

## Canadian Farmers

### *A Quiz*

1. Has the share of Canadian farmers in the *national income* gone up or down since 1919?
2. Is the *average size* of the Canadian farm approximately 100, 200, or 400 acres?
3. Are farms in the Maritimes on the average *larger or smaller* than farms in B.C.?
4. In what part of Canada does the smallest proportion of farmers *own their own farms*?
5. Do more farms in Quebec or in B.C. have *electric light*?
6. Is the sale of *livestock or dairy products* the chief source of cash income on Quebec farms?
7. Is the sale of *fruit or livestock* the chief source of cash income on B.C. farms?
8. Are there more *sheep or hogs* on Maritime farms?
9. The *area of occupied farms* in Ontario is 22 million acres, in Quebec 19 millions. Which province has the *greater number of tractors*?
10. What part of Canada has the *smallest proportion of farmers*?

(Answers to Quiz on page 19).

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## PEOPLE ON THE LAND

By FRANK SHEFRIN and J. COKE



## CANADIAN AFFAIRS





## Farmers and the Future

### *Spotlight on Change*

(1) Since 1881 our farm population has just about doubled.

But (2) the land they cultivate has quadrupled.

And (3) the food they grow has increased many times over; wheat sixteen times; hogs nearly seven times; cattle and milk nearly four times.

Think of what this means. The farm has been moving out of the horse-and-buggy age, and moving fast. "The man with the hoe" is giving way to the man with the machine.

### *The New Frontier*

Two generations ago the average farm worker could manage 33 acres of improved land. Today, with the help of science, he can handle 79. More than twice as strong than his forefathers, he can say without fear of complacency: We are winning out in the struggle against nature.

Now he faces a new world of agreements and quotas, price-ceilings and price-floors, surpluses in Canada and famines in Asia. Can he say: We can master this man-made frontier too, as we have conquered the wilderness?

The article doesn't answer the question. It gives you facts, pleasant and unpleasant, but all of them relevant. The answer that will meet these facts has to be worked out. Try your hand at a solution.



The authors are with the Economics Division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. Frank Shefrin is a graduate of the University of Manitoba and Iowa State College. He has prepared bulletins used in adult education work among Manitoba farmers and on the Farm Forum of the C. B. C.

Mr. Coke is a graduate of Ontario Agricultural College and the University of Wisconsin, a former professor of Agricultural Economics at O.A.C., and the author of bulletins on land economics and farm management.

A plain straightforward account of  
Canadian farming, told by experts.

## People on the Land

By FRANK SHEFRIN and J. COKE

VETERANS of this war who become farmers face a different set-up than their predecessors. Not only is the Veterans' Land Act of 1942 different, but also the picture of Canadian agriculture. Farming, like the old grey mare, "ain't what it used to be," not so many long years ago.



"Farming not what it used to be"

What exactly has happened on the old homestead? In this article we cast backward and around us with the long-range eye of the census man and other fact finders to get some of the answers.

### *Farms in a Changing Economy*

In the early days of Confedera-

tion Canada was overwhelmingly agricultural. Four-fifths of our people lived on farms or in small communities in farming districts in 1871. By 1941 the figure was less than half (forty-five per cent, to be exact.)

That doesn't mean that the rural population of Canada has decreased in numbers during these seventy years. On the contrary, it has nearly doubled. It does mean that production per person has been stepped up to a far greater extent than the average person imagines.

Sixty years ago over half the people were needed in agriculture in order to feed the rest of Canada. Today we need only about one-quarter of the population to do the job. This steady rise in the productivity of the average farm-worker is a fact of the greatest importance to anyone who wants to understand Canada and its future. We shall come back to it more than once in the course of this article.



## SEVENTY YEARS OF FARMING



As the rural population has become a smaller portion of the total, so also has agricultural production and income.

For example, in 1925, agricultural production was 41 per cent of the net value of all production in Canada, while in 1939 it amounted to only 26 per cent. It is probably even less now because of the expansion of factory production during the war.

