Section 6.—INVESTMENT ON COTTON FARMS

Information concerning total farm investments and its distribution by major categories is particularly useful. Through the common denominator of estimated dollar value, such data provide the best measure of the quantity of the various kinds and qualities of physical resources that are used in production on cotton farms. Investment data are available to us for three major categories of resources—land and buildings, machinery and equipment, and livestock.

The land and capital resources on these farms are employed for other purposes as well as in cotton production, of course, but, as table 19 shows, the cotton enterprise accounts for an overwhelmingly large proportion of total sales from cotton farms in every region, on each economic class of farm. The continued employment of these resources is, consequently, mainly supported by the cotton enterprise.

The approximately 8.4 billion dollars of investment on cotton farms in our ten regions is an impressive aggregate of resources. It amounts to about 8 percent of the estimated total investment on commercial farms in the United States.

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL INVESTMENT AMONG ECONOMIC CLASSES

In this perspective let us examine the distribution of total investment for the ten regions among farms with total annual gross sales of less than $5,000. It seems probable that among such businesses are likely to occur most of the difficulties of remunerating at "opportunity costs" both the resources which comprise the investment aggregate and the human agent of operator and family labor and management.

With respect to this distribution three groups of regions are clearly discernible. In Regions I, II, III, and V, from just under 60 percent to almost 90 percent of total investment is found on farms in Classes IV through VI. A much smaller, but still substantial, proportion of around 35 percent of total investment is found in Regions IV, VI, and VII on farms with gross sales of less than $5,000. In Regions VIII, IX, and X these smaller size-of-business farms account for 9, 5, and 3 percent, respectively, of regional total investment.

TABLE 28.—DISTRIBUTION OF INVESTMENT ON COTTON FARMS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS, BY REGIONS: 1954

Region and item	All cotton farms	Economic class of farm					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
REGION I	*Mil. dollars*	*Per-cent*	*Per-cent*	*Per-cent*	*Per-cent*	*Per-cent*	*Per-cent*
Total investment	428.5	8.3	13.2	16.3	26.4	24.4	11.4
Land and buildings	347.7	8.3	13.7	16.3	26.4	24.0	11.3
Machinery and equipment	50.7	9.4	11.5	17.6	25.8	25.2	10.4
Livestock	30.0	6.1	10.8	14.4	26.9	27.1	14.7
REGION II							
Total investment	232.8	1.2	3.8	6.9	19.3	39.2	29.7
Land and buildings	188.8	1.1	3.8	6.8	19.6	38.8	29.8
Machinery and equipment	29.7	1.4	3.7	7.3	18.2	41.8	27.5
Livestock	14.3	1.8	3.9	6.4	17.4	38.3	32.2
REGION III							
Total investment	1,153.2	6.4	8.4	11.4	24.8	31.7	17.3
Land and buildings	944.1	6.6	8.9	11.4	24.9	31.0	17.1
Machinery and equipment	126.2	6.0	6.2	12.0	25.2	35.3	15.4
Livestock	82.9	4.5	6.3	9.7	23.4	33.9	22.1
REGION IV							
Total investment	1,717.7	32.7	18.6	16.4	16.9	12.7	2.8
Land and buildings	1,359.8	33.5	18.1	16.8	16.4	12.3	2.9
Machinery and equipment	306.1	29.9	21.9	15.0	18.2	12.9	2.1
Livestock	51.8	27.1	12.5	13.7	21.2	19.7	5.8
REGION V							
Total investment	248.5	16.8	11.9	14.9	18.4	21.0	17.1
Land and buildings	196.6	17.8	11.9	15.3	17.8	20.4	16.7
Machinery and equipment	30.4	12.7	13.4	13.1	21.9	22.7	16.2
Livestock	21.4	13.3	9.4	13.0	18.9	23.6	21.9
REGION VI							
Total investment	182.6	13.2	25.9	25.8	21.0	10.8	3.3
Land and buildings	154.4	13.6	25.9	25.9	20.9	10.6	3.1
Machinery and equipment	20.2	11.2	28.2	25.7	21.5	9.8	3.6
Livestock	8.0	11.1	20.6	22.9	22.4	16.2	6.8
REGION VII							
Total investment	1,387.6	15.3	23.1	25.9	22.0	11.0	2.7
Land and buildings	1,191.0	16.0	23.1	26.2	21.4	10.7	2.6
Machinery and equipment	152.2	12.0	24.5	23.8	25.1	11.5	3.2
Livestock	44.4	8.7	17.7	25.3	26.2	17.1	5.0
REGION VIII							
Total investment	384.4	55.6	23.8	11.3	5.5	3.1	0.8
Land and buildings	342.1	56.6	23.1	11.1	5.3	3.1	0.8
Machinery and equipment	37.8	45.9	30.8	12.2	7.6	2.7	0.7
Livestock	4.5	58.7	21.3	12.8	3.5	2.7	0.9
REGION IX							
Total investment	1,130.4	54.8	32.8	7.6	3.4	1.3	0.1
Land and buildings	991.7	56.0	31.9	7.5	3.2	1.3	0.1
Machinery and equipment	125.5	46.0	40.4	7.9	4.2	1.4	0.1
Livestock	13.2	44.4	32.3	12.0	7.4	3.4	0.4
REGION X							
Total investment	1,557.9	79.7	13.2	4.5	2.0	0.5	0.1
Land and buildings	1,328.6	81.0	12.2	4.3	1.8	0.5	0.1
Machinery and equipment	198.1	70.9	20.0	5.4	2.8	0.7	0.1
Livestock	31.3	79.5	13.2	4.8	2.1	0.4	0.1
TOTAL, 10 REGIONS							
Total investment	8,423.7	35.9	18.4	13.5	14.4	12.3	5.4
Land and buildings	7,044.9	37.2	18.2	13.6	14.0	11.8	5.2
Machinery and equipment	1,076.9	32.0	21.4	13.2	15.7	13.0	4.7
Livestock	301.9	20.2	12.0	13.2	20.0	22.1	12.6