

indeed possible to follow the old method of harvesting and the number of farms using grain combines increased from 18,303 in 1941 to 130,384 in 1956. These larger machines cut down the amount of human labour needed and the time required to do many operations and made it possible to cultivate larger acreages of crops.

Farms with gasoline engines increased by about 20 p.c., and farms with motor trucks increased more than 250 p.c. from 1941 to 1956. At the same time electric power lines were being rapidly extended across the farm lands, particularly in more recent years—in the period 1951 to 1956 the number of farms with electricity increased from 319,383 to 422,604.

Such sources of power have contributed greatly to the reduction in the time required by producers of agricultural commodities to carry on many kinds of work related to their farming enterprises. Only those who have lived on farms can appreciate what the availability of electricity has meant to life on the farm, not only from the production standpoint but in comforts and living conveniences. The farm house now has all the amenities of the city home.

Capitalization and Production per Man.—The trend toward larger farms and the use of labour-saving machines has meant a higher capitalization per farm. Compared with twenty years ago the amount of land under cultivation per farm worker has increased 67 p.c., the livestock population per farm worker has increased 93 p.c. and the volume of power and machinery 213 p.c. Thus, the total of these three forms of capital per farm worker is now almost twice as high as it was twenty years ago. Fertilizers and lime constitute another item of greatly increased expenditure for the farmer. Such outlay was 75 p.c. higher in 1959 than in 1950.

The increase in productivity per man in recent years has been greater in agriculture than in any other Canadian industry, having risen 48 p.c. from 1946 to 1957. In manufacturing the increase was about 40 p.c., in transportation about 34 p.c., in mining about 31 p.c. and in trade only about 7 p.c.

Specialization.—Specialization is becoming more and more a feature of present-day agriculture. Although the farmers on the Canadian prairies have been practising specialization in their wheat economy for a half-century, there has been a growing tendency elsewhere for the individual farmer to give up mixed farming and to specialize in fewer enterprises. This development has in some instances been dictated by climate, soil and distance from markets, but in others it has been prompted by the necessity for reducing unit costs and by the desire to concentrate on scientific production in one field. With the added revenue from large-scale quality production, whether in such specialties as potatoes, poultry, fruits, vegetables, sugar beets or tobacco, the farmer hopes to be able to cover his higher operating costs and capital investment and emerge with a satisfactory net farm income.

There are many examples of the trend toward specialization of agricultural enterprises which have resulted in substantial increases in production. For instance, the number of apple trees on Canadian farms declined from 8,500,000 to 5,400,000 in the years from 1941 to 1956. The days when most farms in the eastern provinces had a few apple trees have passed and apple growing has, to a major extent, become an enterprise in specialized apple-growing areas. Higher yields of apples per tree has been one of the results—in Ontario, for example the production of apples per acre rose from 107.1 bu. in 1951 to 122.8 bu. in 1956.

The number of farms in Canada producing potatoes declined from 1951 to 1956 by nearly 64,000 to about 302,200. However, during the decade from 1948 to 1957, average yields per acre increased in British Columbia from 208 bu. to 275 bu., in Ontario from 133 to 185 bu., in New Brunswick from 237 to 330 bu., and in Prince Edward Island from 225 to 250 bu.

The number of farms in Canada keeping poultry of all ages (except turkeys, geese and ducks) declined from 427,317 in 1951 to 366,869 in 1956, but during that period cash income from poultry meat increased from about \$133,000,000 to \$165,000,000. Eggs