This relative shrinkage shows up again when we look at the size of the slice of our national income which went to agriculture. Just after the last war, in 1919, almost 29 per cent of the national income came from agriculture. In the third year of this war, 1942, although representing more in dollars and cents than in 1919, only a little more than 18 per cent of our national income originated in agriculture.

### *Farms All Over the Map*

Although this means that agriculture has not expanded as rapid-

ly as other parts of our economic life, it is also true that Canadian farmlands have shown remarkable growth during the past sixty years. Agriculture may not be extending its line fences much these days, but it drove plenty of fenceposts in previous decades.

The story of that expansion is the story of pioneers from all parts of the world. It is the story of the courage, perseverance, and independent spirit of many people who cleared the forests, opened the prairies, cultivated the mountain valleys, and pushed far into the north.



"drove plenty of fence posts"

## *Settlers From All Over the World*

French Canadians opened up new areas in Quebec, moved to Manitoba, settled along the banks of the Red River, and then continued a trek across Saskatchewan and Alberta before those areas had been organized as provinces. From the United States over a century ago the United Empire Loyalists moved into the Maritimes and Upper Canada, clearing the land and breaking virgin tracts. From the United Kingdom came the Irish, Scotch and English, many of them to swell the population of Ontario. From the Highlands of Scotland came the early Selkirk settlers of Manitoba.

Then the thin trickle of humanity from Europe became a swift stream. Icelanders came and settled on the shores of Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba. Mennonites settled on the rich land of the Red River Valley. Then came the Ukrainians, Russians, Poles and Germans, settling in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

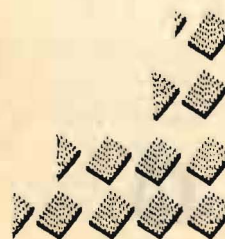
At the same time men and women of pioneer spirit pushed west from the older settlements of eastern Canada. In recent years, the trek has been to the north, settlers going into northern Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta to bring new land under the plow.

## CANADIAN AGRICULTURE EXPANDS

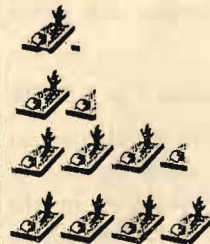
### LAND USED FOR FARMING

#### IMPROVED

1881  
1901  
1921  
1941



#### UNIMPROVED



EACH SYMBOL EQUALS 20 MILLION ACRES



# 285% More Acres Since Confederation!

The extent of this expansion of agriculture in space is shown by the fact that during the sixty years between 1881 and 1941 the amount of land used for farming increased from a total of 45.4 million acres to 174.8 million acres. They improved this farmland too. In 1881, 22 million acres of farmland were classified as improved. By 1941, improved land had reached a total of 92 million acres, well over four times the total of 1881. Land sown to grains, such as wheat, oats and barley occupied 15 million acres in 1881. By 1941 grains sprouted on 56.8 million acres.

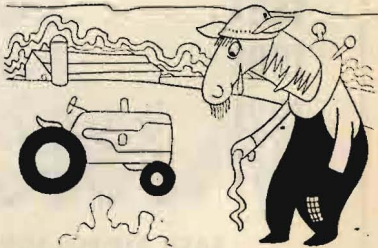
The ringing axe in the forests and the silent plow in the clearings and on the prairies prepared the way for the tilling of the rich land of our country. Farmers using that land have made Canada famous as the producer of wheat, bacon, cheese, apples and other foods.

## Wheat Production Up 1,500%

The extension of Canadian wheat production has made us one of the biggest breadbaskets in the world. In 1881 only 2.4 million acres were planted to wheat, yielding 32 million bushels. By 1940, 28.7 million acres were

sown to wheat, giving a yield of 540 million bushels. This yield was exceeded only in 1942. Other grains have shown similar though less steep climbs in production.

