

much larger share of the land was public property; indeed, about the middle of the eighteenth century it is considered that one-half of the country was either national estates, church lands or farms owned by the bishops' sees. But towards the end of the eighteenth century and during the first decades of the nineteenth all farms belonging to the sees and a great number of national estates were sold, so that about the middle of last century only one-third of the land was publicly owned. Later still, more national estates were disposed of, though not very many, for all such sales required the sanction of the legislature, until 1905 when the government was authorized, subject to certain restrictions and conditions, to sell all national estates, and in 1907 it was further authorized to dispose of the church lands. Since then both national estates and church lands have been sold to such an extent, that at the survey of 1916–1918 only 17 per cent. of the land was public property (10 per cent. church lands, 6 per cent. national estates, and 1 per cent. owned by various public funds and municipalities).

About one-half (48 per cent.) of the farmers are *free-holders*, the rest (52 per cent.) *tenant farmers*. Of the latter about three-fifths are tenants of private persons, two-fifths renting publicly owned farms (i. e. national estates and church lands). Of late years, the number of free-holders has increased considerably, while that of tenants has decreased in the same proportion. About the middle of last century only 17 per cent. were free-holders; in 1910 their number had risen to 37 per cent.

CROPS

All farming in Iceland is based on the cultivation of grass. The *hay* from the homefield is almost exclusively used for cattle (cows') fodder, while horses and sheep are fed with the hay from the meadows (different species of sedge and cyperaceæ). The *taða'* (hay of the homefield) forms about one-third of the whole crop of hay. The yield of hay is usually counted in horse-loads, which, though varying considerably in weight in different districts, may as a rule be put at from 80 to 100 kg. each.

Since the beginning of the present century, the annual yield of hay has been as follows (in 1000 horse-loads):

Year	Hay from		Total yield
	homefields	meadows	
1901–1905 average	609	1253	1862
1906–1910	623	1324	1947
1911–1915	667	1423	2090
1916–1920	597	1472	2069
1921–1925	751	1327	2078
1926–1928	843	1334	2177