—	15.0	25.8	50.7	6.9	1.6	100
1917.....	0.5	1.8	5.2	16.4	56.0	20.0	0.1	100
Barley—								
1870.....	3.2	14.5	82.3	—	—	—	—	100
1880.....	—	10.4	84.8	—	—	—	4.8	100
1890.....	—	9.2	77.9	8.4	—	—	4.5	100
1900.....	—	11.4	72.4	12.0	—	—	4.2	100
1910.....	—	8.1	48.8	22.6	10.6	8.6	1.3	100
1917.....	0.5	6.9	15.1	29.6	28.0	19.7	0.2	100
Oats—								
1870.....	12.4	35.6	52.0	—	—	—	—	100
1880.....	12.4	28.3	57.0	—	—	—	2.3	100
1890.....	9.0	21.4	56.5	10.0	—	—	3.1	100
1900.....	7.7	22.1	58.2	7.0	—	—	5.0	100
1910.....	5.6	13.8	36.6	12.4	24.0	6.9	0.7 ²	100
1917.....	3.8	11.2	20.2	11.3	34.0	19.0	0.5 ²	100

¹Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. ²British Columbia.

In the case of wheat it will be noticed that whilst in 1870, 85 p.c. of the total crop was produced by Ontario, this proportion fell to about 50 p.c. for the two census years 1890 and 1900, to 15 p.c. in 1910 and to only 5 p.c. in 1917. In Saskatchewan the proportion was raised from 4 p.c. in 1890 to about 50 p.c. in 1910 and to 56 p.c. in 1917. A similar movement though not to so marked an extent is observable in the case of barley and oats. But the main fact is that whereas at Confederation and in 1880 the production of wheat, barley and oats was almost entirely confined to eastern Canada, the position now is that more than half the total wheat crop is produced in Saskatchewan, and all but 8 p.c. of this crop is produced in the three Prairie Provinces. For barley 77 and for oats 64 p.c. of the total crop is produced in the Prairie Provinces.

Another question upon which the agricultural statistics may be expected to throw some light is the increase in relative productivity. Vigorous efforts to improve Canadian agricultural practice have been made for many years by both the Dominion and provincial Departments of Agriculture. The work of the Dominion Experimental Farms, established in 1886, of the provincial Colleges of Agriculture, all of them established since Confederation, and of agencies such as the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, have done much to raise the general level of agricultural production. To obtain any satisfactory evidence on this point from the average yields per acre continuous annual records over long periods are essential, because of seasonal variation. For this reason the census records taken at ten