As the fences lengthened on the land, so did the totals of livestock and dairy products. At the time of Confederation we had only a little over one million milk cows on farms. By the end of 1941 their number had reached about four million, with our total milk production showing a similar increase. The amount of grunting in the land has swelled to a mighty chorus since we tackled Hitler and his gang. For although the number of hogs was tripled in the period between 1881 and 1911, the big expansion of hog production has occurred during this war as we have sought to supply the British breakfast table. Today we have nine and a half million hogs on farms—almost seven times the number rooting around in 1881.

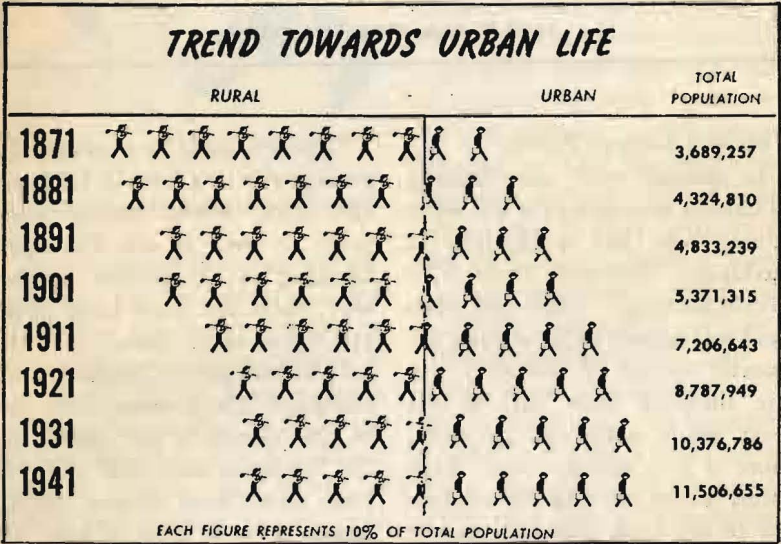


"a victim of technological improvement"

The horse, however, has been a victim of technological unemployment. At one time the most important means of power on the farm, the horse increased rapidly in numbers from the time of Confederation up to 1921. Since then his numbers have declined, with his fame snorting on in mechanical horsepower, a sign of the increasing mechanization of agriculture.

of livestock; and only twelve dollars from the sale of dairy products.

If you look now at the record of 1942, you will find a distinct change. For every \$100 cash income, only \$21.50 came from the sale of grains, seeds and hay. That is less than half the 1926 figure. The gains were made by sales of livestock (now \$38 out of the \$100) and dairy-products (\$21 out



## Many Sources of Cash Income

As late as 1926 you would find that out of every hundred dollars of cash income from the sale of farm products; fifty-two dollars, on the average, came from the sale of grains, seeds and hay; twenty-one dollars from the sale

of \$100). The change means that today the average Canadian farmer draws a much bigger proportion of his income from the sale of livestock than from the sale of grains. Animals and animal products account now for over half (59%) of his income.



## IMPROVED ACRES PER FARM WORKER

1941

MARITIMES



QUEBEC



ONTARIO



PRAIRIES



B. C.



EACH SYMBOL EQUALS 20 ACRES

### Toward Larger Farms

In another way, too, farming in Canada now-a-days is not what it used to be (and, incidentally, is strikingly different from Old World farming). Years ago when land was opened up to settlers, the quarter section of 160 acres was the standard farm unit in the west, while in the east 100 acres, more or less, was the unit. Such farms proved too small for efficient use of the land, especially in the west where wheat was the main crop and where large scale machine farming became the rule. The quarter section farm is also unsuitable where cattle become the major farm enterprise. In the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan today the average size of a farm is 433 acres.

