

Farm Machinery.—The tremendous increase in farm mechanization during the past 20 years is clearly shown in the census figures on the number of machines and the number of farms reporting them. One of the important increases has been in the use of tractors, 150 p.c. more being reported on farms in 1951 than in 1941. Farmers in Quebec, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia reported five times as many as in 1941, New Brunswick farmers over four times as many, Ontario and Nova Scotia farmers three times as many, and Prairie Province farmers twice as many.

Compared with 1941, there has also been a sharp increase in the use of motor-trucks on farms in all provinces, ranging from an increase of 93 p.c. in British Columbia to an increase of 186 p.c. in Quebec. The 10-year increase for all Canada was 153 p.c. The number of automobiles on farms showed an increase of only 4.5 p.c. for the same period. The largest increases were in Quebec (53.9 p.c.) and British Columbia (28.7 p.c.). Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario had fewer automobiles on farms in 1951 than in 1941, but it should be noted that there were also fewer farms in these Provinces.

Grain combines increased 376 p.c. in the 10-year period, the Prairie Provinces and Ontario accounting for most of the increase. While there were only 8,917 combines reported in Canada in 1931 and 19,013 in 1941, the figure climbed to 90,500 by 1951. The number of combines on farms in Saskatchewan increased from 6,019 in 1931 to 42,997 in 1951 and accounted for a substantial part of the increase. Despite the increase in the use of combines, there were 4.0 p.c. more threshing machines on Canadian farms in 1951 than in 1941. All provinces except Nova Scotia, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia reported decreases ranging from 12.1 p.c. in New Brunswick and 10.5 p.c. in Saskatchewan to 1.4 p.c. in Prince Edward Island, but increases in other provinces—particularly the 75.3-p.c. increase in Ontario—out-weighted these decreases.

Grain binders were not included in the 1941 Census, but the 1951 Census showed a decrease for Canada of 29.7 p.c. compared with 1931. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia reported slight increases in the number of grain binders, but the other provinces reported substantial decreases ranging from 17.3 p.c. in Prince Edward Island to 45.4 p.c. in Saskatchewan.

The expansion in farm electrification is reflected in the increased numbers of electric motors on farms. For Canada as a whole, the increase was 238 p.c. as compared with 1941 and over 10 times the number in 1931: all provinces contributed. The increase in stationary gasoline engines was confined to the western provinces as all provinces eastward from Ontario showed a considerable decrease as compared with 1941.

While no information is available from the 1941 Census on milking machines, the 1951 Census showed that there were over 11 times as many on farms in 1951 as in 1931.