

4.—Loans made under the Farm Improvement Loans Act, classified by Provinces, 1945-51

Province	1950		1951		Totals Since Inception in 1945	
	Loans	Amount	Loans	Amount	Loans	Amount
	No.	\$	No.	\$	No.	\$
Newfoundland.....	2	967	3	2,412	5	3,379
Prince Edward Island.....	706	605,518	1,271	1,144,295	2,306	2,023,570
Nova Scotia.....	340	274,940	695	619,720	1,457	1,224,781
New Brunswick.....	348	358,756	655	696,751	1,380	1,430,728
Quebec.....	3,003	3,097,204	5,405	6,125,622	10,984	11,517,025
Ontario.....	7,914	8,043,839	11,323	12,178,465	29,909	30,481,580
Manitoba.....	7,712	8,263,982	10,120	11,370,755	35,664	35,862,757
Saskatchewan.....	20,090	22,557,445	23,272	27,876,923	82,583	87,876,144
Alberta.....	17,161	18,508,717	20,309	23,240,816	77,462	78,219,834
British Columbia.....	1,693	1,709,995	2,010	2,070,468	6,875	6,741,132
Totals.....	58,969	63,421,363	75,063	85,326,227	248,625	255,380,930

Prairie Grain Producers' Interim Financing Act, 1951.—This Act, which came into force Jan. 15, 1952, provides short-term credit to grain producers in the Prairie Provinces who, because of congested delivery points or inability to complete harvesting of their grain, are in need of credit until their grain can be delivered. Individual advances can be made to a maximum of \$1,000.

Subsection 2.—Agricultural Research and Experimentation

The Department of Agriculture conducts, on a broad scale, scientific research and experimentation on the control of pests and diseases, the nutritional requirements of plants and animals, the breeding and testing of new varieties, the microbiology of soils and foods, investigations of crop production and cultural methods, and many other matters. This work is carried on mainly by the Science Service and the Experimental Farms Service. In addition to providing information on current production problems, the work is of paramount importance to the long-time well-being of agriculture.

Conservation of the soil is of basic importance to agriculture. Research in that field takes the form of soil surveys and study of methods for protecting and conserving soil resources and is carried on in collaboration with the provincial governments. Studies include the chemistry of the soil, cover crops, value of manure and fertilizers, cultural methods, use of tillage machinery and development of large land-reclamation projects.

The Department has for many years conducted investigations into the control of insects and diseases of forest trees. The limited silvicultural work carried on has been done with the aim of maintaining a supply of trees suitable for planting on the prairies as shelter belts against the wind and to prevent soil and snow drifting. Basically, this is also a soil-conservation measure.

As might be expected, much of the research and experimental work carried on is concerned with crop plants for, after the soil itself, they are of chief importance. This work includes the breeding and testing of suitable varieties of crops to be grown under the varying climatic conditions throughout Canada. Their culture, their nutritional value and, in the case of food crops and their suitability for human consumption—even their appeal, or lack of appeal, to a somewhat discerning housewife—are continuously under study.