

APPENDIX III.

Statistics of Agriculture.¹

Census Statistics.—At each of the seven 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 1931 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 were 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. The schedules for 1931 have been designed to secure more complete information on farm workers and farm population; the degree to which mechanization of farms is proceeding; and the proportion of crops sold or to be sold. 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, which are at present the latest published except as regards the Prairie Provinces, are given 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 Year Book, in the "Statistical Summary of the Progress of Canada". A census of 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.² Censuses of these three provinces were also taken in 1906 and 1916.

The results of the census of 1931 are now appearing in preliminary and mimeographed form. In the following pages, where 1931 figures are quoted, the census has been relied on as far as the data are available.

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

¹Revised under the direction of Dr. T. W. Grindley, Chief of the Agricultural Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This Branch is concerned with both primary and secondary statistics of agriculture, with the statistics of the production and distribution of agricultural commodities. The primary statistics relate mainly to the reporting of crop conditions, crop and live-stock estimates, values of farm lands, wages of farm labour, and monthly and annual prices received by farmers for their products. The secondary statistics relate to the marketing of grain and live stock and reports on the milling and sugar industries and cold-storage holdings. A list of the publications of this Branch is given in Chapter XXIX, Section I, under "Production".

²For 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.