

17.—Summary Statistics of the Numbers of Live Stock and Poultry in the Dominion of Canada, 1871-1921.

Items.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.*
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Horses.....	836,743	1,050,358	1,470,572	1,577,493	2,598,958	3,624,262
Cattle.....	2,624,290	3,514,989	4,120,586	5,576,451	6,526,083	8,519,484
Sheep.....	3,155,508	3,048,678	2,563,781	2,510,239	2,174,200	3,203,966
Swine.....	1,366,083	1,207,619	1,738,850	2,353,828	3,634,778	3,404,730
All poultry.....	—	—	14,105,102 [†]	17,922,658	31,793,261	50,325,248
Hens and chickens.....	—	—	12,696,701	16,651,337	29,773,457	45,021,647
Turkeys.....	—	—	458,306	584,569	863,182	1,096,721
Ducks.....	—	—	320,169	290,755	527,098	603,152
Geese.....	—	—	537,932	395,997	629,524	663,728
Hives of bees.....	144,719	—	199,288	189,986	180,372	185,530

*Includes 91,994 unspecified. †Includes live stock elsewhere than on farms as follows:—horses 158,742, cattle 149,995, sheep 3,499, swine 80,438, poultry 6,978,051, hives 37,425.

In Table 18 are given the numbers of each description of farm live stock by provinces for the year 1926. Numbers and values in less detail are given in Table 19 for the years 1923-26.

Horses.—The estimated number of horses for 1926 shows an increase of 4,808 as compared with 1925. During the last few years the number of horses in Canada has remained fairly stationary, due to the increasing use of mechanical power, and also to the fact that since 1920 there has been little agricultural expansion. The upward trend of prices since 1923 may indicate that horses are coming back into favour or at least that supply is adjusting itself to demand.

Cattle.—The estimated total number of cattle for Canada has declined in 1926 as compared with 1925 by 147,148 head. As compared with 1921, however, there is an increase of more than 600,000 head. It is interesting to note that the estimated number of milch cows has increased nearly 300,000 since 1923, and in 1926 was higher than in any previous year. It is probable that the increase from 1921 to 1926 is accounted for by dairy cattle and that the beef cattle have shown little or no increase, owing to the depression in the beef trade.

Sheep.—The estimated number of sheep in Canada has increased by 280,000 head between 1925 and 1926, the increase being fairly general throughout the provinces, with the exception of Prince Edward Island. From 1921 to 1924 there was a decrease of over 500,000 or about 16 p.c. in the number of sheep in Canada. However, from 1921 to 1926 there has been a gradual increase from \$6 to \$10 in the average value per head, and with better prices for products and improved methods, sheep-raising has again become profitable, with the result that an increase in their numbers may be expected.

Swine.—There has been a slight increase in the estimated number of swine in 1926 as compared with 1925, although the total is still lower than in 1924. However, the numbers in 1924 constituted a record for Canada and in spite of the very considerable decline they still remain higher than for any year prior to 1924. The estimated increase from \$12 to \$16 in value per head results in higher values in 1925 and 1926, as compared with 1924, in spite of the decreased number.

Poultry.—Poultry for the year 1926 are estimated to have increased by 1,500,000 as compared with 1925, and by 6,000,000 or 15 p.c. since 1921. Increased consumption of eggs, a ready market for table poultry and improved methods in poultry-keeping account for the prosperous condition of the industry. The expansion since 1921 has been fairly general throughout the provinces, though least rapid in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.