

CHAPTER IX.—AGRICULTURE

CONSPECTUS

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The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

CHANGES IN CANADIAN AGRICULTURE AS REFLECTED BY THE CENSUS OF 1961*

Canadian agriculture has experienced considerable technological change in recent years, particularly since the end of the Second World War. As in most other industries, the trend has been to increased mechanization and specialization. The effects of these renovations are reflected in the revenue derived from agricultural production, although it must be kept in mind that climatic conditions have always been an important determinant of farm output.

In general, agricultural production, as measured in value terms, increased fairly consistently for the two decades following the early 1930's, after which time there was a tapering off of the value of farm output. Agriculture's "gross domestic product at factor cost", which represents accrued net farm income plus payments to hired labour and an allowance for capital consumption, averaged \$389,000,000 a year for the 1930-34 period. The annual average rose to \$488,000,000 for the period 1935-39, \$966,000,000 for 1940-44 and \$1,444,000,000 for 1945-49 and reached a peak of \$2,010,000,000 for 1950-54. In the subsequent five-year period, the value of agricultural output declined to an annual average of \$1,737,000,000, followed by a slight increase to \$1,755,000,000 in the 1960-62 period.

Although total agricultural production in value terms has shown a large increase in the past three decades, its rate of increase appears to have been less than that of other industries. This slower relative increase is shown by the proportion represented by agriculture of the "gross domestic product at factor cost" for all industries. The proportion represented by the value of farm output averaged 15.9 p.c. for the 1926-29 period, declined

* Prepared by the Census of Agriculture Section, Census Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Summary statistics on which this material is based appear in Section 5 of this Chapter.