

farms in 1941 than in 1921. Saskatchewan increased from 28.3% in 1921 to 39.4% 20 years later. British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario have only 1.8%, 5.8% and 9.6% of their total land areas in occupied farms. Of course much of the remainder of the land is unsuitable for cultivation. In Saskatchewan and Alberta more land was occupied for farming during the 20 years mentioned than in all the other provinces combined.

The number of farms in Canada increased from 728,623 in 1931 to 732,715 in 1941, and the chief increase in farms was in the province of Quebec. In the Maritime Provinces and Ontario there was actually a decrease. A trend toward larger sized farms is reflected in all the provinces, with the exception of Quebec. In that province, although the number of farms has increased, the average size of farms has decreased.

During the last 20 years there has been a marked change in the status of Canadian farm tenure. In 1921 85.7% of the farms were operated by the owners. By 1931 this figure had dropped to 80.1%, and this downward trend continued so that by 1941 only 75% of the farms in Canada were occupied and operated by owners. The tendency has been most marked on the prairies. By 1941 only 66.1% of farms in Manitoba, 53.0% in Saskatchewan and 62.8% in Alberta were occupied by owners.

Canada's great productivity, coupled with a small population, has placed it in a position to export a great deal of food, although markets have not always been available. Production on Canadian farms for many years before the war was a matter of setting quotas, of controlling output. No one had ever really known just how much the farms of Canada could produce.

AGRICULTURE IN WARTIME

At the outset of the war two principles were established for the guidance of agriculture in Canada:

- (1) That farmers be encouraged to continue their regular practice, unless advised of alterations that might be considered desirable or necessary.
- (2) That insofar as could be determined and undertaken, the ultimate position of agriculture at the end of the war be safeguarded.

Although in years of peace a substantial part of food imports into the United Kingdom came from Canada, it had never been economically sound for the United Kingdom to import all its food across the Atlantic.

As the war spread, however, the United Kingdom turned to Canada for increased supplies of bacon, eggs, evaporated milk and cheese. Orders were also received for dried fruits, tobacco and canned tomatoes. Then in mid-1941 Canada received the signal to supply all the bacon and hams it could. Earlier it had received large orders for eggs. In 1941 Canada had to restrict domestic consumption of bacon and cheese.

The entry of Japan into the war complicated shipping in the Far East, made it impossible for the United States to maintain its former shipments to the allied nations and eliminated certain food imports to the North American continent.

Full employment and a marked increase in payrolls resulted in an upswing in domestic consumption, so that in the summer of 1942 the position of farm products was reversed; instead of surpluses, shortages began to threaten, and the necessity of restricting consumption became evident in some instances.

From time to time the Canadian government, through the Agricultural Supplies Board, took steps to deal with the situation. As requests came from the United Kingdom for an increased volume of one product and then another, plans were made to encourage Canadian output. Frequent conferences were held