

Fibre Flax.—Table 33 shows that under the stimulus of the wartime demand for fibre-producing crops, the area devoted to this crop increased from 10,536 acres in 1939 to 47,070 acres in 1942. Through action of the Agricultural Supplies Board, the entire industry is on a mechanized basis, and mill-processing machinery as well as mechanical pullers and lifters for field work are now manufactured in Canada. Canadian flax fibre and tow find a ready market in the United Kingdom and the United States.

The prospect of high returns encouraged many inexperienced growers to seed flax on poor land in 1942. With the low yields in 1942 and 1943 enthusiasm waned, growers preferring to plant crops with more certain yields and higher cash returns. In 1944 the season was late and it was not until the end of June that much of the crop was planted. While the area in 1944 was greater than in 1943, yields on the late-sown acreage were disappointing. Spring weather in 1945 was also backward but after the experience of 1944 there was little late seeding, the acreage, as a result, was down considerably. A further sharp reduction was shown in 1946.

33.—Acreages, Yields and Values of Flaxseed, Fibre and Tow, 1938-46

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1915-30 will be found at p. 284 of the 1934-35 Year Book, and for 1931-37 at p. 224 of the 1942 edition.

Year	Area	Production			Values			
		Seed	Fibre	Green Tow	Seed	Fibre	Green Tow	Total
		bu.	lb.	tons	\$	\$	\$	\$
1938.....	10,225	77,992	2,662,000	2,246	189,750	241,850	87,000	518,600
1939.....	10,536	63,216	4,079,600	2,230	245,700	914,100	89,200	1,249,000
1940.....	20,275	81,300	5,977,500 ¹	1,027	345,925	1,315,050 ¹	65,600	1,726,575
1941.....	44,467	137,930	11,000,000 ¹	755	482,750	2,597,500 ¹	37,750	3,118,000
1942.....	47,070	195,915	9,312,000	875	439,827	2,528,228	33,645	3,001,700
1943.....	35,297	157,957	8,742,000 ²	815	631,828	1,970,400	48,900	2,651,128
1944.....	39,102	122,487	5,768,000	1,015	502,948	1,555,600	50,800	2,109,348
1945.....	21,557	68,747	6,000,000	650	343,700	1,775,000	42,300	2,161,000
1946 ³	15,762	81,000	3,400,000	Nil	405,000	821,000	—	1,226,000

¹ Including turbine tow.

² Includes estimated production from 8,040 acres carried over from previous processing year.

³ Subject to revision.

Tobacco.—Production of tobacco in 1945 amounted to 92,345,000 lb., a 12 p.c. decline from the near record crop of 105,415,500 lb. produced in 1944. The area planted in 1945 was 93,277 acres as compared with 88,495 acres in 1944, and the reduction in output was the result of a poor growing season and consequent lower yields per acre. The average price paid to farmers for leaf tobacco showed a substantial advance at an average of 33.2 cents per lb. compared with 29.4 cents per lb. during the previous season. All types, with the exception of pipe tobacco, brought higher average returns.

34.—Acreages, Production and Values of the Commercial Crop of Leaf Tobacco, 1938-45

NOTE.—Figures for representative years 1900-28 are given at p. 228 of the 1939 Year Book, and for the years 1929-37 at p. 225 of the 1940 edition.

Year	Planted Area	Average Yield per Acre	Total Production	Average Farm Price per Pound	Gross Farm Value
	acres	lb.	lb.	cts.	\$
1938.....	83,575	1,213	101,394,600	20.0	20,269,700
1939.....	92,300	1,167	107,703,400	18.1	19,443,800
1940.....	67,880	943	64,019,600	17.3	11,086,300
1941.....	70,560	1,335	94,182,500	20.5	19,337,500
1942.....	78,730	1,139	89,689,400	24.0	21,539,100
1943.....	71,140	971	69,103,900	28.4	19,646,200
1944.....	88,495	1,191	105,415,500	29.4	31,001,900
1945.....	93,277	990	92,345,000	33.2	30,629,000