

The thesis places the Free Peasantry in the context of agrarian organisation and protest from the foundation of the Agrarian League (*Bund der Landwirte*) to the first year of National Socialist rule. These years saw the growth and then the disintegration of the freely organised peasant interest. Emphasis is placed on the agricultural economy, particularly during the inflation and the depression, and the central question posed is how the peasantry tried to find a satisfactory representation of its interests during these years of economic turmoil.

The main sources were official papers in the Bavarian and Rhineland archives, the newspapers of the peasant associations, and the author's interview with the former chairman of the Free Peasantry.

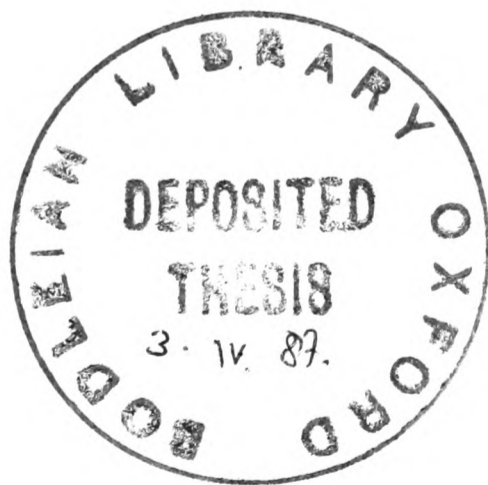
THE FREE PEASANTRY
AGRARIAN PROTEST IN THE BAVARIAN PALATINATE
1893-1933

by

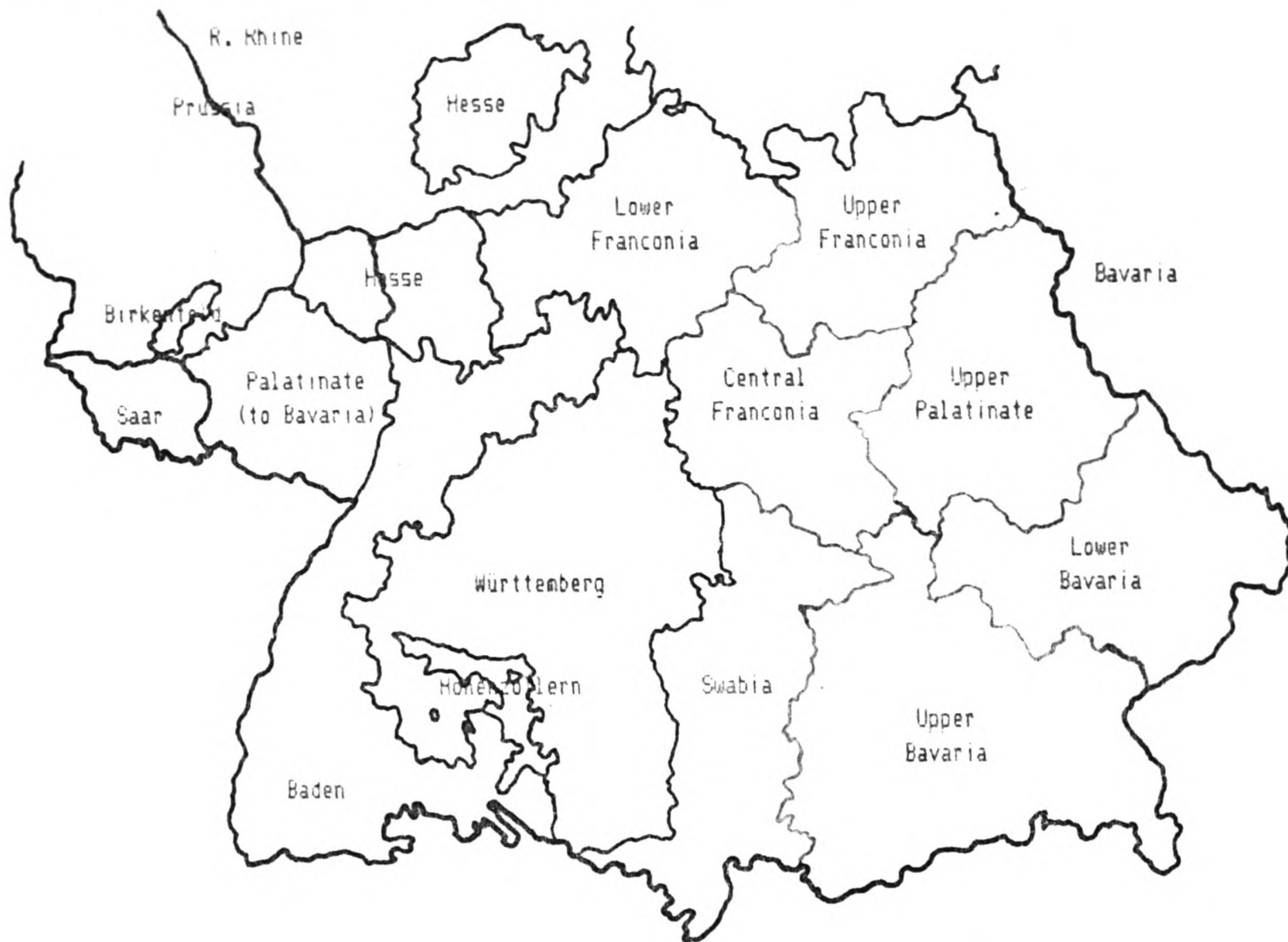
Jonathan Osmond

St Antony's College, Oxford

[1987] HT



1 The states of southern Germany during the Weimar Republic



2 The towns and *Bezirksämter* of the Palatinate during the Weimar Republic

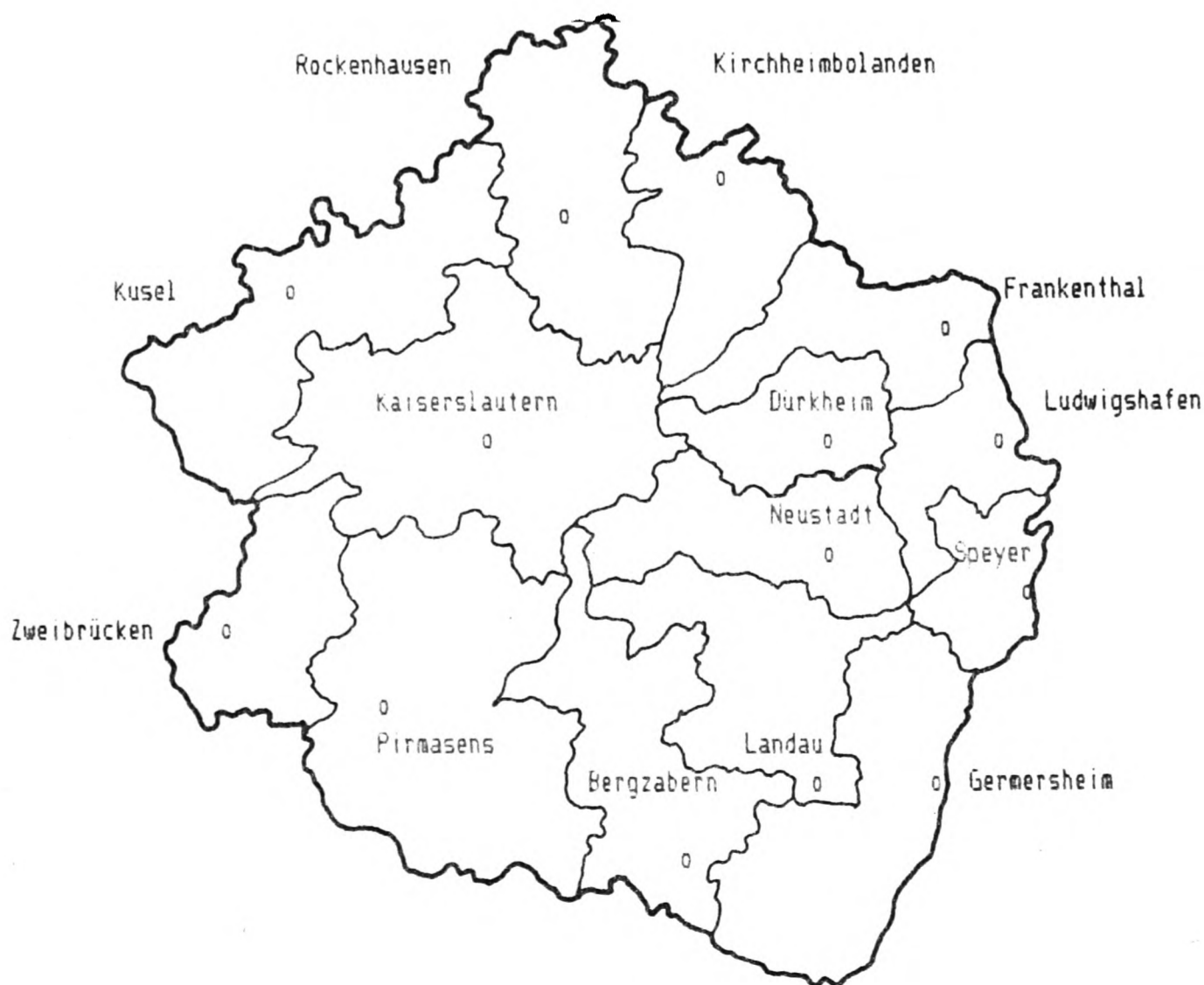
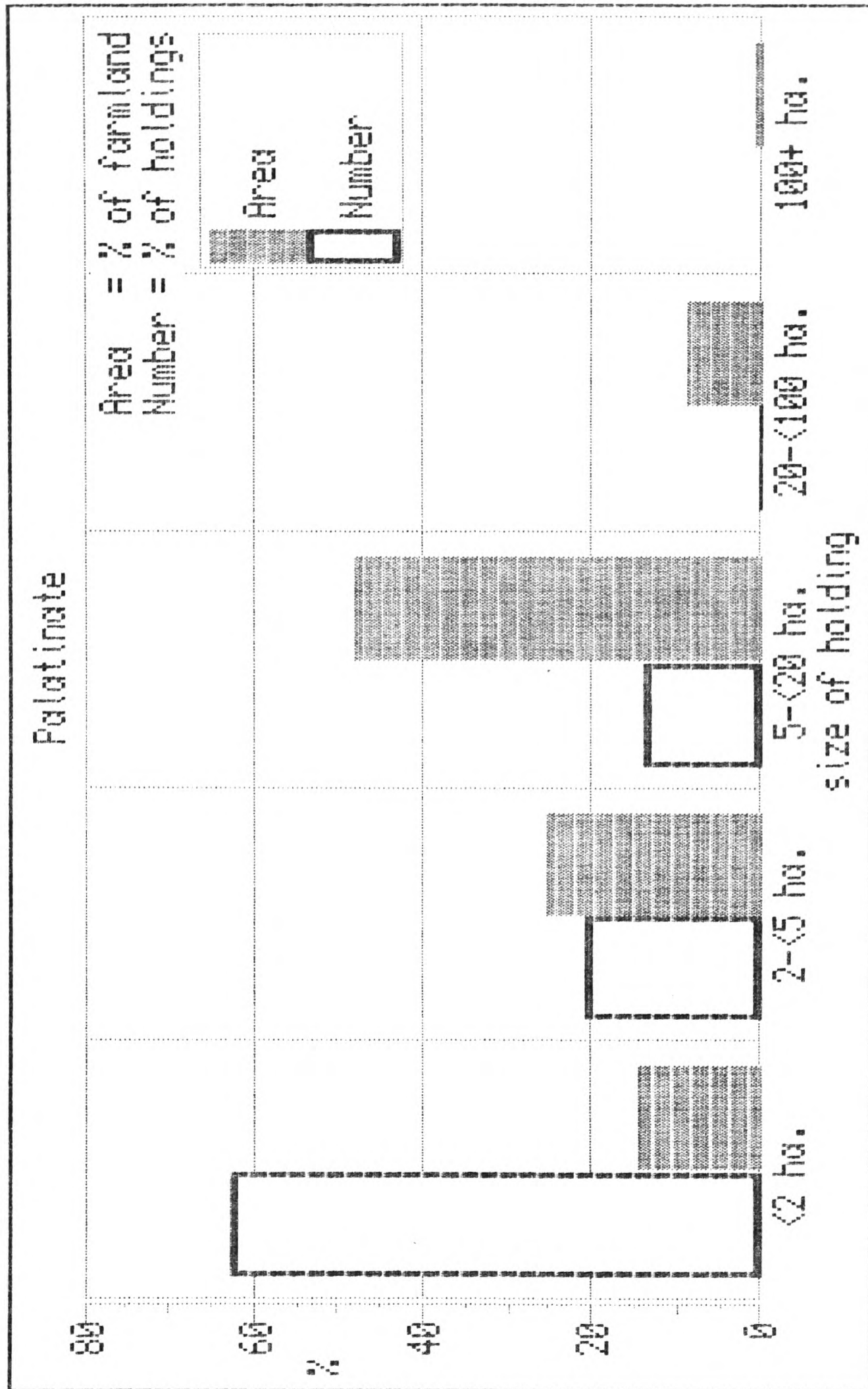