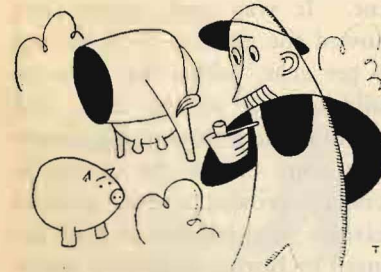
Taking Canada as a whole, the average size of a farm in 1921 was 198 acres, while twenty years later, in 1941, it was 238 acres. Looking at the picture another way, there are more large farms and fewer small ones. In 1901, only 13 per cent of Canadian farms contained 200 or more acres, but in 1941 almost 32 per cent of our 732,715 farms were that size. In 1901, there were almost 140,000 farms under 50 acres in size; but in 1941 their number had declined to 110,000.

Quebec is the one Canadian province that has kept out of this trend toward larger farms.

### Depression Shock

From the earliest days when land was opened to settlers it has

been a basic principle of the Dominion Land Policy that ownership of land should be given to the person who operates it. Each settler was given title to a tract of land providing he farmed it for a certain period of time. But bad times torpedoed many a self-owned homestead.



"if your income dropped two-thirds"

The shock of the post-war depressions on the farm was increased by the fact that prices of farm products had risen greatly in the First World War — with wheat selling as high as \$2.22 per bushel, hogs at over \$13.00 per hundred pounds, beef cattle at \$18.00 per hundred pounds, and eggs at 50c a dozen. By 1932, wheat was down to 43c a bushel, hogs and steers were selling at \$4.50 per hundred pounds, and eggs at 19c a dozen. These were wholesale prices. Farmers received less on the farms. In many cases farmers had less money after selling a carlot of cattle than be-

fore, when the price was less than shipping costs.

How would you feel if your income dropped two-thirds in five years? That is what happened to agriculture as a whole between 1928 and 1933. In 1928, the cash income from the sale of farm products reached a peak of over one billion dollars. In 1933, it was at a low of \$377,000,000.

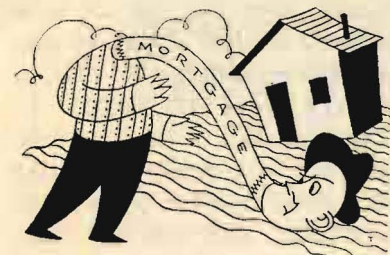
So a number of small owners, burdened with debts, and selling their products at low prices in the depression, sank into the ranks of tenants. In 1941, 13 per cent of our farmers were tenants, whereas in 1901 the figure was only nine per cent. Other figures tell us that in 1941, only 75 per cent of Canadian farmers owned the land they lived on, whereas, in 1901, as many as 87 per cent of our farmers owned their land.

This trend was sharpest in the Prairie Provinces. In Manitoba, in 1941, only two-thirds of the farms were operated by owners, while next door in Saskatchewan only a little over half of the farms were occupied and operated by owners. But here again Quebec stands out as the exception to the general trend. In 1901, 90 per cent of Quebec farms were owner-operated, and in 1941, nearly 93 per cent of them were in the hands of owner-operators.



## Farmers' Debts

In 1941, there were 550,000 full owners who operated their farms. But a lot of them had mortgages around their necks. In fact, 48 per cent of such owners reported



"mortgages around their necks"

mortgage indebtedness. Again, this figure obscures the differences between provinces. In Saskatchewan, over 75 per cent had either a mortgage or an agreement of sale threatening their security of tenure. Alberta and Manitoba ranked next in order of indebtedness, Ontario stood at the halfway. And Nova Scotia reported the least indebtedness. Not counting short term and intermediate loans, in 1941 Canadian farmers reported debts to the tune of \$629,200,000 — an average of \$2,372 per farm. It would have been worse except that a good deal of the debt incurred had been written off in the latter part of the "hungry thirties".

## Farms Are Worth Less

Right after the last war the value of farm property reached a peak. In 1921 the average value of a farm with all its property was \$9,218. Twenty years later it had dropped to \$5,747. In the decade from 1931 to 1941 the drop in farm values was almost 20 per cent. It was land values that showed the greatest drop, falling 29 per cent, while the value of buildings fell 19 per cent, and that of implements and machinery 8 per cent. As for the variations between provinces, the greatest decrease in the value of land occurred in British Columbia where it fell 48 per cent, and the smallest



"farm property reached a peak"

decline was in Ontario where it amounted to only 6.5 per cent.

