

The general index number fell from 1924 to 1928, especially from 1926 to 1928, recovered strongly in 1929 but declined rapidly to reach the record low of 43.1 for the 1932 crops. All the crops contributed to this sharp decline, although the grain crops dependent upon overseas markets suffered the most. The forage crops and sugar beets, which are used within the country, held up well in price, but climatic conditions did not favour high yields, so the values were lower.

During the past two years there has been a considerable improvement in the prices of these field crops. Grain prices began to rise in May, 1934, which benefited the late marketings of the 1933 crops and prices have held steadily higher during the marketing period of the 1934 crop to date. Fodder and hay prices have risen materially because of the short crops and good demand. In fact, only potatoes, turnips and sugar beets have lagged in the general advance. The general index rose from 43.1 in 1932 to 55.7 in 1933 and 67.0 in 1934.

Subsection 10.—Agricultural Statistics of the Census.

A selection of the more important agricultural statistics of the Census of 1921 was published at pp. 269-271 of the 1929 edition of the Year Book. Further, certain agricultural statistics of the Prairie Provinces collected at their Quinquennial Census of 1926 were published at pp. 271-273 of the same volume. The complete agricultural statistics of the Census of 1921 are published in Volume V of the publications of the census of that year, while the detailed agricultural statistics of the Census of the Prairie Provinces of 1926 will be found in the reports of the census of that year, issued separately for the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The agricultural statistics of the Census of 1931 are to be published as Volume VIII, Census of 1931.

A summary of the more important miscellaneous agricultural statistics compiled from this latest census follow in this subsection. These deal with: farm tenure, values, indebtedness and expenditures (Table 43); farm population and farm workers (Table 44); and farm machinery and facilities (Table 45).

Farm Tenure, Values, Indebtedness and Expenditures.—Table 43, pp. 296-297, gives final results of the Census of Agriculture taken as of June 1, 1931, regarding tenure of occupied farms and of farm areas, farm values, mortgage indebtedness and expenditures. The outstanding feature of the table is the decrease shown in the number of owned farms and the large increases in the other two classes "partly-owned, partly-rented" and "occupied by tenants" as compared with the Census of 1921. The percentage of all farms fully owned, for the whole of Canada, has decreased from 86.52 p.c. in 1921 to 80.05 p.c. in 1931. The large acreage in the "partly-owned, partly-rented" type in the western provinces is due to the fact that most ranches are composed of small acreages actually owned and additional large acreages of pasture leased from the governments.

Farm values, when compared with 1921, show that for Canada as a whole they have decreased by 20.33 p.c.; most of this decrease has been suffered by land and live stock, the former accounting for 74.9 p.c. of the total decrease and the latter 21.8 p.c. Generally speaking the eastern provinces show a smaller decline in values than the Prairie Provinces.