

head. Fewer farmers kept milk cows in 1961 than in 1951, the proportions being 64 p.c. and 73 p.c., respectively. Decreases also occurred in the number of farmers keeping hogs and hens and chickens, the former dropping from 58 p.c. to 46 p.c. and the latter from 69 p.c. to 55 p.c. Similar changes occurred in various crop enterprises. In 1951, almost 60 p.c. of all farms grew potatoes and the average size of enterprise was eight tenths of an acre; in 1961, the proportion had decreased to 45 p.c. and the average size had increased to one and four tenths acres. Average sugar beet acreages rose from 17 acres in 1956 to 23 acres in 1961 and tobacco acreages per farm were up by about one acre over the same five-year period.

Regional and Provincial Contributions of Agriculture.—Agricultural production, being dependent on such factors as soil, climate and access to markets, naturally differs from region to region across the great expanse of Canada. In general, the country may be divided into four main geographical areas—the Maritime Provinces (excluding Newfoundland), Central Canada, the Prairie Provinces, and British Columbia—and, although local differences in agricultural production exist within these areas, one or two major types predominate.

The regional differences in Canadian farm production are indicated by the distribution of cash income from farm product sales. In 1963, Western Canada (the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia) accounted for 73 p.c. of the total value of crops sold. Wheat, including Canadian Wheat Board payments, accounted for 53 p.c. of the total value of all crops sold; 97 p.c. of the wheat output is grown in the Prairie Provinces. The prairies also lead in the production of feed grains, rye, flaxseed and rapeseed. All of Canada's commercial production of soybeans is grown in Ontario. Potato production is concentrated in Eastern Canada where over 86 p.c. of the total income from sales is realized, 44 p.c. of it in the Maritimes. Climatic factors are the main determinants of areas suitable for fruit and vegetable production with the result that southern Ontario and British Columbia produce three quarters of the total value.

Agriculture is third in importance of all the commodity-producing industries.* However, its relative importance differs somewhat in each province. Agriculture is the largest contributor to the net value of total output only in Saskatchewan, where it contributes about 30 p.c. to the province's economy, followed closely by construction. Agriculture ranks second in Prince Edward Island, after construction, producing about 28 p.c. of the total net value. Farming is in the same relative position as for the nation in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta. In the first three of these provinces, manufacturing is the leading commodity-producing industry and construction leads in Alberta. In Nova Scotia, agriculture ranks fifth in importance and is in sixth position in British Columbia; in both provinces, manufacturing is the leading industry.

The net value of agricultural production for Canada in the years 1960-61 averaged \$1,859,000,000 (in current dollars), over three times the average value produced in 1935-39. Over the same period, the increased ratios by province were: Prince Edward Island, 2.6; Nova Scotia, 1.6; New Brunswick, 2.1; Quebec, 3.0; Ontario, 3.3; Manitoba, 2.8; Saskatchewan, 3.9; Alberta, 3.4; and British Columbia, 3.6. Price rises contributed largely to these increases but the physical volume of agricultural output was greater or only slightly less in 1960-61 in all provinces. For Canada as a whole, output in 1960-61 was 1.5 times greater than in the immediate prewar period. It should be recalled when considering this comparison that drought sharply reduced output in the Prairie Provinces in 1961 as it did in several years of the earlier period.

"Agri-business".—Agriculture in its primary production stage provides employment for 641,000 persons, but many more derive their livelihoods from the processing, transportation and marketing of farm products. Approximately 314,000 persons are employed in the manufacturing industries using products of farm origin, both domestic and imported,

*Include agriculture, forestry, fisheries, trapping, mining, electric power, manufacturing and construction. Based on 1961 estimates of net value of production.