

operators under 25 years of age, in the same period, decreased by 6.1 p.c. and between the ages of 30-39 from 81,104 to 57,748 or by 28.8 p.c. Operators reporting their age as 40-59 increased by 11.1 p.c.

Commencing shortly after the First World War, continuing through the boom of the 1920's and the depression years of the 1930's on into the Second World War, many other interesting changes took place in the agricultural picture of these three provinces. Between 1921 and 1946, the average size of occupied farms increased from 344 acres to 436 acres and the total area of farms from 87,931,804 acres to 117,538,678 acres, but whereas, about 80.8 p.c. of all farm land was owner-operated in 1921 only 65.6 p.c. was owner-operated in 1946. The area under field crops increased during this period from 32,203,306 acres to 41,695,713 acres and the area in summer fallow from 11,274,650 to 20,398,985 acres in the same period. (In 1921, idle land was included with summer fallow.)

Farm indebtedness, as covered by mortgages and agreements of sale increased from \$342,512,700 in 1931 to \$347,843,700 by 1936 but had decreased to \$159,673,500 by 1946. The number of farms reporting this debt was 109,668 in 1931 but decreased from 120,318 in 1936 to 66,846 by 1946.

Farm Population.—The definition of farm population includes all persons living on farms in both rural and urban areas. By provinces, the decreases in total farm population over the past ten years have been 13.9 p.c. in Manitoba, 24.4 p.c. in Saskatchewan and 16.1 p.c. in Alberta. During 1941-46, the population movement away from farms continued and there were 153,532 fewer persons on farms in 1946 than in 1941 compared with a decrease of 87,211 between 1936 and 1941.

Tenure and Area of Farm Holdings Analysed by Provinces.—While the total number of occupied farms in the Prairie Provinces showed a decrease during 1936-46, there was, actually, a slight increase in the number of farms in Manitoba between 1936 and 1941. Despite this over-all decrease, the total number of occupied farms was 5.5 p.c. greater in 1946 than in 1921, with Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta showing increases of 2.2 p.c., 5.2 p.c. and 7.9 p.c., respectively.

There has been a definite change in the proportion of owner-operated farms to the number of all farms, during the past 25 years. A reduction from 78.5 p.c. in 1921 to 61.9 p.c. in 1946 is recorded. In 1946, 16.4 p.c. of all farms were operated by tenants as compared with 10.6 p.c. in 1921. The percentage of farms where the operator owns part of the land and rents additional land, has also increased during the same period from 10.0 to 21.3. The largest percentage increase in tenant and part-owner part-tenant operator farms occurred in Saskatchewan.

Although the total area of occupied farm land was 33.7 p.c. greater in 1946 than in 1921, there was a decrease of 2.2 p.c. in farm area between 1941 and 1946. Decreases were recorded in each of the three provinces although they are more