

Hog slaughtering, which reached a peak during the period of the wartime bacon contracts with the United Kingdom, varied through the years since then, but remain at more than 1,000,000 above the 1935-39 average of 3,400,000. In three of the postwar years they exceeded that average by 2,000,000. Slaughtering of cattle and calves showed a similar upward trend, increasing almost consistently through the years and in 1956 exceeding the 1935-39 average of 1,500,000 by just over 1,000,000. Total milk production varied in the postwar years between 15,300,000,000 lb. and 17,600,000,000 lb. annually.

Since the end of the War the number of farm workers has declined by an average of 30,000 annually and it is estimated that only about 15 p.c. of the gainfully employed in Canada are now on farms. Ability to reach the high level of production with a much reduced labour force resulted largely from the great increase in mechanical farm operations. About \$2,000,000,000, or one-fifth of farm capital, is now invested in machinery and equipment. This includes one tractor for every 242 acres of improved farm land. Electricity is available on 75 p.c. of Canada's farms and provides power for many kinds of labour-saving devices. Some indication of the growth in mechanization is shown by figures secured from eight of the Department of Agriculture's Illustration Station Farms in southeastern Saskatchewan; in 1940, 17 p.c. of total farm capital in that area was in machinery and by 1956 the proportion was 41 p.c.

Also of great importance in the advance of agricultural output has been the constant introduction of improved methods of farming based on the work of agricultural scientists. Long-term research of the plant breeders, for instance, has produced disease-resistant and newer crop varieties which have increased production materially through higher yields. Today special varieties of almost all agricultural crops have been developed to give best results under the varying climatic and soil conditions existing throughout Canada. Chemical destruction of weeds, almost in its infancy during the War years, today is common practice and vast areas of crops are treated with a variety of chemical preparations that effectively destroy or control weeds. The development of new and better insecticides and fungicides has kept pace with the chemical treatment of weeds and with a corresponding effect. Irrigation and more efficient production and harvesting methods have also played a part.

At the same time, in considering crop yields, nature must not be overlooked. Canada has recently had a cycle of excellent growing years; should this be replaced by a less favourable growing cycle, yields might well decline and over-all crop production be reduced.

The livestock industry has also undergone considerable change. Plans for the eradication of tuberculosis and brucellosis among cattle have received greater impetus. Record of performance testing and artificial insemination of cattle is contributing to better strains of livestock and poultry. Dairy research is having its effect, and studies relating to poultry and of new methods of preparing and packaging poultry products for market have given this industry something of a new look.

In these and many other ways research is contributing toward the increase in production. Research work on test plots and in laboratories is being applied in the everyday operations of Canadian farms and agriculture is becoming more and more a scientific operation.

The Domestic Market.—Canadians spend about one-quarter of their income on food. At present they consume in one form or another about 99 p.c. of all milk produced in the country, exports of pork products have become quite small in relation to domestic consumption, and in 1955 and 1956 Canada became a net importer of beef and poultry. It therefore seems clear that, particularly since 1950, consumption of all these products has shown a considerably sharper rise than the increase in population. In other words there has been a 'real' increase in per capita consumption.

A striking feature of postwar food consumption has been the increased use of high protein foods such as meat, poultry and eggs, and of the protective foods such as milk and processed dairy products. There has also been greater consumption of fruits and