Figure 3:

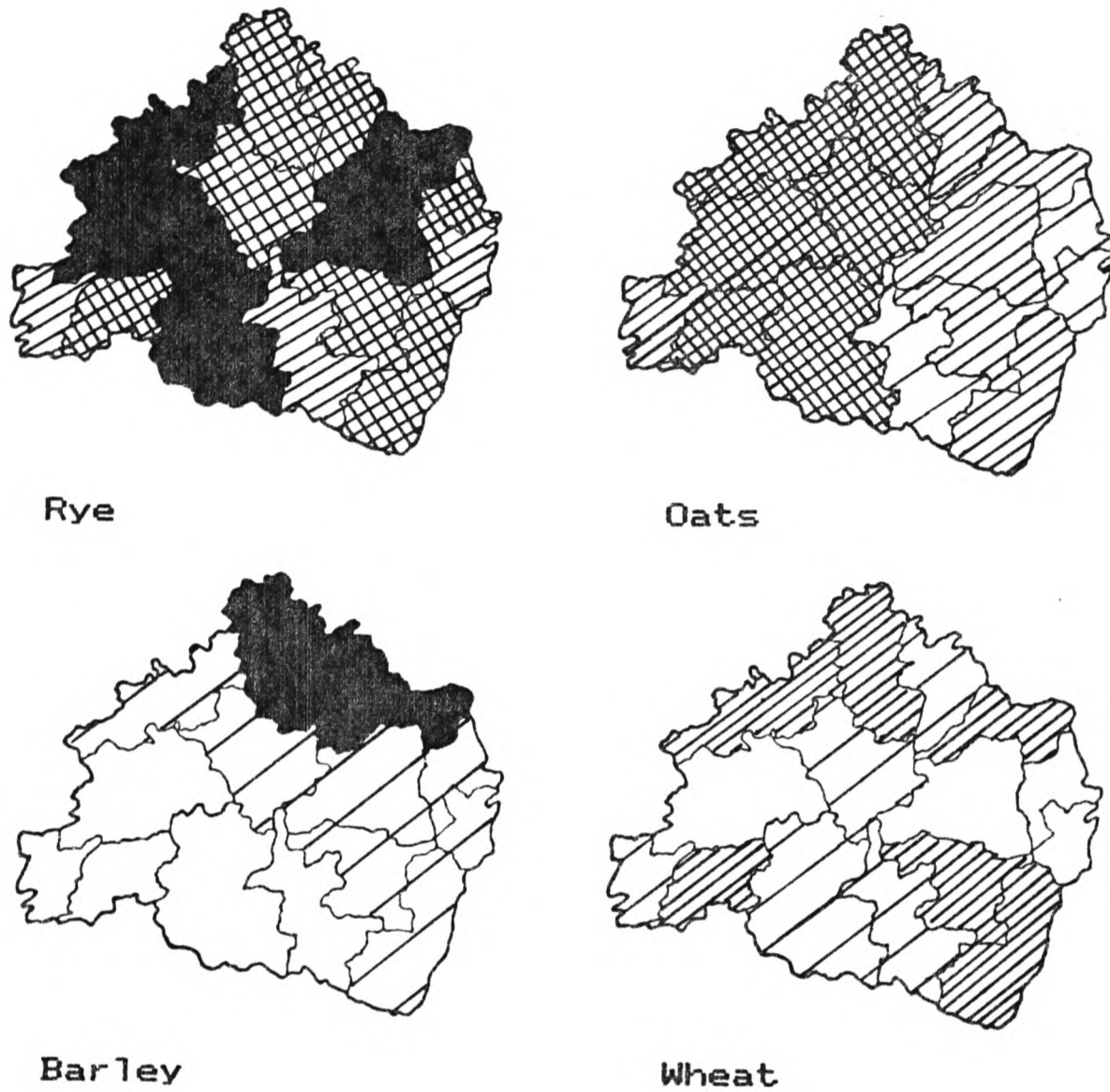
The agricultural landholding profile of the Palatinate, 1907¹



1 Wambsganss, *Die pfälzische Landwirtschaft*, pp. 24-7.

Figure 4: Cereal production before 1914¹

The maps give a diagrammatic indication by *Bezirksamt* of the main areas of production, not an exact geographical presentation.



1911 harvest in *Doppelzentner* (100 kilos.)



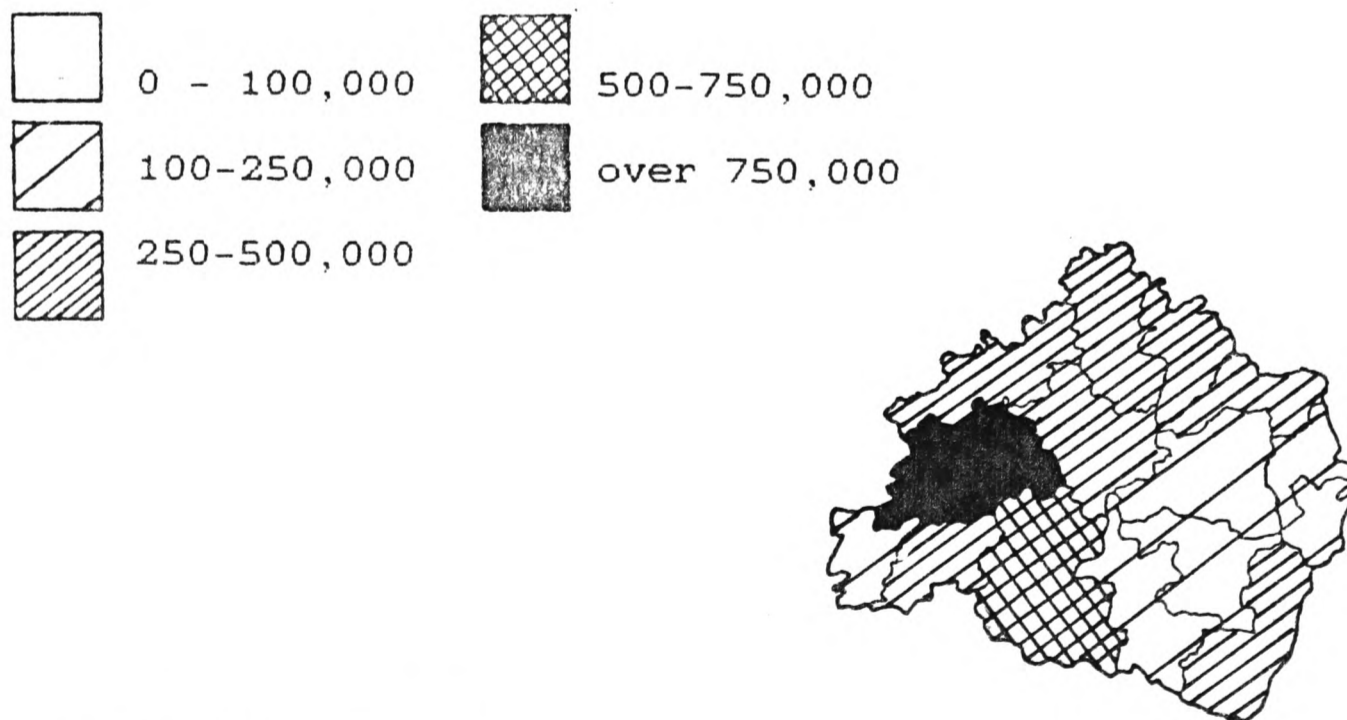
¹ Mang & Zink, *Wirtschaftsleben*, pp. 138-9.

