

70 acres) decreased 10 per cent during the 1951 to 1956 period, but the number of large farms (760 acres and over) increased nearly 12 per cent.

Farms operated by their owners were by far the most common type of farm tenancy in Canada in 1956. Owner-operated farms constituted 76.9 per cent of all Canadian farms in 1956, a slight decrease from 77.3 per cent in 1951. These farms constituted a smaller proportion of all farms in the Prairie Provinces (69.0 per cent in Manitoba, 52.4 per cent in Saskatchewan, and 60.8 per cent in Alberta) than in other provinces. Quebec recorded the largest proportion of owner-operated farms (95.2 per cent).

Commercial crop and livestock farms (farms having a potential production of \$1,200 or more) constituted 79.0 per cent of all Canadian farms in 1956. The proportion (95.5 per cent) was the highest in Saskatchewan and the lowest (21.8 per cent) in Newfoundland. One-half of all commercial crop and livestock farms were in the three Prairie Provinces.

There were 50,452 farms in Canada on which the operator did not live and these consti-

tuted 8.8 per cent of all farms. Seven out of ten non-resident farms were in the Prairie Provinces and the proportion was the highest in Saskatchewan, where 20.5 per cent of all farms were so classified.

The area of improved farm land in Canada increased from 96,852,826 acres in 1951 to 100,326,243 acres in 1956, or by 3.6 per cent, while the area of unimproved land decreased 4.7 per cent to 73,597,448 acres from 77,193,828. The total area of crop land in Canada increased 1.2 per cent to 62,944,176 acres in 1956 from 62,212,148 in 1951, the increases being confined to the four western provinces. The area of improved pasture increased to 10,057,819 acres from 10,005,126. Unimproved land area constituted 42.3 per cent of the total farm land in Canada in 1956, one-quarter of it being woodland.

Average size of farms in 1956, by provinces: Newfoundland 30.1 acres, Prince Edward Island 113.0, Nova Scotia 131.7, New Brunswick 134.8, Quebec 129.8, Ontario 141.4, Manitoba 364.5, Saskatchewan 607.3, Alberta 578.8, and British Columbia 183.4 acres.

\* \* \*

### FEWER FARMS

The downward trend in the number of farms in Canada, reported for the first time in the 1951 national census, continued to be marked throughout the 1954-1956 period. In the period there was a further substantial growth in the average size of farm, according to one of a series of statistical reports based on the 1956 Canadian agricultural censuses.

All provinces reported fewer farms in 1956 than in 1951 and the national total fell almost 8 per cent from 53,418 farms in 1951 to 49,023 farms in 1956. The Prairie Provinces recorded increases which were more than counterbalanced by decreases in other provinces. Farm land constituted close to 90 per cent of the total Canadian land area in 1956, but in Yukon and the Northwest Territories was excluded, the percentage was 90.1 in the latter case.

An average of a larger percentage decrease in the number of farms than in the farm area, the average size of farms in Canada increased more than 8 per cent to 76.8 acres in 1956 from 70.3 in 1951. In 1956 the farms in the Prairie Provinces were, on average, four times the size of Eastern Canadian farms, the average farm size in the Prairie Provinces was 340.4 acres and in the six eastern provinces 104.1 acres. The number of small farms (under 100 acres) declined slightly in 1956, (over)

reflects the underlying confidence of the... tuted 8.8 per cent of all farms. Seven out of ten non-resident farms were in the Prairie Provinces and the proportion was the highest in Saskatchewan, where 20.5 per cent of all farms were so classified. The area of improved farm land in Canada increased from 96,852,826 acres in 1951 to 100,326,243 acres in 1956, or by 3.6 per cent, while the area of unimproved land decreased 4.7 per cent to 73,597,448 acres from 77,193,828. The total area of crop land in Canada increased 1.2 per cent to 62,944,176 acres in 1956 from 62,212,148 in 1951, the increases being confined to the four western provinces. The area of improved pasture increased to 10,057,819 acres from 10,005,126. Unimproved land area constituted 42.3 per cent of the total farm land in Canada in 1956, one-quarter of it being woodland. Average size of farms in 1956, by provinces: Newfoundland 30.1 acres, Prince Edward Island 113.0, Nova Scotia 131.7, New Brunswick 134.8, Quebec 129.8, Ontario 141.4, Manitoba 364.5, Saskatchewan 607.3, Alberta 578.8, and British Columbia 183.4 acres.