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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR SCOTLAND

THE AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT OF SCOTLAND, 1930

Report on certain Statistical Inquiries
made in connection with the Census
of Production, relating to the Output
of Agricultural Produce

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Scotland to Parliament by
Command of His Majesty*

EDINBURGH

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS is the fourth Census of Agricultural Production. The first was that of 1908, taken by the (then) Board of Agriculture and Fisheries for the whole of Great Britain, the Report¹ on which was issued in 1912. The second Census was interrupted by the war, and the results were not published. The third Census was taken by the Department in 1925 and the Report² was published in 1928.

On this occasion the Census was taken in accordance with arrangements made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Departments of Agriculture for Scotland and Northern Ireland in connection with the World Census of Agriculture organised by the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome. The World Census year was fixed as 1929-30, if practicable, but for various reasons the period for the Census for the United Kingdom was agreed on as 1930-1.

The Department intimated their intention of taking a Census of Agricultural Production by a preliminary notice, issued with the schedule for the Agricultural Returns of 4th June 1930, to each occupier of a holding over one acre in Scotland, and published in the Press. This notice stated in detail the points on which the Department would require special information in June 1931. It clearly served a useful purpose, since the amount of information supplied on individual schedules and the number of effective returns was, under all heads of the Department's inquiry, much superior to that obtained in any previous Census. Certain of the items, e.g. honey, glasshouse produce, and number of workers engaged in fruit-picking, are still far from attaining the standard of the sample returns obtained under the main heads of the Census, but generally speaking the data presented in this Report are regarded with considerable confidence as being truly representative of the facts.

The Agricultural Returns taken on 4th June in each year cover the acreage of crops, the numbers of live stock and the numbers of agricultural workers on holdings exceeding one acre of land under crops or permanent grass, and also the numbers of cattle, sheep, and pigs kept on other holdings. Estimates of the production of wheat, barley, oats, beans, hay, potatoes, and roots are made in the autumn by the Department's Crop Reporters. In order to obtain the further information necessary for the Census of Agricultural Production, a supplementary schedule was added to the ordinary schedule for the Agricultural Returns to be made on 4th June 1931, dealing with milk and milk products, births and deaths of live stock, poultry and egg production, and motive power used on farms. The

¹ *The Agricultural Output of Great Britain* (Cmd. 6277, 1912).

² *The Agricultural Output of Scotland, 1925* (Cmd. 3191, 1928).

schedules were, as on previous occasions, issued and collected by the local officers of Customs and Excise.

Special schedules were also issued to agricultural occupiers producing fruit, vegetables, crops under glass, wool and honey. Many inquiries were addressed to persons whose original returns were incomplete.

For convenience of comparison and combination, the Report is drawn up on much the same lines as the Report on the Agricultural Output of Scotland, 1925 (Cmd. 3191, 1928). The principal tables are placed in an appendix, while smaller tables illustrating special points are inserted in the text. Large numbers are as a rule given in round figures.

It may be useful here to repeat the definitions given in the previous Report of the terms used to describe the various classes of land in agricultural or pastoral use :—

(1) "Land under crops and grass" means ordinary farm land,¹ including market gardens, etc., and excluding rough grazings. It is divided into the two classes of arable land and land under permanent grass.

(2) "Arable land" means all land that comes under the plough in the course of rotation, comprising land under grain crops, green crops, etc., land under rotation grasses and clover, and bare fallow, besides land used for market gardening, fruit-growing, etc.

(3) "Tillage" means the area of arable land that is actually ploughed in a given year and sown or planted or left fallow, i.e. arable land exclusive of that under rotation grasses and clover.

(4) "Land under rotation grasses and clover" means land on which grasses and clover are grown in course of rotation, whether for hay or for pasture.

(5) "Land under permanent grass" means land laid down to grass and not subject to rotation. It includes timothy and other meadows from which hay is taken. There is reason to believe that the distinction between rotation grasses and clover and permanent grass is not always clearly marked, and that in some cases land is returned to the Department as under the former which has not in fact been broken up for many years. Except, however, where there is an obvious error in an individual return, the Department accept the classification made by the occupiers of farms. Again, the line between permanent grass and rough grazings may be variously drawn according to different standards of classification.²

(6) The vast area described as "rough grazings" or "mountain and heath land used for grazing" is sufficiently defined by these terms. This land does not enter into the ordinary statistics of land under crops and grass, nor is it considered as included in agricultural

¹ The term "cultivated land," which is also employed in this sense, is not used in this Report.

² See *Agricultural Statistics of Scotland*, 1913, Part I, pp. 6 and 20, for a re-classification of land in Shetland; see also *The Agricultural Output of Scotland*, 1925, p. 47, note.

holdings for the purpose of classifying them by size. Reference is made on page 12 to the overlapping of the areas returned as rough grazings and as deer forests respectively, and on page 21 to the importance of the area when considering its relation to the sheep stocks in the various agricultural divisions and holdings groups.