advantage of other root and fodder crops. Despite this, the proportion of the area devoted to potatoes was the highest in Germany, way above the *Reich* and Bavarian averages. Most of the harvest was used or sold as fodder, but there was a surplus of quality produce for human consumption. Distilleries also took up part of the crop.¹ Potato production required a good supply of cheap labour, especially for the harvest, and this was most practicable in areas not subject to competition for labour from industrial centres. Child labour was cheap, and often used for potato picking.² Figure 5 shows the local distribution of potato production in the Palatinate.

Figure 5: Potato production before 1914³

The map gives a diagrammatic indication by *Bezirksamt* of the main areas of production, not an exact geographical presentation.

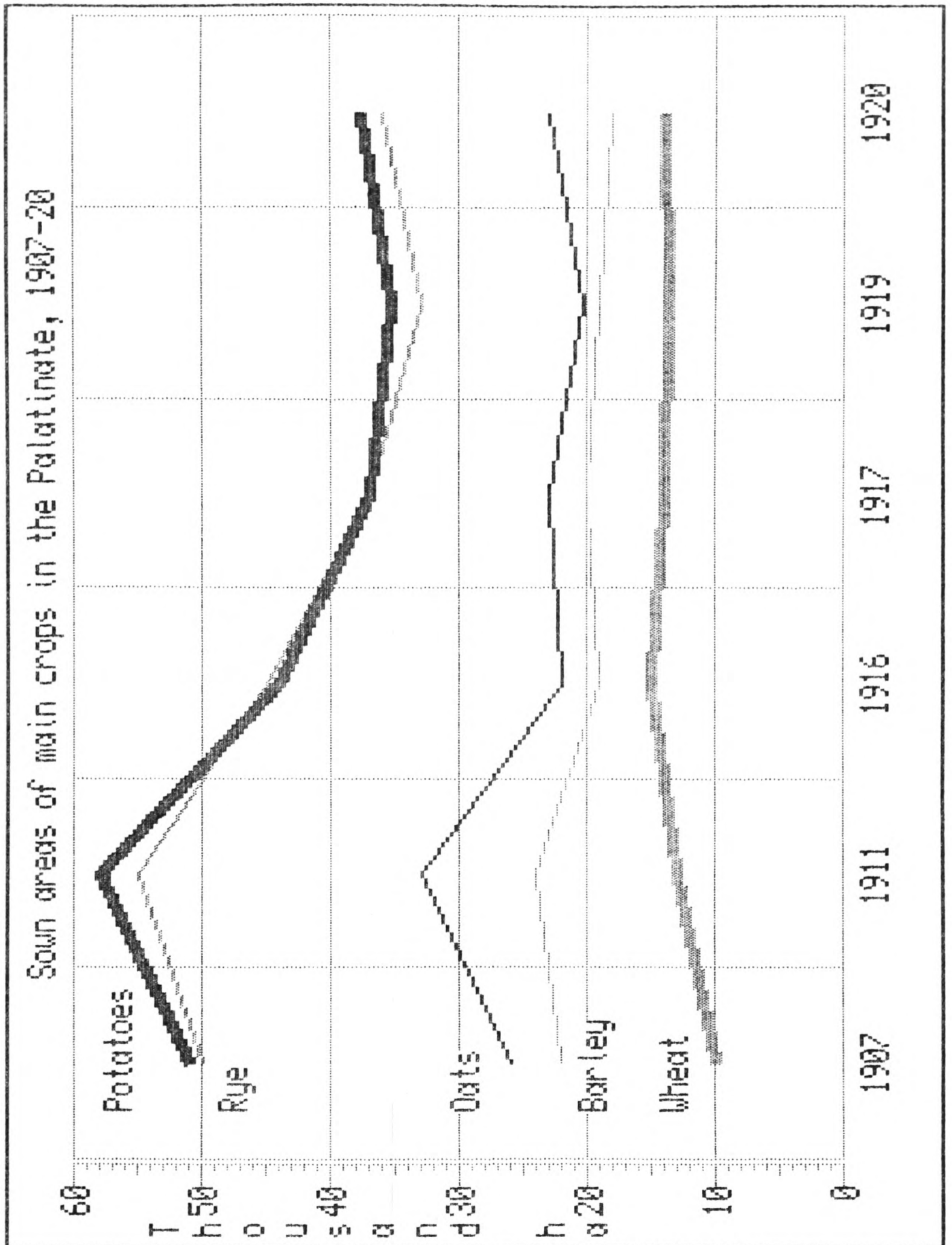
1911 harvest in *Doppelzentner* (100 kilos.)



1 Müller, *Grundlagen*, pp. 90-94.
 2 Hamm interview, 1978.
 3 Mang & Zink, *Wirtschaftsleben*, pp. 138-9.

Figure 8:

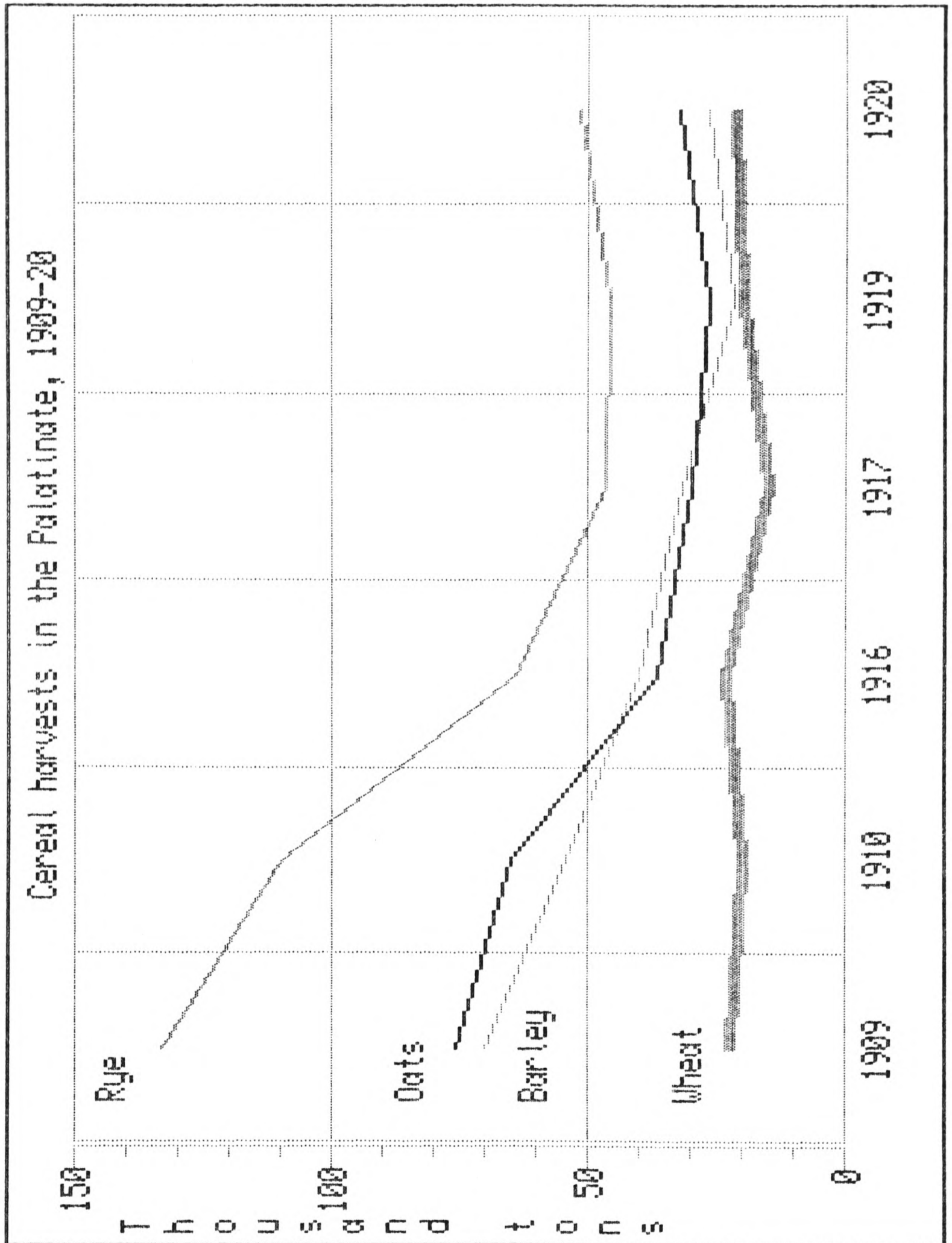
Sown areas of main crops, 1907-20¹



¹ See note 2, p. 100 above.

