

3.—Statistics of Agriculture.

Census Statistics.—At each of the six decennial censuses of Canada taken since Confederation, statistics of the agricultural activities carried on throughout the country have been secured, such, for example, in the later censuses, as the acreage sown, the yield of crops, the value of that yield, the number of fruit trees, the value of farms, the number of live stock, etc. In the publication of the results of each of these censuses, a special volume has been devoted to agricultural (and horticultural) activities, and this will be the case in the publications of the census of 1921, some of the results of which are used in the following statistics. Censuses of population and agriculture have also been taken for the three Prairie Provinces in 1906 and 1916. For comparative statistics of farm holdings, their size and tenure as in 1911 and 1921, see in the index, "Agricultural Statistics of the Census."

Crop-Reporting Service.—The voluntary crop-reporting service of the Dominion Government, which has been in operation since 1908, has for its object the issue of accurate, timely and independent reports on crop conditions throughout the Dominion: first, in the interests of the general body of Canadian farmers; secondly, for the information and guidance of other interests allied to and dependent upon agriculture (interests represented by statesmen, economists, bankers, grain dealers, transportation agents and others); and thirdly, for reporting to the Institute of Agriculture at Rome (to which Canada is an adhering country) in return for reports on the production of other countries and of world totals, which influence prices and consequently affect the interests of Canada. The crop-reporting season begins with the month of April with reports on the winter-killing and condition of fall wheat and of hay and clover. Thereafter, monthly reports are collected at the end of each month on the condition of field crops, whilst in June the reports of crop correspondents are used for the preliminary estimate of the areas sown. Subsequently, reports are collected on average yields per acre, local values, stocks on hand, etc. An important part of the work of the crop correspondents of the Government is the return of monthly reports on the condition of field crops during growth. These reports give a general idea of the influence of the season upon the crops and the prospects of the yield at harvest time. They are made in the form of general remarks, and are also expressed numerically by a method which permits of easy comparison with previous months or years. The results of the compilation of the reports received from correspondents are published as soon as ready, and are also cabled to the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. In October, for root and fodder crops, in December, for grain crops, and in January, for land, farm live stock, wool and farm help, correspondents are requested to report on local farm values. Their reports are compiled into provincial and Dominion averages which are not only of interest and value in themselves, especially for comparative purposes, but also enable the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to calculate and publish total values of field crops and of live stock, which are indispensable to agricultural, banking and commercial interests. In view of the large volume now attained by the agricultural production of Canada, the leading position Canada occupies in respect of the world's market for wheat and the speculative nature of some of the crops reported on, the dates and exact times for the issue of the crop reports are fixed definitely in advance, while all reports are prepared under strict regulations to ensure secrecy during compilation. For the provinces of Saskatchewan and British Columbia, arrangements were made in 1924 under which the work of crop-reporting in these two provinces is jointly undertaken by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the Provincial Departments of Agriculture.