### Better Homes Needed

While we are talking about farm values, we might as well take a look at the housing situation on the farm. The average

farm-house today is certainly better than it was fifty or sixty years ago. But the modern farmer's standards have risen even more. If modern convenience are good for city houses, why not for rural houses too? Judged by this new Canadian standard, many of the 730,000 farm dwellings can stand a lot of improving.



"barns and sheds which need repairs"

Only twenty per cent of them have electricity, according to the 1941 census; a mere eight per cent

have flush toilets; only eight per cent have bathroom facilities. Slightly more than half the farmers in Ontario had telephones. In Alberta the figure was eighteen per cent, with New Brunswick and Quebec close behind. A much larger number had radios — 73% in Alberta, 66% in Ontario, 59% in Nova Scotia, 36% in Quebec.

Well over a third of all Canadian farm homes (no fewer than 300,000) need major repairs; and at least half of these will probably not last much longer and will have to be replaced. So the need for better housing immediately after the war will be as acute for the countryside as for the cities.

When you add all the barns and sheds which need repairs and rebuilding, it adds up to a big post-war construction job.

### IMPROVED LAND PER FARM WORKER IN CANADA

1881



33 ACRES

1901



42.1 ACRES

1921



67.9 ACRES

1941



79 ACRES



# THE FARMER FACES THE FUTURE



So far we have been looking at changes and conditions which have added new lines and shadows in the picture of agriculture. Now let us look at something that puts a new character, a new dynamic, into the picture. Farming is really different today because scientific and technical progress has revolutionized it. The machine has more than doubled what the farm worker can do. Fewer farmers are producing more and more food, a fact demonstrated well during this war. In 1881, the average farm worker was able to manage only 33 acres of improved land. By 1941, with the aid of the tractor, combine and other machines, he was able to handle 79 acres.

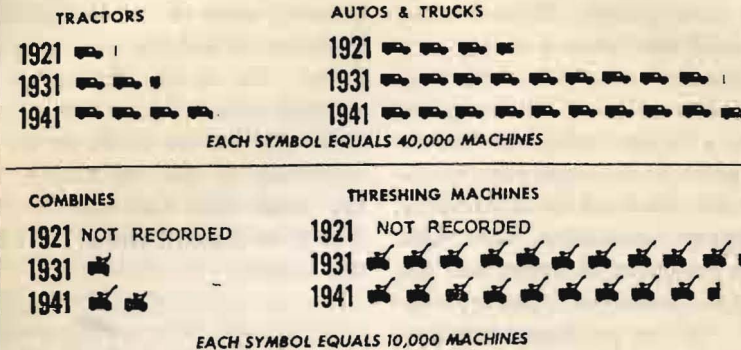
## *Towards Mechanized Farming*

Mechanization has increased rapidly since the last war, with the prairie provinces taking the lead in the change. In 1921, there were 47,500 tractors in Canada. In 1941, the total had reached 159,000. Today, 60-horsepower

Diesel Caterpillars can do a job of clearing timber which seemed to be impossible at the beginning of the century. In 1921, there were 157,000 automobiles and trucks on the farms. By 1941, the total had reached 391,600. The number of combines, reaping and threshing in one operation, more than doubled in the ten years between 1931 and 1941. Since the latter date, in spite of the rationing of farm machinery, farmers have been buying as much equipment as possible, and it is likely that the mechanization of agriculture has taken further strides. The man with the hoe is giving way to the man with the machine.