Figure 9:

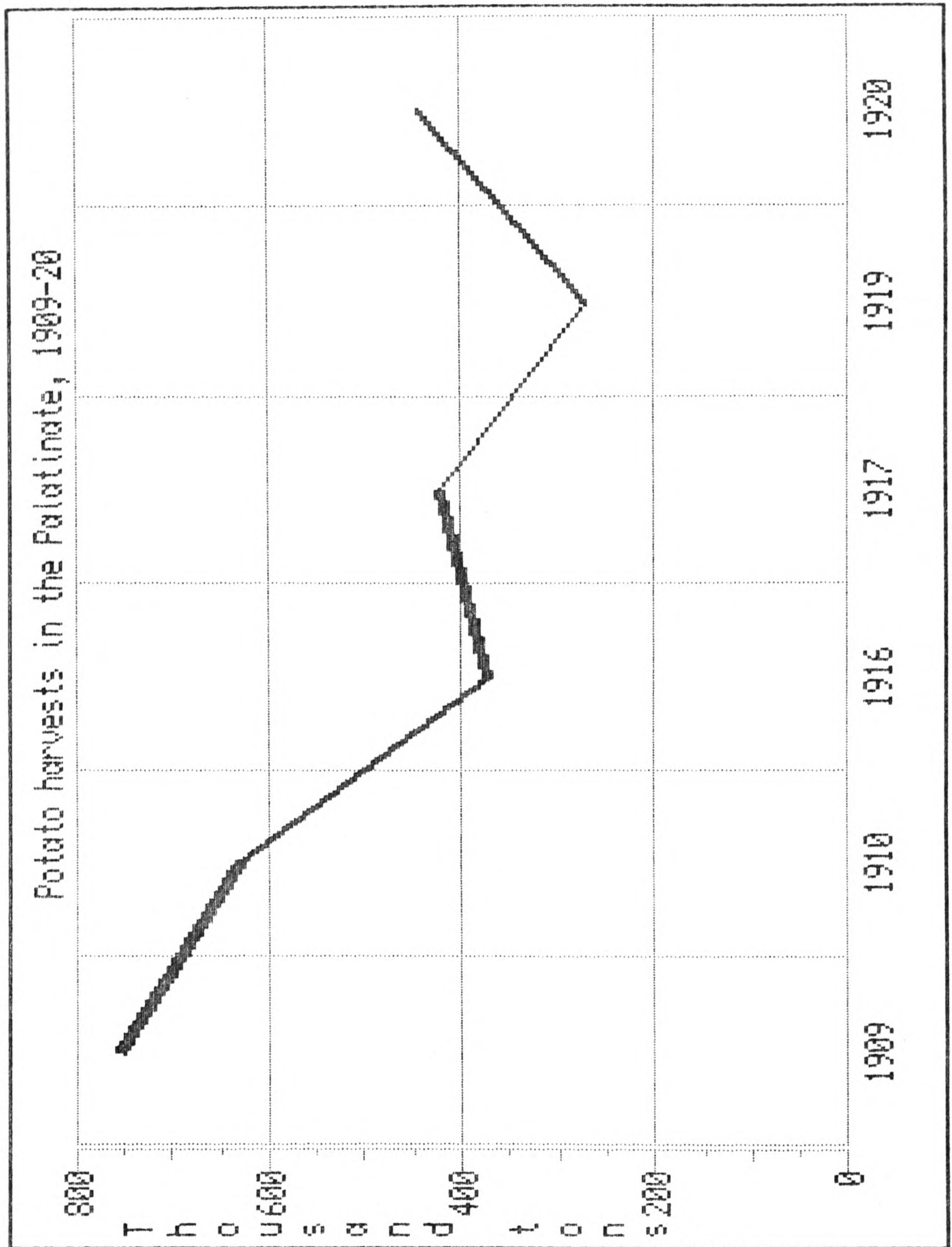
Cereal harvests, 1909-20¹



¹ See note 2, p. 100 above.

Figure 10:

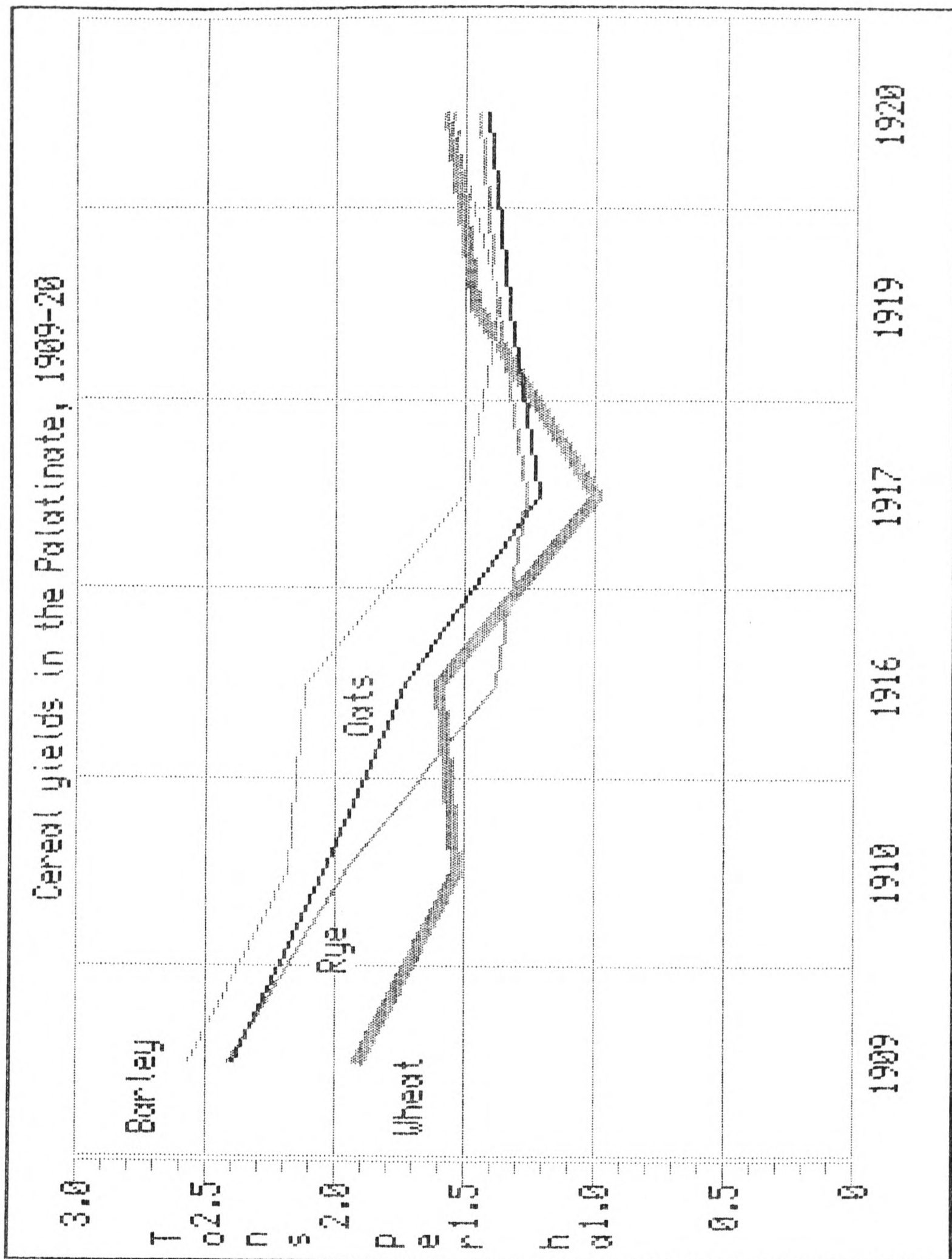
Potato harvests, 1909-20¹



¹ See note 2, p. 100 above.

Figure 11:

