

**Farm Machinery and Facilities, 1931.**—The data of Table 45 record an attempt to determine changes in the general economic condition of agriculture and of the farming population in Canada, represented by mechanical equipment for the farm, conveniences for the household, and communication with the main centres of population. In 1931 information was collected upon a number of items for the first time.

With regard to farm equipment, naturally the Prairie Provinces with their tendency to specialize in grain crops show a greater concentration than other provinces of grain-harvesting machinery such as binders, headers and combines. In Ontario, on the other hand, there were 18.5 silos per 100 farms, 7.8 in British Columbia and 4.5 in Quebec, while the highest percentage in any other province was 0.8 in Manitoba. In 1931, for the whole of Canada, there were 50.7 automobiles or motor trucks per 100 farms as compared to 22.1 in 1921. The proportion was highest in Ontario with 73 vehicles per 100 farms, next in Saskatchewan and British Columbia with 55.7 each, and lowest in Quebec with 23.6. The number of tractors reported increased from 47,455 in 1921 to 105,360 in 1931. The number of tractors per 100 farms in 1931 was 31.7 in Saskatchewan, 26.5 in Manitoba and 24.6 in Alberta, while Ontario, which was the highest of the other provinces, had only 9.8 per 100 farms.

In the Census of 1931, 233,962 farms reported telephones as compared with 231,725 in 1921, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta showing decreases, while all the other provinces showed increases. In 1931, 73,351 farms, or 10 p.c., reported gas or electric light as compared with 26,842, or 4.2 p.c., in 1921. In British Columbia 24.5 p.c. of the farms had this convenience, 16.8 p.c. in Ontario, 14.0 p.c. in Quebec, 9.5 p.c. in Nova Scotia and only 2.8 p.c. to 3.6 p.c. in the Prairie Provinces. Water facilities were reported for the first time in 1931. In Quebec 31.9 p.c. of the farms had water piped in the kitchen, 31.2 p.c. in British Columbia, 11.2 p.c. in New Brunswick, 10.4 p.c. in Ontario, 10.2 p.c. in Nova Scotia, and only from 1.4 p.c. to 2.1 p.c. in the Prairie Provinces. Comparatively few farms, less than 5 p.c. in Canada, had water piped in bathrooms, the percentage varying from 20 p.c. in British Columbia and 8.2 p.c. in Quebec down to only 1.2 p.c. in Saskatchewan. On the whole there appears to be plenty of room yet for improvement in the provision of farm facilities and household conveniences in Canadian rural life.

No information is available regarding the types of road on which farms were located in 1921, but undoubtedly there was great improvement in this respect between then and 1931. (See Chapter XVIII, Part V, of this volume.) In 1931 the percentage of all farms located on unimproved dirt roads for each of the provinces was: Canada 22.0 p.c.; Prince Edward Island 26.6 p.c.; Nova Scotia 21.4 p.c.; New Brunswick 13.3 p.c.; Quebec 22.2 p.c.; Ontario 9.8 p.c.; Manitoba 30.4 p.c.; Saskatchewan 32.0 p.c.; Alberta 31.8 p.c.; and British Columbia 14.3 p.c.

Questions were asked in the Census of 1931 relating to the distance farms were located from a market town and a railway station. The results regarding the distance from a market town were not very dependable, as there was room for a difference in interpretation concerning what constituted a market town. In the case of distance from a railway station only 6.6 p.c. of all farms in the Dominion reported this as 15 miles or more. By provinces, the farms so reporting were: 0.9 p.c. in Prince Edward Island; 14.6 p.c. in Nova Scotia; 5.3 p.c. in New Brunswick; 8.3 p.c. in Quebec; 2.6 p.c. in Ontario; 3.0 p.c. in Manitoba; 5.4 p.c. in Saskatchewan; 12.8 p.c. in Alberta; and 11.4 p.c. in British Columbia.