

pronounced in Alberta. The average size of farm by province shows increases of 11.5 p.c. in Manitoba, 28.3 p.c. in Saskatchewan and 31.1 p.c. in Alberta for the 25-year period (Saskatchewan assumed the lead in size of farm in 1946). This general increase for the three provinces, however, was accompanied by a decrease in the proportion of farm land operated by the owner. Out of a total 77,064,417 acres of land farmed by owner-operators in 1946,\* 21,196,683 acres or 27.5 p.c. was owned and occupied by operators who also farmed rented land as compared to 8,132,428 acres or 11.4 p.c. in 1921.\*

The average area of all owner-operated farms in 1921 was 302.3 acres, whereas in 1946 the comparable figure was 320.0 acres. The design and availability of farm machinery to the needs of the small operator has stimulated the trend.

There has also been an increase in the proportion of farms in each acreage class shown in the table, with the exception of the class 101 to 200 acres. Farms of 480 acres and over accounted for 32.8 p.c. of total farms in 1946 as compared with 27.4 p.c. in 1931. The number of farms of 640 acres and over has steadily increased in each province since 1931, with Saskatchewan showing the greatest gain. The proportion of farms 101 to 200 acres, which group includes the quarter section farm, decreased from 37.2 p.c. in 1921 to 27.6 p.c. for 1946.

**Farm Mechanization.**—Farm mechanization has made tremendous advances during the period of the Second World War but very few farmers were able to satisfy their requirements in this respect and had to manage as best they could with their pre-war equipment, however, the figures of Table 43 (item 43) show that, for each of the provinces despite the difficulties of the War, the value of implements and machinery increased substantially between 1941 and 1946. By 1946, the supply situation had, in fact, not improved sufficiently to reflect the actual demands of farmers but agriculture enjoys a high priority rating for steel and the trend, as now shown by the Censuses of 1921 to 1946, will, there is every reason to believe, be emphasized as future figures are published.

The increase in average size of farms and in the area under cultivation has been greatly facilitated by the progress of farm mechanization. Table 44 shows an increase of 112,676 (292.8 p.c.) tractors on farms in 1946 over 1921, i.e., while there were only 15 tractors per 100 farms in 1921, there were 56 tractors per 100 farms in 1946. Automobiles and motor trucks on farms increased from 73,359 in 1921 to 184,077 in 1946. Farms in possession of a car or motor-truck increased by 159.0 p.c. in 1946, compared with 1921. While there were 20.9 p.c. fewer grain binders, and 13.9 p.c. fewer threshing machines on farms in 1946 than in 1931, the number of grain combines increased 336.9 p.c. during the 15 years: in 1946 there were 144 combines to every 1,000 farms.

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\* Includes area operated by managers.