The scope of the inquiry is limited to the gross value of the output of Scottish farms and other holdings as a whole. Thus store cattle, sheep or pigs sold by one farmer to another do not appear, since only the value of the finished product is reckoned. Similarly grain, potatoes, hay, straw, etc., are reckoned only in so far as they are sold for consumption outside the farming industry. Produce consumed in farm households is, however, included along with that which is sold. On the other hand no deduction is made for the cost of imported store cattle or of any imported commodities used in the production of crops or stock.

The Census thus furnishes only a part of the material required for an assessment of the economic results of farming in Scotland. None of the separate estimates of value presented is free from a considerable margin of error, but it is unlikely that the errors are all in one direction. The general result may, therefore, be accepted as reasonably near the truth.

December, 1933.

APPENDIX I.

LIST OF WITNESSES.

AMALGAMATED TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION :

Mr. Patrick Lagan, Rasharkin, Co. Antrim.
 Mr. Alex Adams, Jnr., Ballycopeland, Millisle, Co. Down.
 Mr. Wm. Burns, Jnr., Bishops court, Downpatrick, Co. Down.
 Mr. John Mulholland, Ballybeg, Ballee, Downpatrick, Co. Down.
 Mr. Patrick Curran, Englishtown, Ballyculter, Strangford, Co. Down.
 Mr. Samuel Esler, Tullyniskey, Dromara, Co. Down.
 Mr. Thomas Kinney, Carrowalaverty, Armoy, Co. Antrim.
 Mr. Robert Mills, Moyaver, Armoy, Co. Antrim.
 Mr. John Nabney, 70 Saunders Street, Belfast.

INDEPENDENT WITNESSES (LABOUR) :

Mr. Thomas Scott, Milford, Co. Armagh.
 Mr. Patrick Coyle, Dunamanagh, Strabane, Co. Tyrone.
 Mr. Peter Donaghy, Killnahushogue, Fintona, Co. Tyrone.
 Mr. Alex Crawford, Leck, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim.

ARMAGH FEDERATION OF LABOUR :

Mr. F. J. Morris, Carton Road, Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh.

ULSTER FARMERS' UNION :

Mr. John Colhoun, Mullaghmena, Omagh, Co. Tyrone.
 Mr. M. Buchanan, Bawn, Aughnacloy, Co. Tyrone.
 Mr. D. J. Carson, Corryglass, Letterbreen, Co. Fermanagh.
 Mr. Joseph Eakin, Sandville, Strabane, Co. Tyrone.
 Mr. V. M. Love, Foyleside, Bready, Strabane, Co. Tyrone.
 Mr. A. Robb, J.P., Ballybeen House, Dundonald, Co. Down.
 Mr. John Cleland, Ballymorn, Killinchy, Co. Down.
 Mr. John Moore, The Grange, Killough, Co. Down.
 Mr. Hugh Gray, Glenbrook, Finvoy, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim.
 Mr. W. W. B. Keers, Finvoy, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim.
 Mr. T. M'Kinstry, Parkgate, Templepatrick, Co. Antrim.
 Mr. Wm. M'Collum, Drumcroon, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry.
 Mr. George Haslett, Carrowclare House, Myroe P.O., Limavady, Co. Londonderry.
 Mr. John Corkey, Rufus House, Glenanne, Armagh.
 Mr. David Stewart, Glenanne P.O., Co. Armagh.
 Mr. James M'Conaghy, Gortcony, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim.

ULSTER AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION SOCIETY :

Mr. Charles M'Gee, Carnmeen, Newry, Co. Down.
 Mr. J. A. Nesbitt, Wood Grange Cottage, Downpatrick, Co. Down.
 Mr. T. H. M'Auley, Caugherty, Broughshane, Co. Antrim.

LONDONDERRY COUNTY COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURE :

Mr. R. B. Lyttle, J.P., Lischrin, Garvagh, Co. Londonderry.

BELFAST CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LTD. :

Mr. J. A. M'Kelvey, General Manager.

SCOTTISH FARM SERVANTS' SECTION OF THE TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION :

Mr. J. F. Duncan, Dalnacouther, Airdrie, Lanarkshire.

SCOTTISH FARMERS' UNION :

Mr. James Picken, Milton, Kirkcudbright.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, NORTHERN IRELAND :

Mr. H. Anderson.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, LONDON :

Mr. E. L. Mitchell, C.B.E.

Mr. R. E. Stanley, M.B.E.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR SCOTLAND:

Mr. L. G. Davidson.

Mr. W. D. Watson.