In addition to machines, science has brought further changes in the field of plant breeding, such as hybrid corn, rust-resisting wheat, heavier yielding varieties of crops, cows which give more milk, hens which lay more eggs. It has introduced also the most general use of chemical fertilizers. All of which have added to the productivity of the man on the farm. The

## TREND TOWARDS MECHANIZATION



full effect of these changes is yet to be felt, for the new techniques and practices are not fully used. Still further adjustments will be necessary as technical progress continues.

## *Towards Co-operation*

Long before machines invaded the farms, our pioneers were continually meeting situations which could be handled only by teamwork. Streams were bridged, forests cleared, swamps drained, buildings erected and crops harvested by joint efforts. Building bees and clearing bees were common, the neighbors joining together to get a job done and throwing in a good time of games, food and drink for full measure.

Starting with the practice of

exchanging work and the bees, farmers gradually developed the art of working together. At the beginning of this century, farmers banded together to get equal privileges from the railways, to fight the discriminatory practices of the private grain trade and the middleman, to eliminate inefficiency in the marketing and distribution of farm products.



"the art of working together"



## In Co-operatives

Today, nearly half a million farmers are members of co-operative associations. These associations do more than a quarter of a billion dollars worth of business in a year. To an increasing extent, a farmer today can deliver his grain to a co-operative elevator, his livestock to a livestock shipping association, his milk to a co-operative dairy, and his eggs and poultry to a poultry "co-op". He can purchase his household necessities and other farm items through a co-operative store, his tractor fuel and gasoline from a co-operative oil station, and his farm machinery from a farm implement association.

And the man on the land has learned to do more than that. He saves his money jointly, insures himself jointly, provides for health services jointly, and owns a community hall co-operatively. He is working with his neighbor. He is pooling his farm machinery resources with other members of the community. He buys farm equipment jointly with his neighbors and is ready to electrify his farm under a co-operative program.

## Thinking Ahead

The war has shown what farmers can do. With half a million fewer people left on the farm to do the

work, Canadian agriculture has stepped up its output no less than forty per cent to meet the ever growing needs of the United Nations abroad and the consumers at home. But to-day the farmer is worried about the post-war period. He has no desire to see a repetition of the experiences of the years that followed World War 1, or the still worse years of the Thirties.



"electrify his farm"

As he looks ahead, three questions are uppermost in his mind:

- i) Will my product sell?
- ii) Will my land be in shape to produce it?
- iii) Will I have the tools?

As for the first, he knows all too well by this time that food is needed by hungry people all over the world; and that even in his own country there are undernourished people. What worries him, is whether it will be possible for them to buy and for him to sell his priceless product at a price that pays him a living wage. That

problem, he knows, isn't easily solved. But it must be solved. His future, his children's future, as well as the life and health of the world's unfed and underfed, depends on it.

His land the farmer wants to see protected as only the pooled resources of the whole community can protect it. What he as an individual can do against drought or soil erosion is not enough. But a planned community programme can do a great deal. Regrassing, reforestation, moisture conservation, irrigation or drainage—here are tremendous possibilities to care for the land. Some of them have been tried already, with good results. More can be tried in the future.

## Give Him the Tools!

First he asks for mental tools. Farming can no longer be done by rule-of-thumb. Scientific agriculture to-day makes farming a profession. To practice it he needs, for himself and his children, the best training that well-equipped agricultural colleges can supply.

Then he wants access to the machinery that is revolutionizing his way of life. If it is beyond his

individual means to buy and operate for himself, he wants ways and means to use it cooperatively. Here is one example of what can be done to assist him; In Nova Scotia, the provincial Department of Agriculture now pays one-third of the cost (up to \$600) of a tractor, tractor plow, tractor disc or spring-tooth harrow bought by an agricultural society or coop, who pay another third of the price on delivery, and the balance on a credit-arrangement.

