

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. xxvi-xxvii 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, the results being published for each of these provinces separately as Part II of the respective Census reports.<sup>1</sup> 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 1930-31 is given in the *Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics*, January, 1930, p. 44.

**Annual Statistics.**—In addition to the crop-reporting service, annual statistics of the areas under field crops and of the numbers of farm live stock are collected. These arrangements 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 of farm animals alive on June 15. These statements are at present received from about one-fifth of the farmers of Canada outside Quebec, and they form the basis of the totals for the whole of Canada, the totals being calculated according to the proportion which exists between the number of returns and the total number of farmers. The results for wheat, oats, barley, rye and flax in the three Prairie Provinces are ready for publication in August, while the results for the remaining crops and for the numbers of farm live stock are published later in the fall. The areas, thus determined, when multiplied by the average yields per acre as reported by crop correspondents, give the total estimated production for each crop.

In 1929, in six of the provinces, the schedules were distributed and collected through the agency of the rural schools, under plans which have been found effective in securing a larger sample of the farms of the country than could be obtained in any other way. In British Columbia the schedules were sent direct to the farmer through the mail. For Ontario and Quebec, returns were collected through the rural post offices.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For a comparison of some of the agricultural statistics of the census of 1926 with previous census figures, see pp. 271-273 of the 1929 Year Book.

<sup>2</sup> For further details respecting the crop-reporting service and the collection of annual statistics, see "Handbook for the use of Crop Correspondents, with Selection of Annual Agricultural Statistics, 1908-23", published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in 1927.