

strictly comparable with the others as it does not include the value of automobiles owned by farmers. The above figures show a fairly large increase between 1911 and 1936 but an important decrease if the comparison is made between 1921 and 1936. Land, buildings, implements, and live stock all contributed to the decrease in the value of property but the decrease in the value of land is by far the most important factor. The decreases in values followed the same trend in each of the three provinces.

*Condition of Farm Land.*—During the twenty-five years under review, the area of improved land in the three provinces increased from 22,969,774 acres to 60,858,887 acres or 165 p.c. It will be remembered that during the period the area of occupied land increased by 96.2 p.c., the number of farms by 50.9 p.c. and the population by 81.8 p.c. The reason for this large increase in the area of improved land is due to mechanization which made it possible for one man to cultivate much greater areas. The area under field crops increased from 17.5 million acres in 1911 to 40 million acres in 1936. It is also of interest to note the large increase in the area under improved pasture and under summer fallow, the first due to the development of the dairy industry and the latter to the benefits derived from such a practice to conserve moisture.

Under unimproved land, the area under woodland on farms has increased in importance due to the opening of the northern sections which are covered with timber.

*Live Stock.*—While the number of horses on farms in 1936 is higher than it was in 1911, it reached its maximum in the three provinces between 1921 and 1926 and has been decreasing since. The reason for this decrease is due to the advance in mechanization of farm machinery and the consequent greater use of motor trucks, tractors, combines, etc.

The number of cattle on farms has increased steadily from census to census. There were, at June 1, 1936, 3,831,641 cattle on farms in the three provinces—the largest number ever shown in any census. The development of the dairy industry in the west is largely responsible for this increase.

The number of sheep in the three provinces has increased from 285,130 in 1911 to 1,317,418 in 1936. The number of swine increased steadily between 1911 and 1931 but between 1931 and 1936 it decreased from 2,414,196 to 1,806,913. The number of poultry on farms also increased steadily from census to census until 1931 but shows a decrease of 5,560,993 between 1931 and 1936.

*Principal Crops.*—Several features are of interest when one considers the changes which have taken place in the production of field crops in the western provinces. Wheat has remained the most important crop. Of all the cereal crops, however, barley has shown the largest increase, while oats has remained almost stationary for the latest fifteen years. The increasing importance of mixed grains, cultivated hay, fodder crops and improved pasture is, of course, occasioned by the development of the live-stock industry.

To sum up these few remarks; it is clear that a very radical change has taken place in farming practices in the western provinces during the last twenty-five years. While cereal crops have remained the most important factor of western agriculture, a large development of the live-stock industry, and of the dairy industry in particular, is illustrated by the large increase in live-stock numbers and by the increasing importance of cultivated hay, fodder crops, mixed grains, and improved pasture.