

before the people were able to be self-sufficient in foodstuffs. Settlement of the so-called Eastern Townships of Quebec began shortly after 1800, with the settlers coming chiefly from the New England states. However, it was not until after 1830 that they had satisfactory communication with Montreal and other parts of Canada. After that time agricultural progress was rapid in the area.

Agriculture in Upper Canada (Ontario) was also introduced by the French, with the first settlement established by Frontenac at Kingston in 1671. Difficulty of communication and transportation as well as the heavy work involved in clearing the land kept settlement at a slow rate. By 1852, however, there were close to 100,000 farms in the province.

The agricultural history of western Canada dates back to the Selkirk Settlement along the Red River in Manitoba in 1812. These settlers experienced much difficulty, not only with Indians, but also because of the rivalry between the Northwest Company and the Hudson's Bay Company. Population grew only slowly, and there was little real agricultural development until after the railway reached St. Boniface, opposite Winnipeg, in 1878. After the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1886, the settlement and consequent agricultural development of all western Canada was very rapid. Many settlers came from the eastern provinces of Canada as well as from the United States, the United Kingdom and European countries.

Settlers from eastern Canada and the United States often took stock and equipment with them, and although they found it necessary to change many of their farm practices to meet the new conditions of soil and climate, they soon built up large farms, and wheat production for export became increasingly important. In the short history of agriculture on the prairies there have been many important developments in technique with a decided tendency towards mechanization.

Agriculture in British Columbia began in the Fraser Lake district about 1810. The cultivated area, however, was small, and expansion was hampered by the rugged nature of the country as well as the heavy forest covering. The Hudson's Bay Company maintained a number of farms in and around Fort Vancouver and on Vancouver Island in the early days. Agriculture received indirect impetus from the Cariboo gold rush in the 50's in supplying produce to the camps. It was not until the 80's that commercial plantings took place. Since then this area has built up a reputation for the production of apples and other fruits.

#### FARM POPULATION, OCCUPIED LAND

The period of rapid expansion and settlement in Canadian agriculture terminated with the beginning of the depression of the 1930's. Had not World War I intervened and thus restricted settlement, this period might have arrived somewhat earlier.

At the time of the last Canadian census in 1941, 27.5% of Canada's population lived on farms. Although this is a high proportion of farm dwellers, the figure had decreased from 31.7% since the census of 1931. Of the nine Canadian provinces, Saskatchewan has the highest proportion engaged in agriculture with 57.4% of its population living on farms. Prince Edward Island and Alberta ranked second and third respectively. In the province of Quebec one-quarter of the people live on farms. British Columbia and Ontario are the most urbanized provinces in Canada with only 13.0% and 18.6% respectively of their population living on farms.

The amount of occupied farm land in Canada has increased consistently as far back as records go. In the 20 years from 1921 to 1941 it increased from a total of 141,000,000 acres to 175,000,000 acres.

This increase has, however, not been uniform throughout the country. Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Ontario had less land in