42.—Average Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, by Provinces, 1935-46, and by Months, 1945 and 1946—concluded

Year and Month	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Total
1946—										
January	196·2	183·5	209·5	188·1	180·7	173·8	169·1	175·7	193·6	178·9
February	202·9	183·5	208·9	188·2	182·4	174·9	169·8	177·4	195·3	180·2
March	205·5	187·1	216·4	188·1	182·2	175·6	169·7	177·6	196·0	180·5
April	210·4	188·5	218·3	190·3	184·5	178·1	171·1	180·6	197·2	182·7
May	216·2	193·8	221·8	194·1	187·5	179·3	172·4	181·1	197·2	184·7
June	214·4	195·8	232·0	197·4	189·2	181·2	173·3	183·2	200·1	186·7
July	217·1	197·2	229·1	199·7	190·4	181·5	173·8	184·0	206·9	188·0
August	237·1	202·0	224·1	201·2	189·4	180·7	172·8	183·1	197·9	187·2
September	176·5	184·0	193·1	197·6	187·9	179·5	171·3	182·0	190·0	183·7
October	166·7	179·5	181·2	200·2	188·3	179·6	171·6	179·3	188·6	183·2
November	161·5	177·6	179·9	202·0	190·0	180·1	171·9	179·4	189·7	183·9
December	161·7	175·9	176·0	203·4	189·9	180·7	173·2	180·8	191·8	184·6
1946 Av.	**197·2**	**187·4**	**207·5**	**195·9**	**186·9**	**178·8**	**171·7**	**180·4**	**195·4**	**183·7**

Subsection 10.—Agricultural Statistics of the Census

Agricultural statistics from the Census of 1941, dealing with farm population, farm workers, and farm tenure, values and indebtedness are given at pp. 250-254 of the 1946 Year Book. Information regarding types of farm, farm machinery and farm revenues and expenditures appears at pp. 238-240 and 243-245 of the 1945 edition.

Subsection 11.—Agricultural Irrigation

Irrigation on the Canadian Prairies.*—The first phase of irrigation development on the Canadian prairies dates back sixty years or more when some of the early ranchers undertook to grow winter feed by diverting water from the smaller streams to irrigate native meadow lands.

By the early 1890's the possibilities of irrigation had been demonstrated and in 1894 the North-West Irrigation Act was passed by the Parliament of Canada. This Act embodied the best features of irrigation laws in other countries and provided the basis for sound irrigation development on the prairies. Following prolonged drought during the 1880's and 1890's, there was increased interest in irrigation and by 1895 some 112 individual projects had been constructed at an estimated cost of $100,000 to serve more than 79,000 acres of land.

The second phase of irrigation expansion in this region started with the construction of large-scale company projects. The first of these was put into operation in 1901 when water diverted from the St. Mary River near the International Boundary line was carried to Lethbridge through the works of the Alberta Railway and Irrigation Company.

Other large projects were built during this era including the Canadian Pacific Railway Company projects at Strathmore and Brooks and the Canada Land and Irrigation Company project at Vauxhall. The construction of these four projects cost some $28,000,000. The total area irrigated is 328,000 acres, though the works of these projects were originally designed to serve a much larger area.

The third phase of development took place mainly during the 1920's when a number of community projects were constructed by locally organized irrigation districts and financed by the issue of bonds guaranteed by the Alberta Government. The irrigation districts were formed under provincial statute passed in 1915 and the projects built during this period included the Taber, Lethbridge Northern,

* Prepared by W. J. Jacobson, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Office, Regina, Sask., under the direction of E. S. Archibald, Director, Central Experimental Farm, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.