

To illustrate the development which has taken place in agriculture from 1881 to 1931, it is sufficient to say that the number of occupied farms has increased by 57 p.c., while the acreage of occupied farm land has increased by about 260 p.c., and the improved acreage by over 290 p.c. The expansion in farm areas was due principally to the opening up of the Prairie Provinces. Improved methods of agriculture and modern machinery have also contributed greatly to increase agricultural production. From 1881 to 1931, the production of wheat has increased 1,044 p.c.; of barley nearly 500 p.c.; and of oats over 320 p.c.. Animal products, fruits and vegetables have also shown great advances. During the same period, the number of persons employed in agriculture increased only about 70 p.c., while the average farm increased in size from 98 acres in 1881 to 224 acres in 1931.

The detailed historical census statistics on page 266 show clearly the effect of the opening up of the Prairie Provinces on the geographical distribution of agricultural production in Canada. The climate of the Prairie Provinces is more suitable for the growing of cereal crops than for any other type of farming and the large farms permit of a more economical use of modern farm equipment than do the eastern farms. The eastern provinces, on the other hand, with a wider range of soil and climatic conditions, with smaller farms and nearness to urban centres, make dairy farming and specialized crops more profitable.

In 1881, the eastern provinces with 96.0 p.c. of the population had 93.1 p.c. of the occupied land, 97.8 p.c. of the improved land and 97.7 p.c. of the total acreage under crops, while in 1931 the percentages were as follows: population, 70.5; area of occupied farms, 30.5; improved area, 30.4; and area under field crops, 30.1.

In 1880, 95.9 p.c. of the wheat, 97.8 p.c. of the barley and 97.8 p.c. of the oats produced in Canada were grown east of the province of Manitoba, while in 1930 the percentages of these crops grown in Eastern Canada are 4.0, 16.3 and 40.6 p.c., respectively. These crops have been replaced on eastern farms by crops grown to be consumed on the farm for the production of milk and other animal products and by specialized crops such as potatoes, roots, tobacco, vegetables, fruits, etc.

But, while the production of cereal crops forms the main type of farming of the Prairie Provinces, the production of animal products, dairy, meat animals, etc., has become a very important factor in the agriculture of this section of Canada. In 1881, 98 p.c. of the horses, 95.5 p.c. of the cattle, 97.8 p.c. of the milch cows, 98.9 p.c. of the sheep and 96.9 p.c. of the swine were in Eastern Canada, while in 1931 the percentages were: horses, 32.9 p.c.; cattle, 59.6 p.c.; cows in milk or in calf, 63.0 p.c.; sheep, 60.5 p.c. and swine 48.3 p.c.

In British Columbia the type of agriculture followed is somewhat similar to that of Ontario. The mild climate in some sections has encouraged the development of commercial fruit-growing, while the abundant rainfall of the lower Fraser valley and coastal districts favours dairying, which is increasing in importance.

Subsection 11.—Miscellaneous Agricultural Statistics.

Agricultural Irrigation.—*Alberta.*—*The surface waters in Alberta are vested in the Crown and are administered by the Water Resources Office under the Water Resources Act. All matters affecting the control of water supply generally, as well as the inspection and authorization of works for the use of water for domestic, municipal, industrial, irrigation and other purposes and the granting of licences

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