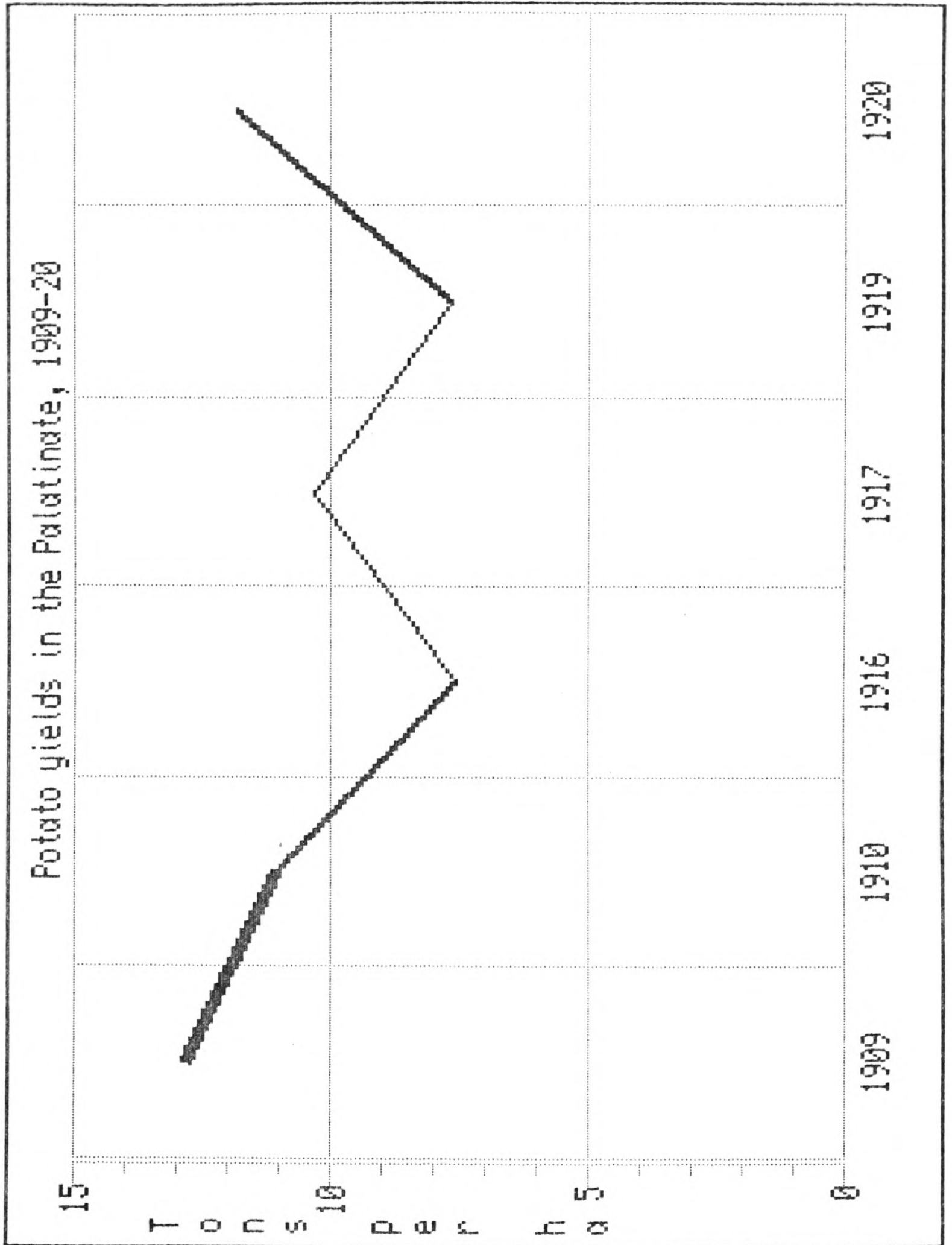
Cereal yields, 1909-20¹



1 See note 2, p. 100 above.

Figure 12:

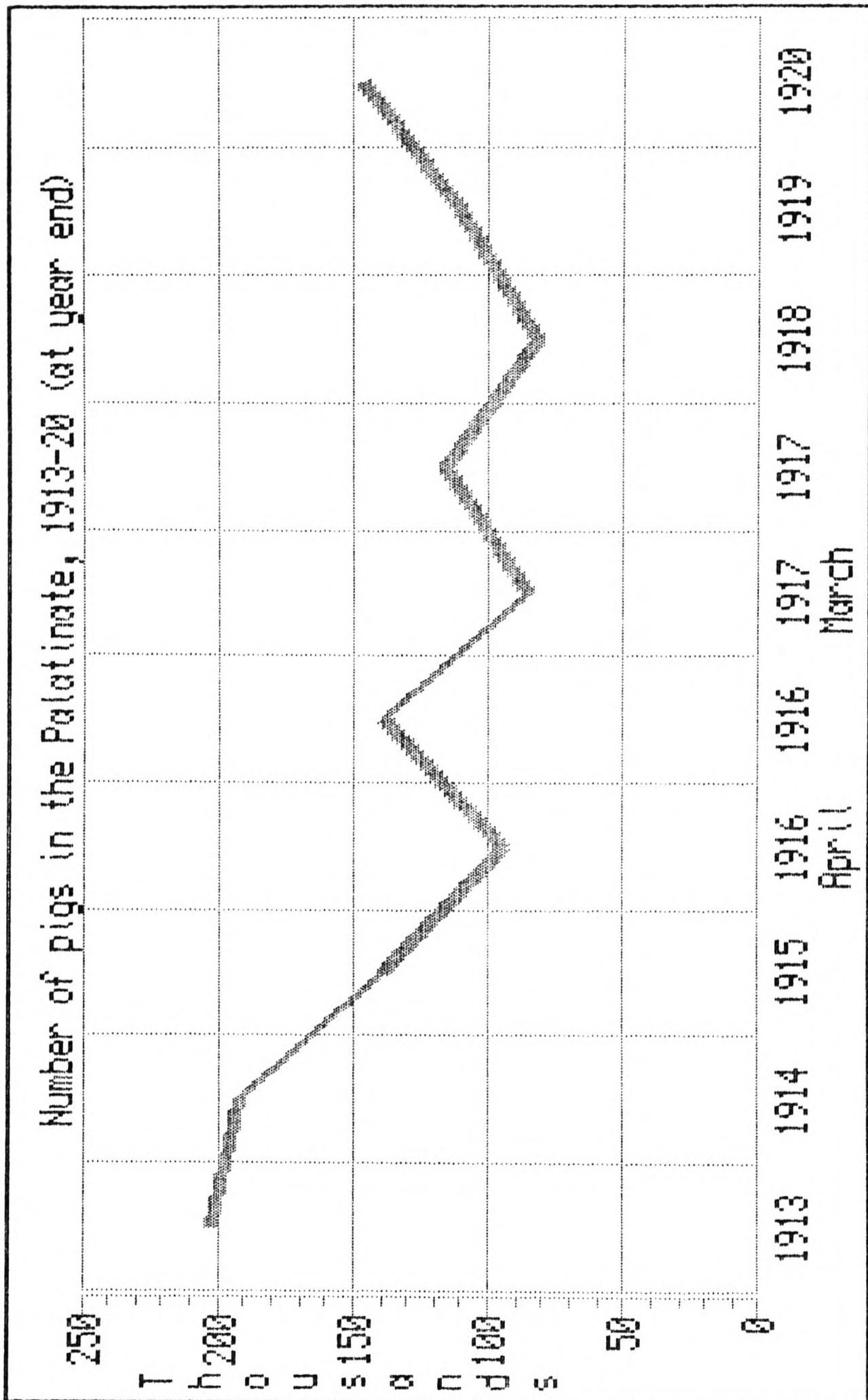
Potato yields, 1909-20¹



¹ See note 2, p. 100 above.

Figure 13:

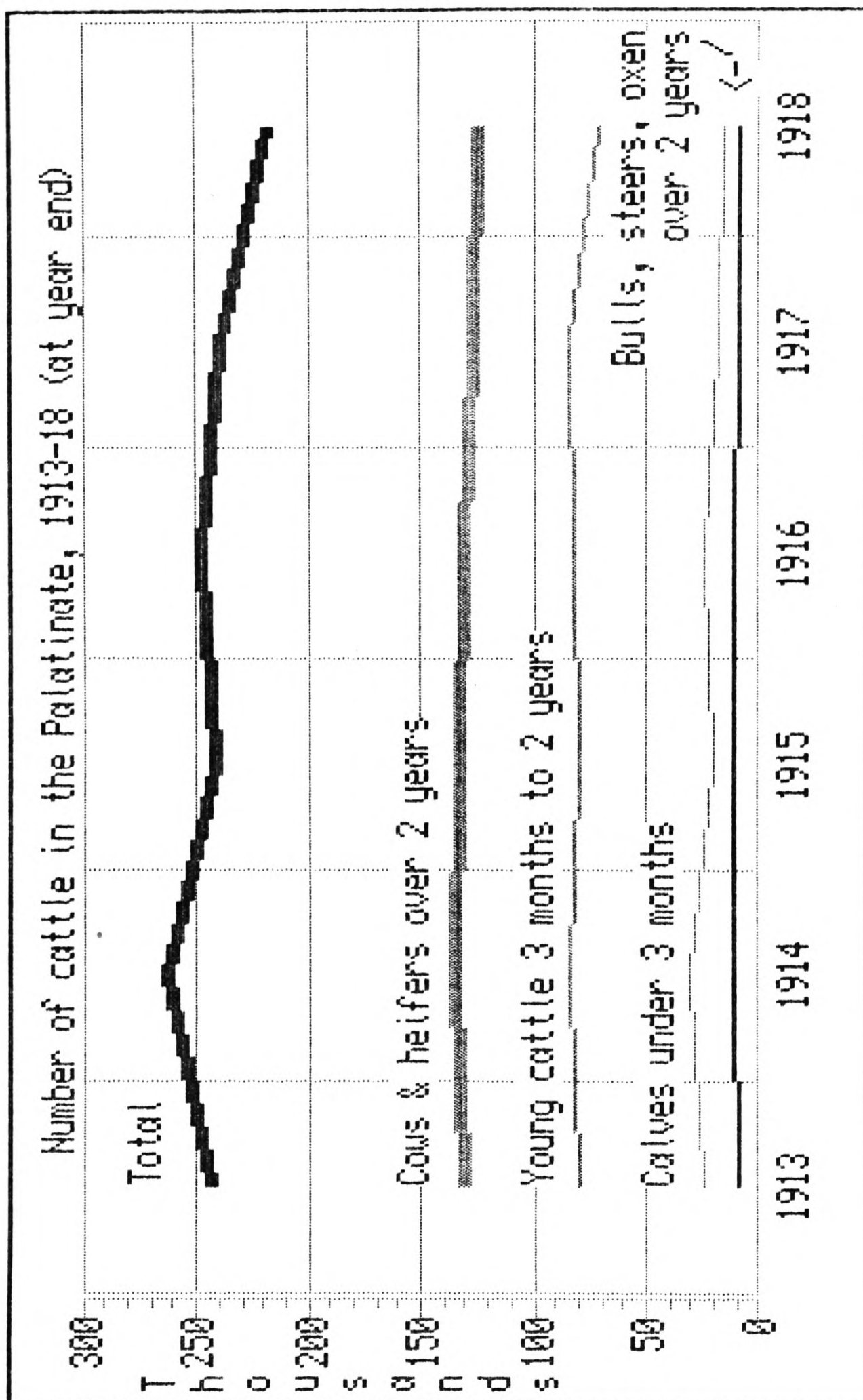
Number of pigs, 1913-20¹



¹ See note 2, p. 100 above.

