

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. The scope of these statistics has been extended from time to time and those of the census of 1921 omit few important phases of agriculture with which a census could deal successfully. In all the later censuses the statistics of number, acreage and condition of farms, the value of farm property, the acreage sown, the yield of crops, the value of that yield, the number of fruit trees and the production and value of fruit, the number and value of live stock, etc., have been collected on a basis which allows comparison between the different censuses. Among the extensions in the scope of the census of 1921 may be mentioned such matters as the details of birthplace, age, length of residence in Canada and experience of farm operators, the chief items of farm expenditure, an attempt for the first time to obtain the quantities of vegetables grown for sale, a classification of live stock according to age, etc., the number and value of young animals raised on farms, and an enumeration of farm facilities, including tractors, automobiles, telephones and gas and electric lighting. As a result of these extensions, comparisons with future censuses will be on a much more detailed basis than in the past, and the trend of agricultural development will be seen with greater accuracy. The statistics of agriculture collected in the census of 1921 are published in full detail in Volume V of the census series, while a few of the most significant features showing the growth of the agricultural industry from 1871 to the present will be found on pp. xxvixxxvii of the introduction to this volume, in the "Statistical Summary of the Progress of Canada" It may be noted that although the next general census of agriculture will not take place until 1931, a census for the three Prairie Provinces was taken in 1926 in connection with the census of population of that year. Censuses of these three provinces were also taken in 1906 and 1916.

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. A description of the crop-reporting service will be found in the Canada Year Book, 1925, p. 205, while the programme of reports for 1927-28 is given in the Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, Jan. 1927, p. 46.

Annual Statistics.—Linked with the monthly crop-reporting service, but independent of it, are the plans for the collection of annual statistics of the areas under field crops and also of the numbers of farm live stock. These have been in force since 1918, and are carried out by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the provincial Governments. The statistics are secured by a simple schedule calling for a statement of the areas sown to field crops and of the numbers