

Section 4.—Statistics of Agriculture*

The collection, compilation and publication of statistics relating to agriculture is a responsibility of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Valuable information obtained through the Censuses of Canada and partial-coverage surveys may be obtained in reports issued by the Bureau. †

The Bureau also collects and publishes primary and secondary statistics of agriculture on an annual and monthly basis. The primary statistics relate mainly to the reporting of crop conditions, crop and livestock estimates, values of farm lands, wages of farm labour and prices received by farmers for their products. The secondary statistics relate to the marketing of grain and livestock, dairying, milling and sugar industries and cold storage holdings.

In the collection of annual and monthly statistics, the federal Department of Agriculture and the provincial Departments of Agriculture, as well as such agencies as the Board of Grain Commissioners and the Canadian Wheat Board, co-operate with the Bureau. Also, many thousands of farmers throughout Canada send in reports voluntarily.

The figures (except for 1956 Census data) contained in this Section do not include estimates for Newfoundland. Agriculture plays a relatively minor part in Newfoundland's economy, commercial production of most agricultural products being quite small.

A review of agricultural production and trade covering the first half of 1958 is given in Subsection 1; details for the year 1957 are presented in Subsections 2 to 9.

Subsection 1.—Review of Agricultural Production and Trade, 1958

There was a steady improvement in the Canadian economy during 1958 which was shared by the agricultural industry. Following two almost unprecedented boom years, there had been a falling-off in trade activity paralleling the recession in the United States and leading to considerable unemployment generally. However, despite this situation, 1958 found farmers still in need of dairy farm help; the number of workers with agricultural jobs dropped by some 34,000 to average 688,000 per month in the first seven months of the year. This figure represented an increase of females and a decrease of males.

Farm cash income at \$1,300,000,000 for the first six months of 1958 was 9 p.c. higher than for the same period of 1957, an increase shared by all provinces. Farm expenditures for machinery, commodities and services were higher but that increase was counterbalanced to some extent by a slight gain in wholesale prices for farm products.

Field Crops.—Canada's 1958 *wheat* crop amounted to 368,700,000 bu., only slightly less than the previous year's production but sharply below the 1956 crop of 573,000,000 bu. Total supplies of wheat in the crop year 1958-59 amounted to 980,200,000 bu. The *oat* crop at 401,000,000 bu. was 20,400,000 bu. larger than in the preceding year while production of *barley* at 244,800,000 bu. was also above the 1957 level of 216,000,000 bu. Total supplies of oats and barley amounted to 555,900,000 bu. and 362,900,000 bu., respectively.

Feed grain grown in 1958 dropped slightly to 21,700,000 tons but was 20 p.c. higher than the previous ten-year average. This coincided with a decline in hay production as a result of summer drought and an increase in livestock numbers, two factors that promised to make inroads into the feed grains supply. In view of the smaller exports of feed grains to the United States where there was a bumper crop, it was considered fortunate that the livestock increase was in grain-consuming rather than roughage-consuming animals. Estimated net supply per animal was about 1.01 tons, down 9 p.c. from the 1957-58 season.

The combined fall and spring *rye* crop was estimated at 8,000,000 bu. giving total supplies for the crop year 1958-59 of 18,100,000 bu., slightly below those of recent years. The United States limited imports of Canadian rye to 3,255,000 bu. a year, starting July 1, and, with world supplies as they are, it is unlikely that new major markets will develop in the near future.

* Revised in the Agriculture Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

† Copies obtainable from the Dominion Statistician or the Queen's Printer, Ottawa.