Figure 14:

Number of cattle, 1913-18¹



¹ See note 2, p. 100 above.

Bavarians' determination not to recognise the arrangement as permanent, the reallocated districts were not fully incorporated into their new *Bezirksämter*, and external offices (*Außensitze*) of their respective *Bezirksämter* were set up in Waldmohr and Landstuhl. These provisions came into effect on 1 July 1920 (see **Figure 16**).¹

Figure 16: The new administrative borders of 1 July 1920



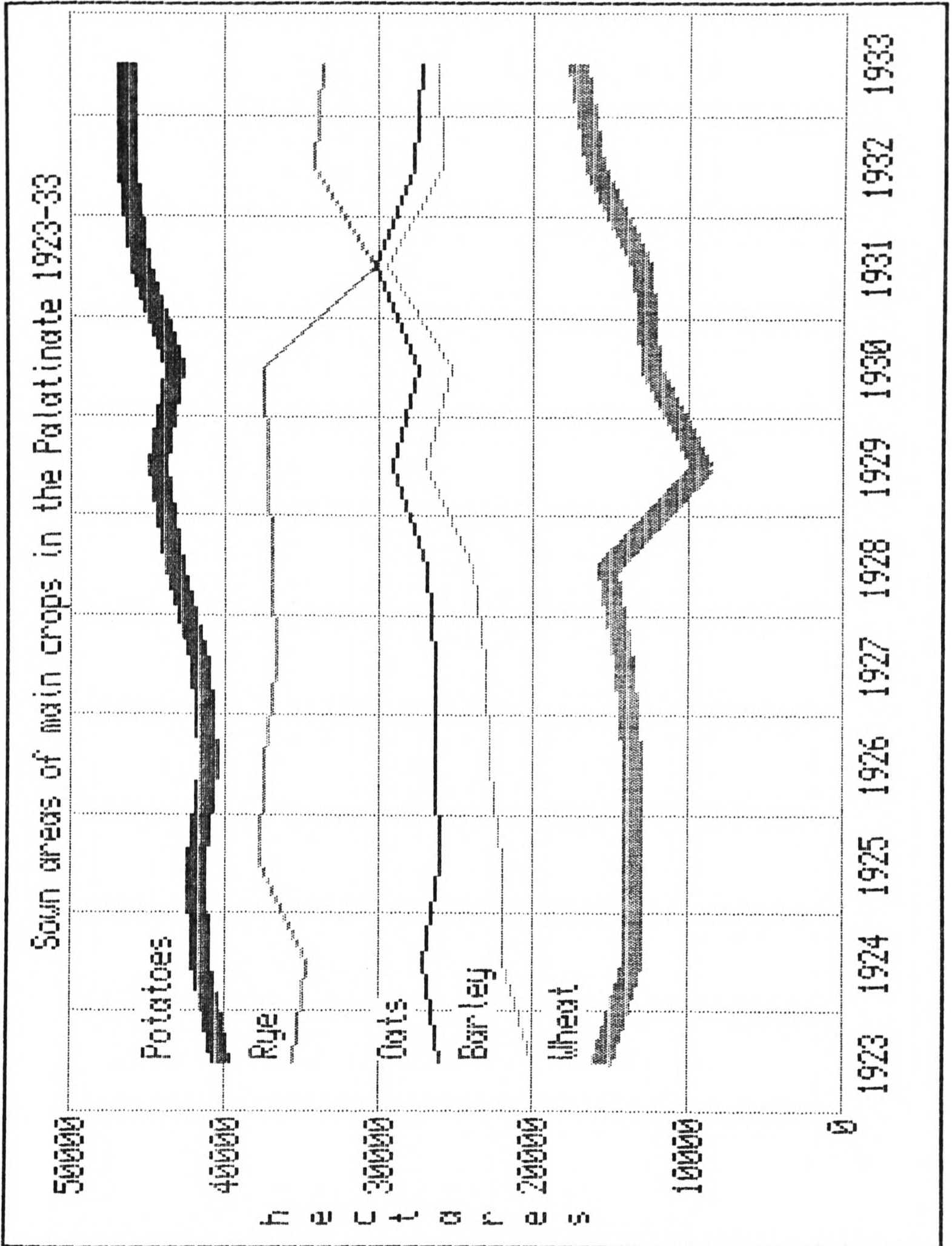
The significance of these changes for the agrarian sector was that the south-western corner of the Palatinate, including that part now lost, was already the one showing the highest degree of peasant discontent and radicalisation. During the war the problems of this area and its supplies to the Saar had already figured highly. Added to these now were further economic complications and political resentment.

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¹ *Pfalz u. franz. Besatz.*, 9 Jun. 1920.

Figure 17:

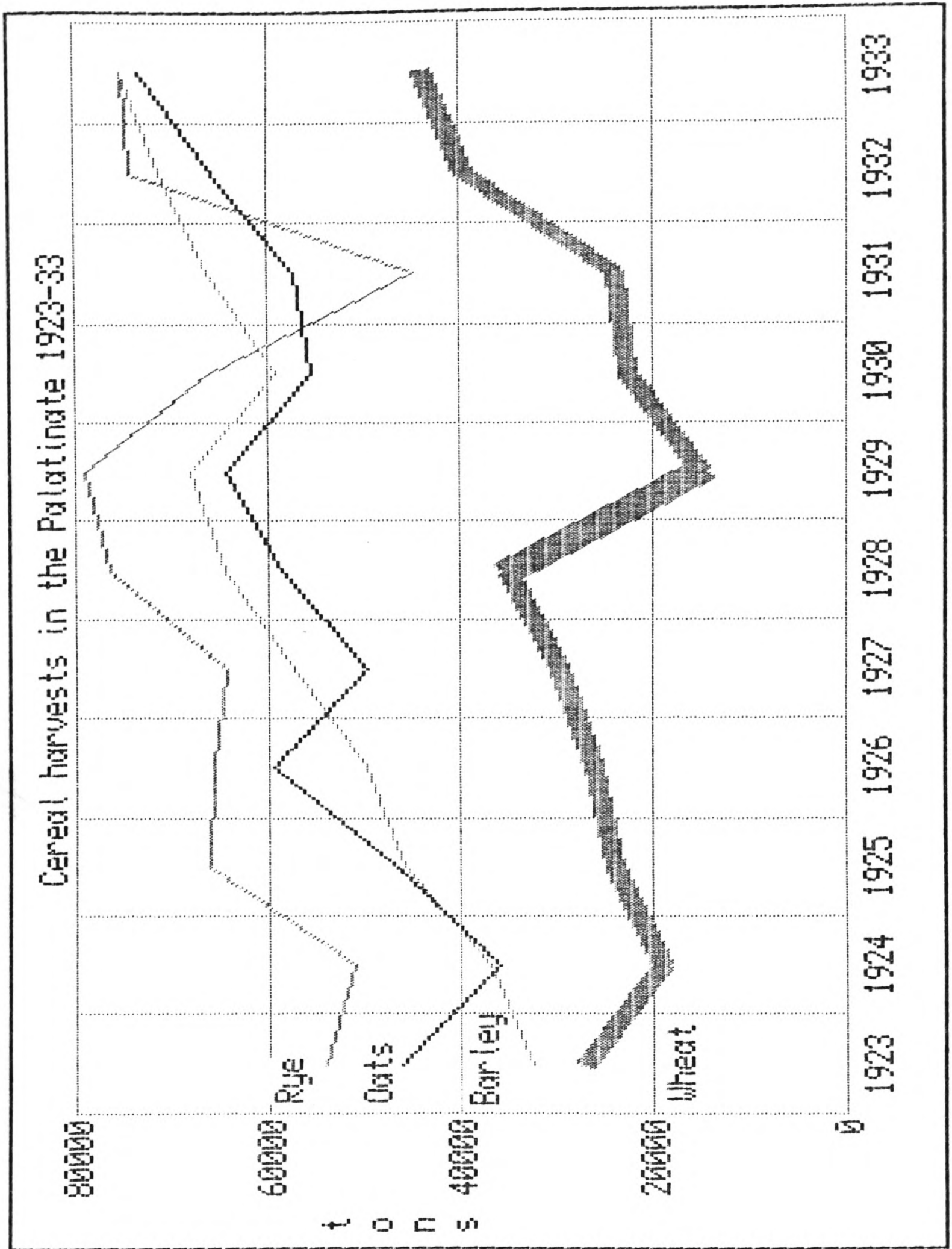
Sown areas of main crops, 1923-33¹



¹ StJDR 1924/5, pp. 56-9; 1926, pp. 44-5; 1927, pp. 56-7; 1928, pp. 72-3; 1929, pp. 76-7; 1930, pp. 70-71; 1931, pp. 62-3; 1932, pp. 62-3; 1933, pp. 68-9; 1934, pp. 74-5.

