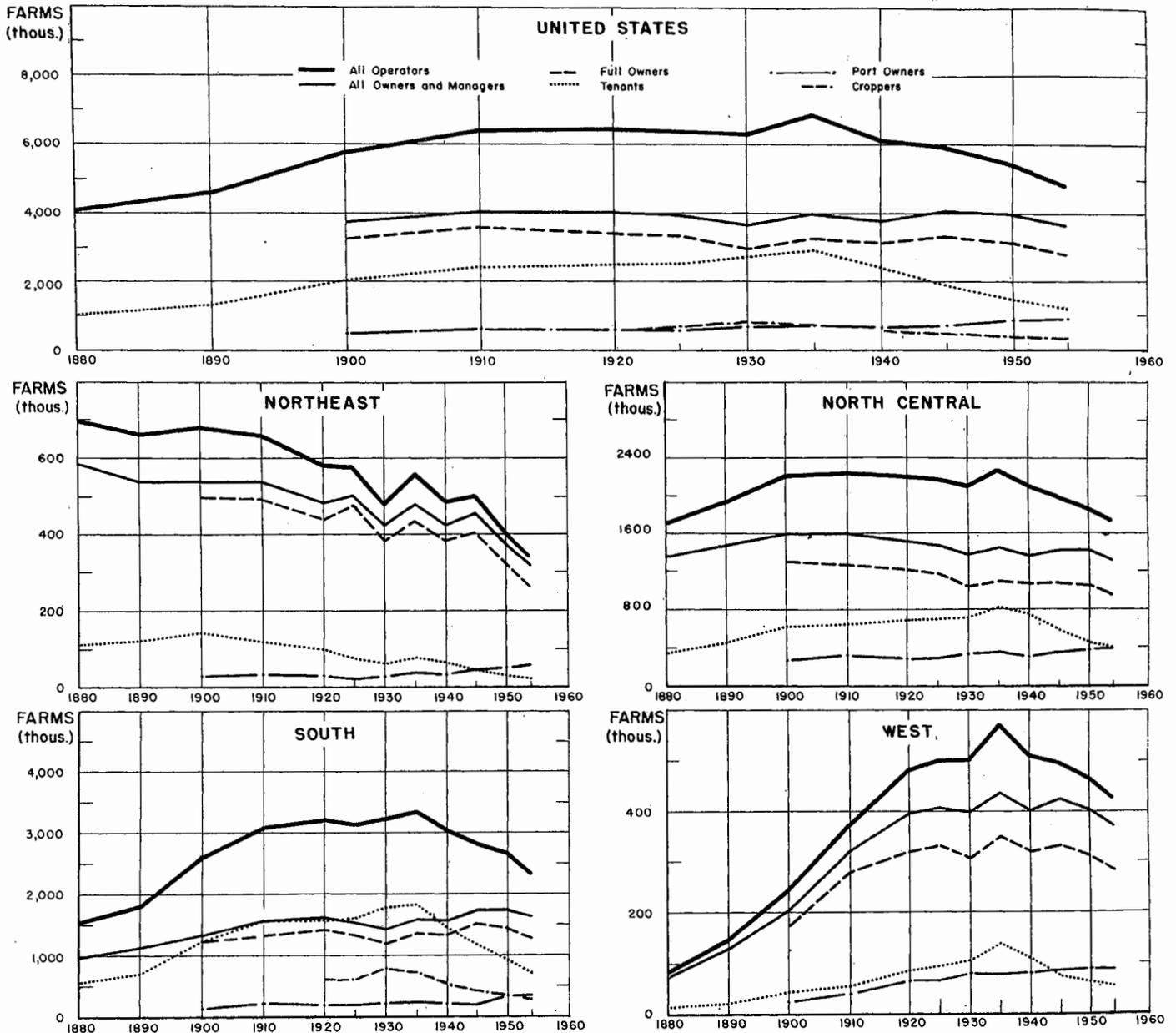


NUMBER OF FARMS, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS, 1880-1954



54C-132.

Figure 10.

TENURE OF FARMS

**Changes in the number of farms.**—In 1954, the number of farms in the Nation was nearly 600,000 below the number recorded in 1950. The 1954 total of approximately 4.8 million farms was also the lowest recorded at any Census since 1890, at which time there were about 4.6 million units. The 1954 number of farms also represented a drop of more than 2 million from the peak reached in 1935. The more restrictive definition of a farm used in 1950, and again in 1954, accounted for a small part of the decline in the number of farms for the last two Censuses as compared with earlier years. The change in definition in 1950 accounted for a drop of an estimated 150,000 to 170,000 farms between 1945 and 1950, most of which were owner-operated.

**Changes in the tenure of farm operators.**—In 1954, the Census reported 2,736,951 full owners, 856,933 part owners, 20,647 managers, and 1,167,885 tenants in the United States. The number of

farms in every tenure category, except part owners, has decreased since 1950.

Regional comparisons show that, in varying degrees, the changes in tenure generally have been in the same direction throughout the country since the depression of the 1930's. The number of full owners, managers, and tenants is decreasing and the number of part owners is increasing slightly.

Operators who farm only land which they own represent 57.2 percent of all farm operators. The number of full owners in 1954—2,736,951—is the lowest since 1925, when this tenure was first classified separately.

From 1880 to 1930, both the number of tenants and the percentage of tenance increased continuously. Since 1930, the percentage of farms operated by tenants has shown successive decreases, although the highest number of tenants was not reached until 1935. Tenant-operated farms in 1954 were fewer than for

(Continued on page 188)