

Farm Land and Farm Labour.—The area of occupied farms in Canada in 1961 was 172,600,000 acres, representing 7.6 p.c. of the total land area of the country including the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Excluding the Yukon and Northwest Territories and Newfoundland, where the amount of arable land is minimal, the occupied farm land amounts to 13.8 p.c. of total land area. By comparison, the total occupied productive forest land amounts to about 194,000,000 acres, exclusive of farm woodlots.

Among the provinces, Prince Edward Island has the greatest proportion of its land area in farms—two thirds of the total—and Saskatchewan follows with 46 p.c. in farms. Conversely, farm land constitutes a very small proportion of the total land area in Newfoundland and amounts to less than 5 p.c. in both British Columbia and Quebec. The average size of the 481,000 farms in Canada in 1961 was 359 acres, about one fifth larger than the average size in 1956. As may be expected, the farms in the grain-growing prairie region were the largest, averaging over 600 acres, and those in the mixed farming region of Central Canada (Ontario and Quebec) were the smallest, averaging 151 acres.

More than 2,100,000 people were living on farms in 1961, representing about 12 p.c. of the total population and 38 p.c. of the rural population; in 1931, almost one third of Canada's population lived on farms. Today, the number of persons living on farms averages just over four per farm, ranging provincially from 3.3 persons in Saskatchewan to 6.3 in Newfoundland, 6.1 in Quebec and 5.4 in New Brunswick.

The farm labour force in 1961 averaged about 674,000 persons, 11 p.c. of the total employed labour force. By 1963, this average had declined to 641,000 persons or 10 p.c. of the total. On the other hand, although the total farm labour force is constantly declining, the numbers of hired farm workers have remained relatively stable, averaging 100,000 in 1961 compared with 101,000 in 1963. It is interesting to note that the greatest decline in the farm labour force since 1946 has been in the family help group; the number of family workers, other than farm operators, has decreased 61 p.c. as compared with a decrease of 41 p.c. in the number of farm operators. The decrease in hired labour has been 31 p.c. in the same comparison. However, agriculture still provides employment for more than three times as many workers as all other primary industries combined. As an industrial group, it ranks fourth in importance as an employer, after manufacturing, service (excluding government) and trade.

The decreased employment in agriculture reflects the very greatly increased efficiency of farm labour. In the 1935-39 period, 11 persons were supplied with foodstuffs and fibre by the production of one farm worker; by 1946 the ratio had risen to 13 persons and by 1963 to 33. Thus, output per farm worker, in terms of the number of persons supported, is now three times that of the prewar level. In fact, the main characteristic of Canada's postwar agricultural "revolution" has been the ever-decreasing number of farm workers required to supply foodstuffs to the ever-increasing number of consumers, a natural result of the increased use of mechanical power and such other aids to production as chemical fertilizers and weed and insect controls. In addition, improved breeding and feeding of livestock, improved crop varieties and better farm practices have greatly increased over-all efficiency in the use of agricultural resources since prewar. The average annual milk production per cow, now at 6,500 lb. or more, is up by over 60 p.c. The average rate of lay of all poultry flocks is up from 140 eggs per layer to almost 200. In 1941, 6 lb. of feed were needed to produce a pound of gain in poultry meat production but a conversion rate of 2.5 lb. or better is common today. Grain corn yields are up over 50 p.c.; the average yield per acre in Ontario in 1932-41 was 41 lb. but in the past ten years the average has been 63 bu. an acre.

Farm Financing.—The capital investment in farming is large, amounting to an estimated \$12,400,000 or \$19,000 per worker; 64 p.c. of this is in real estate, 19 p.c. in machinery and equipment and 17 p.c. in livestock. New capital formation in agriculture exceeds \$700,000,000 annually, 9 p.c. of the total for all industries.

Investment capital finds an important outlet in agriculture, both for short-term lending and for longer-term capital projects. Interest payments on farm indebtedness