APPENDIX II.

MALE AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS EMPLOYED IN N. IRELAND.

Year	Permanent			Temporary			Grand Total
	Under 18 Years	Over 18 Years	Total	Under 18 Years	Over 18 Years	Total	
1925	2,343	22,315	24,658	1,356	11,937	13,293	37,951
1926	2,052	21,408	23,460	1,067	11,341	12,408	35,868
1927	1,761	21,819	23,580	938	11,802	12,740	36,320
1928	1,712	21,810	23,522	693	10,522	11,215	34,737
1929	1,638	22,861	24,499	925	11,365	12,290	36,789
1930	1,749	21,287	23,036	680	10,564	11,244	34,280
1931	1,616	20,631	22,247	787	9,292	10,079	32,326
1932	1,401	21,676	23,077	628	10,497	11,125	34,202
1933	1,293	21,255	22,548	798	10,436	11,234	33,782
1934	1,382	20,944	22,326	759	10,401	11,160	33,486
1935	1,541	20,866	22,407	853	10,282	11,135	33,542
1936	1,565	19,825	21,390	1,056	11,848	12,904	34,294
1937	1,469	19,140	20,609	614	10,326	10,940	31,549
1938	1,428	17,194	18,622	847	10,061	10,908	29,530

APPENDIX III*

WAGES OF RURAL SURFACEMEN (NORTHERN IRELAND).

NAME OF COUNCIL.	1935 WAGES	1938 WAGES	APPROXIMATE HOURS.
1. Antrim County Council ..	30/-	31/6	52
2. Down Co. Council ..	30/-	31/6	50
3. Armagh Co. Council ..	28/-	30/3	52
4. Londonderry Co. Council ..	25/-	27/-	52
5. Tyrone Co. Council ..	27/-	27/6	52
6. Fermanagh Co. Council ..	30/-	30/-	52

In two Districts in Co. Antrim, Ballycastle and Ballymoney, men are paid 30/- only.

In Tyrone and Fermanagh, wages have not changed for over five years.

Applications for increased wages are being considered by all County Councils at present.

HOLIDAYS : Four to six Statutory Holidays are paid for by all the Councils, also weekly half-holiday.

All Councils pay up to 1/- per day extra to all men who handle tar.

Co. Tyrone only pays 25/- per week to temporary men.

Road Contractors in the first four Counties must pay the County Council Rates of Wages.

* The information in this Appendix was supplied by the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union.

APPENDIX IV.

NUMBER OF COTTAGES ERECTED OR TO BE ERECTED
UNDER THE LABOURERS ACTS (N.I.) 1883—1937.

County	Rural District.	Erected prior to 1935 Act.	1935—1937 Acts.	
			In course of erection	Approximate Number Projected.
ANTRIM	Antrim	225*	—	120
	Ballycastle	244†	102	—
	Ballymena	304	—	190
	Ballymoney	465	386	—
	Belfast	166	—	—
	Larne	38‡	—	—
	Lisburn	398	125	—
ARMAGH	Armagh	343	—	140
	Lurgan	193	90	—
	Newry No. 2	158	—	320
	Tanderagee	39	—	10
DOWN	Banbridge	242	—	110
	Castlereagh	105	—	—
	Downpatrick	701	—	300
	Hillsborough	205	57	70
	Kilkeel	120	106	—
	Moira	149	—	50
	Newry No. 1	172	—	90
Newtownards	957¶	—	300	
FERMANAGH	Enniskillen	61	—	60
	Irvinestown	83	—	—
	Lisnaskea	233	—	10
LONDONDERRY	Coleraine	349§	244	—
	Limavady	218	163	—
	Londonderry	128	122	—
	Magherafelt	287	—	210
TYRONE	Castledearg	97	—	40
	Clogher	63	—	—
	Cookstown	179	84	—
	Dungannon	314	208	—
	Omagh	461	—	—
	Strabane	428	—	90
TOTAL		8,125	1,687	2,110

* In addition to 225 cottages erected by Antrim Rural District Council, 2 existing cottages on sites purchased were reconditioned and let.

† In addition to this figure, 22 cottages were erected but transferred to the Ballycastle Urban District Council in 1920.

‡ In addition to this figure, 1 cottage was erected but transferred to Whitehead Urban District Council.

¶ Includes 140 cottages erected by Downpatrick Rural District Council and transferred to Newtownards Rural District Council.

§ In addition to this figure, 19 cottages were erected but 17 were transferred to Portstewart Urban District Council and 2 to Portrush Urban District Council.

SUMMARY.

Number of cottages erected prior to transfer of services	—6,076 + 42	
" " " transferred to Urban District Councils	—	6,118
" " " erected since transfer of services	—	2,049
	Total erected	8,167

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