

more use of hired labour and reduce the degree to which they are over-worked and tied to the farm. According to our nation-wide member survey, many farmers in every province are experiencing a shortage of hired farm labour.

TABLE 2

REGIONAL TRENDS IN THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE,  
PERSONS WITH JOBS, BOTH SEXES, ANNUAL AVERAGES, 1946-59\*

| Year      | Canada    | Decline from<br>previous year |      | Atlantic<br>Region | Quebec | Ontario | Prairie<br>Region | British<br>Columbia |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|---------|-------------------|---------------------|
|           |           | No.                           | %    |                    |        |         |                   |                     |
| 1946..... | 1,186     |                               |      | 92                 | 277    | 320     | 466               | 31                  |
| 1947..... | 1,122     | -64                           | 5.5  | 86                 | 252    | 300     | 450               | 34                  |
| 1948..... | 1,096     | -26                           | 2.3  | 81                 | 246    | 290     | 444               | 35                  |
| 1949..... | 1,079 (a) | -17                           | 1.6  | 83                 | 242    | 284     | 433               | 37                  |
| 1950..... | 1,018     | -61                           | 5.7  | 78                 | 255    | 253     | 403               | 29                  |
| 1951..... | 939       | -79                           | 7.8  | 62                 | 229    | 238     | 382               | 28                  |
| 1952..... | 891       | -48                           | 5.1  | 58                 | 209    | 228     | 375               | 21                  |
| 1953..... | 859       | -32                           | 3.6  | 56                 | 203    | 220     | 359               | 21                  |
| 1954..... | 878       | +19                           | +2.2 | 50                 | 214    | 253     | 338               | 23                  |
| 1955..... | 819       | -59                           | 6.7  | 49                 | 172    | 236     | 331               | 31                  |
| 1956..... | 776       | -43                           | 5.3  | 49                 | 165    | 213     | 323               | 26                  |
| 1957..... | 744       | -32                           | 4.1  | 53                 | 171    | 191     | 306               | 23                  |
| 1958..... | 712       | -32                           | 4.3  | 55                 | 161    | 175     | 297               | 24                  |
| 1959..... | 692       | -20                           | 2.8  | 57                 | 153    | 174     | 284               | 24                  |
| 1960..... | 675       | -17                           | 2.5  | 55                 | 134    | 177     | 279               | 28                  |

SOURCES: Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Reference Paper No. 58—1958 revision, and DBS Labour Surveys.

\* Taken, except for 2nd and 3rd columns, and recent year data, from tabulation in "Trends In The Agricultural Labour Force In Canada" by the Department of Labour.

(a) Data for Newfoundland are included with total for Canada and Atlantic region from October, 1959. However, there are only about 3,000 persons employed in the agricultural labour force in Newfoundland and this addition had little effect on the overall trend.

The process of taking increased ability to produce in the form of leisure instead of goods and services, has gone much further in urban than in farm employment. In recent years only about half the farm operators have had an extra worker, either paid or unpaid, to help with the farm work. Farmers have had to increasingly mechanize their farming operations and, in the race to try and meet the demands of the new technology, investment remains very substantial in spite of inadequate income.

In the one year 1959—farmers purchased machinery and equipment to the wholesale value of 212 million dollars and in addition spent 39 million dollars on repair parts. On a retail basis the total was probably about 315 million dollars. This represents about 700 dollars as an average for each of the 450,000 farm operators. (In this calculation no account is taken of cash discounts to farmer buyers or trade-in allowances). But this mechanization is in recent years not easing the workload of most farmers. It is just enabling them to run faster in order to keep up.

#### *Manpower and Productivity*

The severity of the agricultural cost-price squeeze, and the decline in the farm labour force is the combined result of increasing productivity and limited expansion in demand for farm products. The notion is sometimes expressed that the problems of the farmer can be traced to backwardness in adapting to the opportunities of modern technology. That just the opposite is true is illustrated by the post-war record.