Figure 18:

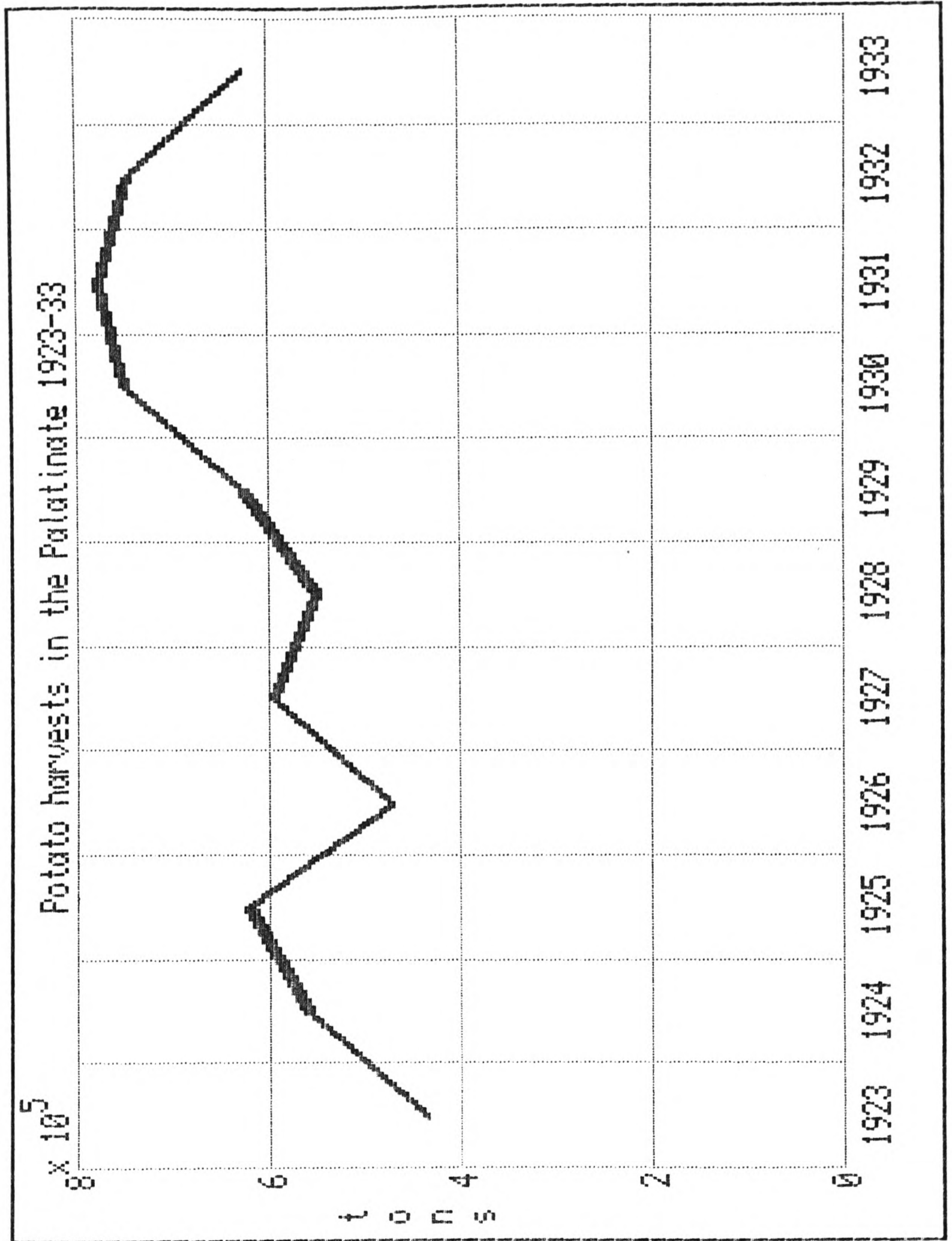
Cereal harvests, 1923-33¹



¹ See p. 338, note 1.

Figure 19:

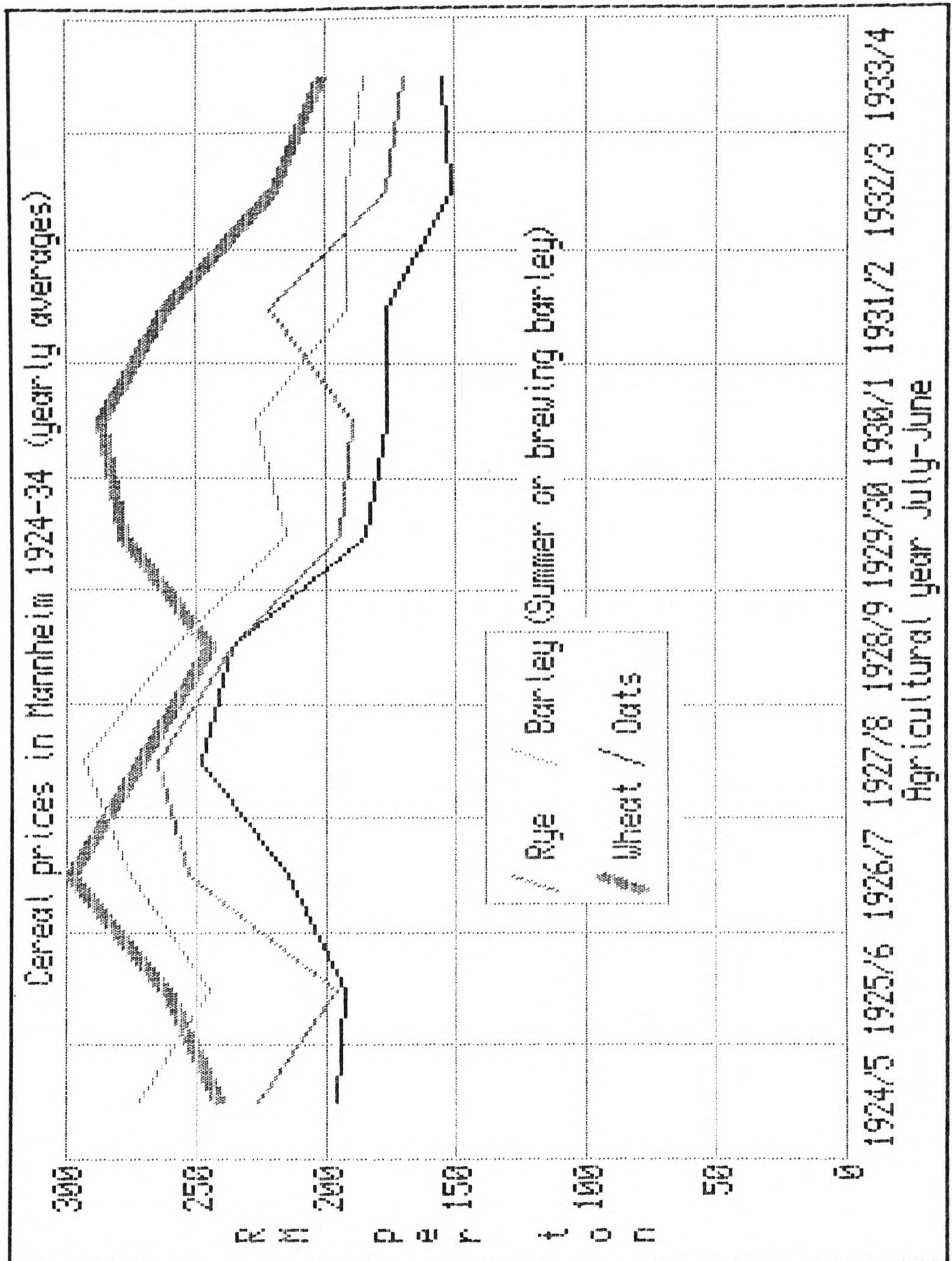
Potato harvests, 1923-33¹



1 See p. 338, note 1.

Figure 20:

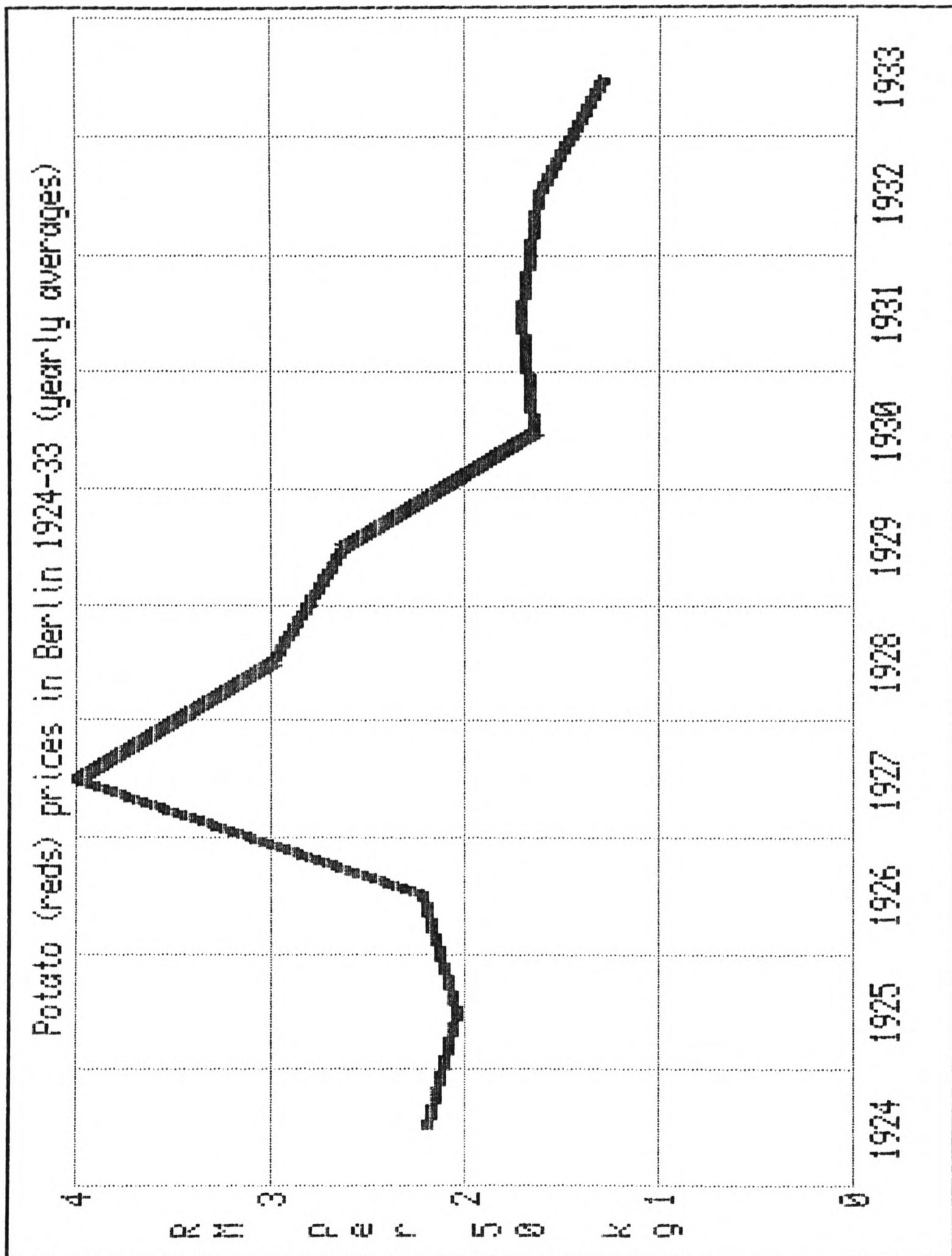
Cereal prices in Mannheim, 1924-34 (yearly averages)¹