And since electricity is so important a tool of modern farming and living, the Canadian farmer is pressing for rural electrification. Canada is one of the world's top-ranking hydro-producers, surpassed only by the U.S.A.; and the present installation is less than a quarter of our potential power. A small fraction of the still undeveloped water-power—five per cent of the available power of the Winnipeg River, for example, in Manitoba—would bring to the countryside electric power for refrigeration, feed grinders, fanning mills, wood-saw equipment, milking machines, to say nothing of radio, and other home appliances. Every province is studying this

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problem, and developing plans for action immediately after the war.

Credit too is one of the tools the farmer must have. Many a farmer today can think back to times when interest-rates on mortgage loans ran from 5% to 12%, and the mortgage had to be repaid in five years. The Canadian Farm Loan Board, established in 1927, and other agencies later on, such as the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act and the Central Mortgage Bank Act, make it possible now to get credit at 5% repayable over 20 or 25 years. For ex-servicemen who qualify under the Veterans' Land Act credit is at the rate of 3½%, repayable over 25 years. Better credit facilities for all farmers is one of the items that farmers want to see on the agenda for reconstruction.

### *What Does It Add Up To?*

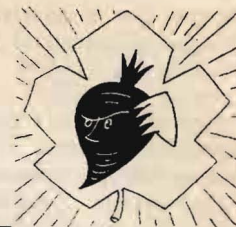
During the past 80 years, agriculture has seen vast changes—from the scythe to the combine, from the ox-cart to the truck, from the horse to the tractor, from free land to scarce land, from a rural civilization to an industrial civilization.

*Articles which appear in Canadian Affairs should be regarded as expressing the views of the individual Canadians who write them. These are not necessarily the views of the Department of National Defence, the Wartime Information Board, or any other Government Authority. Indeed, occasions will arise when in order to complete the picture of some aspect of wartime life an issue will present opposing views of different authors on one subject.*

It took courageous men and women in the past to open up the furrows and push the large pattern of food production across the nation. And it took courageous men and women in recent decades to keep the furrows open and the pattern expanding in the face of world economic crises and of developing industry. As machines and science have opened new vistas they have created new problems. Agriculture, affected by economic changes since the early days of "golden opportunity", has become a more difficult field for the young men to enter. But we in Canada still need to eat and millions are reaching out for more food to build the healthy bodies of a growing civilization.

There is no reason why the generation which by teamwork is licking fascism abroad cannot also build a new rural Canada in which the fruits of science will bring greater security and comfort to all farmers as well as full stomachs for greater multitudes of their fellow men. The need for such building provides a new frontier. Many are thinking about it and working on it even now.

# Questions for Discussion



## *1. Does the farmer stand to benefit from increased farm production?*

NOTE: He hasn't always done so in the past. At times of peak production, farm prices were at the bottom. (War years excepted). Farmers work for abundance, they aim at a big crop. Better farming methods, increased use of machinery, greatly increase production possibilities. In the thirties big crops meant low prices to the farmer. Production was restricted, bonuses were paid in the United States for not growing farm commodities. Here is one comment—with special reference to the wheat problem—"The new element in the wheat situation of the 1930's is the general trend towards a chronic supply of wheat greater than the commercial mar-

ket can absorb. The population of the world includes millions of men, women and children who are undernourished and need wheat, the best bread food that has been developed".

Note that phrase, "The commercial market". Can government action replace the working of that market? Can surplus foodstuffs be shipped to countries where need exists, to be financed on long term credits? Can or should our government guarantee a minimum price to farmers after the war? You should be able to list arguments for or against such a policy. Try it and see which points you consider carry the most weight.

## *2. "For over 100 years consumers have paid less than the cost of production for the food they ate". Would you agree?*

NOTE: Anyone who is supporting a family might think that statement was an exaggeration. It was made by the late Lord Stamp, a well-known British economist. Farm economists might disagree as to the accuracy

of his statement but there is one point that can be made along the same line. It is the argument of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. "Farm incomes over long periods, with some exceptions in war years, have persisted



at too low a relative level with wages of industrial workers and returns on capital". This has created a lopsided economy. In other words the argument is that farmers' incomes have not increased proportionately to that of other groups. (See our article on page 9). As an example, in 1913,

*3. Should the farmer be a producer only or should he go into the marketing game as well?*

NOTE: Not so many people today still argue that the farmers' only job is production. Experience of depression years, of low returns on crops, have convinced many farmers that they must take the responsibility and risk of marketing their own products themselves. Sometimes this has meant considerable saving to the farmer, sometimes a severe headache. In many cases Canadian farmers do cooperate in marketing organizations. The Wheat Pools of the west are the biggest example but there are thousands of marketing co-ops all over Canada.

