

Subsection 9.—Agricultural Statistics of the Census.*

A summary of the more important agricultural statistics compiled from the Census of 1931 was published at pages 295-301 of the 1934-35 edition of the Year Book. The review included statistics of tenure of farms; farm values; mortgage indebtedness; farm expenditures; farm population; farm workers; and cost of labour, farm machinery, and facilities. In Table 39, the statistics of agriculture made available by the Quinquennial Census of the Prairie Provinces, 1936, are linked up with those of earlier censuses so as to present a picture of the growth of agriculture between 1911 and 1936.

Growth of Agriculture in the Prairie Provinces, 1911-36.—Table 39 shows the development which has taken place in the agriculture of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta during the twenty-five year period from 1911 to 1936. During this period the population of the three provinces increased as follows: Manitoba 249,822 or 54.1 p.c., Saskatchewan 438,461 or 89.0 p.c., and Alberta 398,487 or 106.5 p.c., making a total increase of 1,086,770 or 81.8 p.c. for the three provinces. It is of interest to note that during the period the urban and rural populations of the three provinces have increased at approximately the same rates. In 1911 the urban population formed 35.3 p.c. of the total while in 1936 the percentage was 36.3. The rural populations in 1911 formed 56.6 p.c., 73.3 p.c., and 63.2 p.c., respectively, of the populations of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and in 1936 the percentages were 56.3, 69.9 and 62.9, respectively.

Farm Holdings.—On June 1, 1936, the number of occupied farms in the Prairie Provinces was 300,523, an increase of 12,444 over 1931, of 44,866 over 1921, and of 101,320 over 1911. While total population increased 81.8 p.c., the number of occupied farms increased only 50.9 p.c., but, as Table 39 shows, the area of occupied farms increased by 55,469,816 acres or 96.2 p.c. Twenty-five years ago 83.4 p.c. of the farmers of Manitoba, 90.6 p.c. of the farmers of Saskatchewan and 92.0 p.c. of those of Alberta owned the farms which they operated, whereas in 1936 the percentages were as follows: Manitoba 67.2 p.c., Saskatchewan 60.3 p.c., and Alberta 66.9 p.c. While the number of occupied farms increased by over 101,320, the number of farms occupied by owners increased by only 13,630. The number of rented farms, on the other hand, increased by 162.6 p.c. in Manitoba, 730.3 p.c. in Saskatchewan and 598.3 p.c. in Alberta, and the increases in the number of partly owned and partly rented farms were 150.9 p.c., 397.1 p.c., and 550.5 p.c.

Farm Areas.—The area of occupied farms increased in the three provinces from 57.5 million acres in 1911 to slightly over 113 million acres in 1936. To this increase, Manitoba contributed 3,484,623 acres, Saskatchewan 28,804,592 acres and Alberta 23,080,601 acres. The area occupied by full owners is not available for 1911, but the table shows that between 1921 and 1936 it decreased by 5,861,233 acres. The area occupied by tenants, on the other hand, increased by 10,799,433 acres and that occupied by part owners and part tenants by 20,614,180 acres. In 1921 approximately 69 p.c. of the occupied land was operated by full owners, while in 1936 the percentage was down to approximately 48.

Farm Values.—The farm property, *i.e.*, land, buildings, implements and machinery, and live stock, in the three provinces was valued, on June 1, 1936, at \$1,980,115,861 as compared with \$2,530,236,964 in 1931, \$2,609,416,646 in 1926, \$3,255,894,259 in 1921, and \$1,788,692,159 in 1911. The figure for 1936 is not

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