*4. What do you think the farm of the future will be like?*

NOTE: Most people agree that the family farm will continue as the principal kind of farm holding in Canada. Perhaps slightly larger than the farm of today, almost certainly mechanized to a higher degree. Some people, and that includes the Federation of Agriculture, believe that the small family farm hasn't the earning power to carry the needed machinery. They consider that one

261 bushels of wheat would buy a binder, but in 1940 it took 637 bushels. Farmers ask that they be placed in a position of equality with other groups in the community, that the balance be restored as between farm products and industrial products.

Farmers have cooperated too in purchasing supplies and have cooperated in credit unions to lend each other money. In other words the farmer has had to concern himself with the whole process of producing the food supply of the nation.

Farm prices still fluctuate, there is still in many cases a big difference between prices on the farm and prices to the consumer, but the farmer is learning to improve his position and his bargaining power. He is becoming his own middleman.

possibility is the cooperative use and perhaps ownership of power machinery. That might require government financial assistance.

In some parts of Saskatchewan for example a number of farms have been taken over and operated by a land company after foreclosure. That might permit cheap, efficient operation but the result is to create large landholdings worked by tenant farmers.

Another possibility in the large unit would be some sort of co-operative venture. The farmers concerned might pool their resources and share the proceeds proportionately. That hasn't been tried in Canada. The collective farms of the USSR are in that general pattern. Farmers there own their own homes but work

the land of the collective farm co-operatively and share the result in proportion to the kind of work done.

What other forms could the farm of the future take? One thing certain is that farmers must have security of tenure. They must be able to plan ahead and not be afraid of losing their land.

*5. If you were on a post-war planning committee, what would you recommend for Canadian agriculture?*

NOTE: Most people are not at all familiar with the maze of committees already at work in Canada on post-war reconstruction. The Dominion Government has an advisory Committee on reconstruction (the James committee) which recently brought in a report, together with the reports of five of its six subcommittees. They dealt with *Agricultural policy, Conservation and Development of resources, Post-war reconstruction plans, Post-war employment opportunities and Post-war problems of women*. The one on Housing and Community Planning is still to come.

There are also committees both of the House of Commons and of the Senate reporting on Reconstruction. The various provinces

also have reconstruction committees preparing plans for the post-war world, and hearing suggestions from all kinds of groups. In Manitoba extension of rural electrification is suggested. In Alberta irrigation works near the St. Mary and Milk rivers are urged. In British Columbia the Post-War Rehabilitation Council is surveying the resources of the province and the possibilities for settlement and has made a number of recommendations on co-operatives, improvements of forests, vocational training in agriculture and many others.

All these should give you some leads in making your own suggestions for planning for agriculture after the war. See what sort of a plan you can draw up.

*Answers to Quiz*

1. In 1919, 29% of national income; in 1942, 18%. 2. 238 acres. 3. Maritimes, 117 acres; B.C., 157. 4. Prairies 59% as opposed to 92.3% in Maritimes. 5. Quebec 24%, B.C. 36%. 6. Almost the same (farmers cash incomes in Quebec are 35.97% from dairy products and 35.29% from livestock). 7. About the same (23.53% from livestock, 22.94% from fruit). 8. In 1943 there were 324,000 sheep, 224,000 hogs. 9. Ontario 35,000, Quebec 6,000. 10. B.C. (Only 13% of population are farmers, as compared with 47% in Prairies).