¹ StJDR 1927, pp. 304-9; 1930, pp. 280-84; 1934, pp. 262-7. Mannheim was the nearest town to the Palatinate for which Reich statistics were given. Palatine sources attest that prices in the Palatinate, particularly in the west, were 'much lower' - see BAK R43I 1842: BBK Kusel, Apr. 1926.

Figure 21:

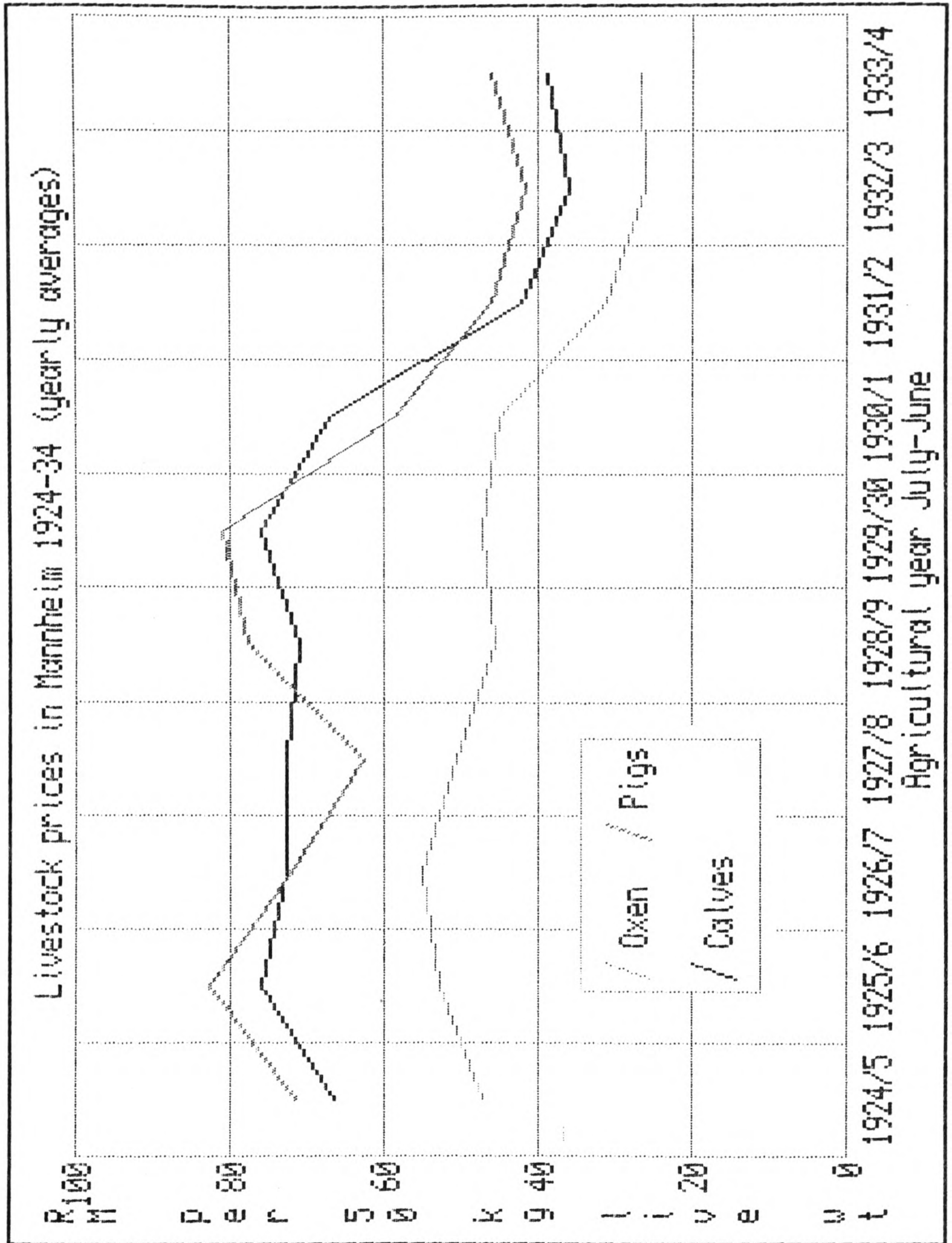
Potato (reds) prices in Berlin, 1924-33 (yearly averages)¹



¹ See p. 341, note 1.

Figure 22:

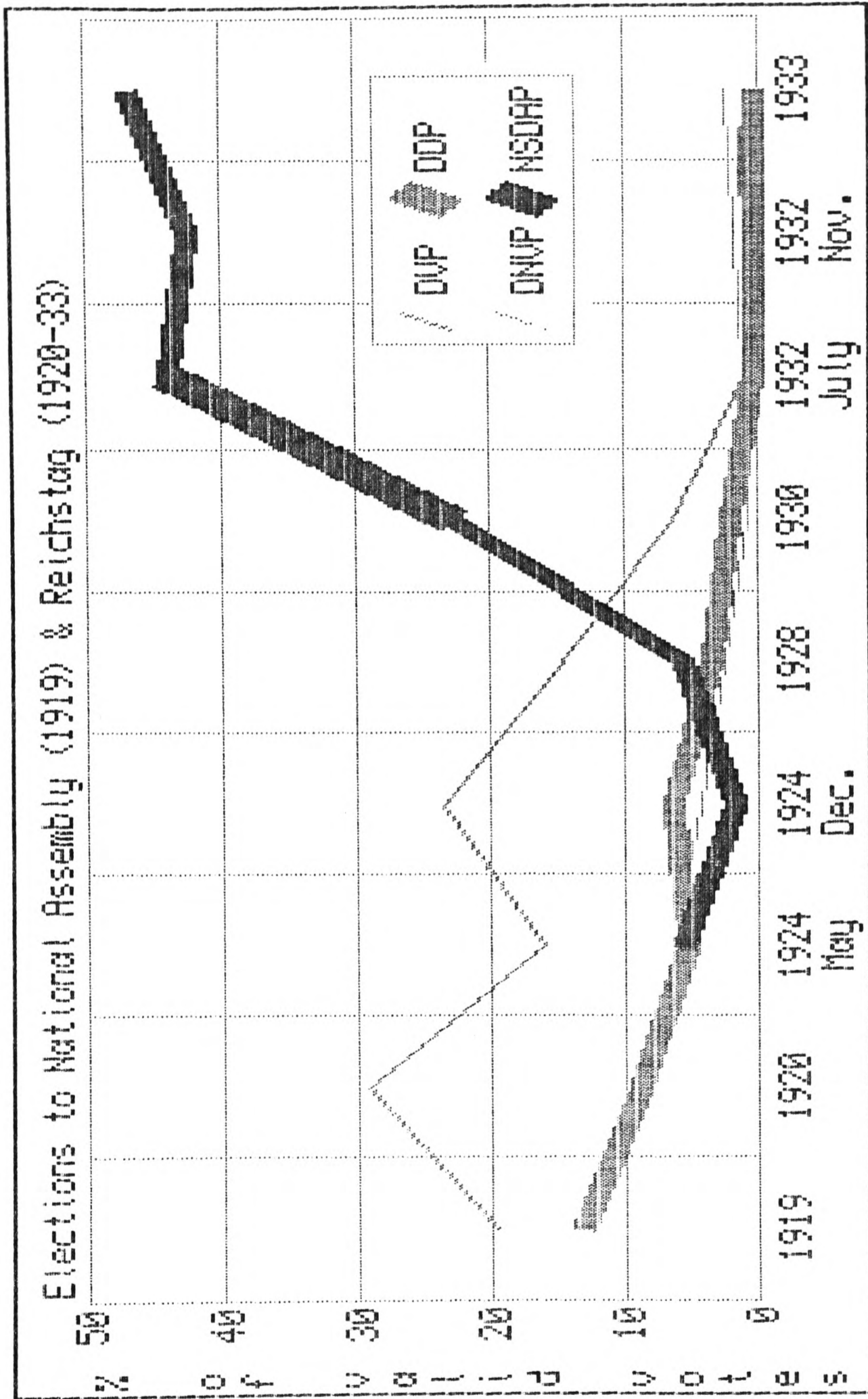
Livestock prices in Mannheim, 1924-34 (yearly averages)¹



¹ See p. 341, note 1.

Figure 23:

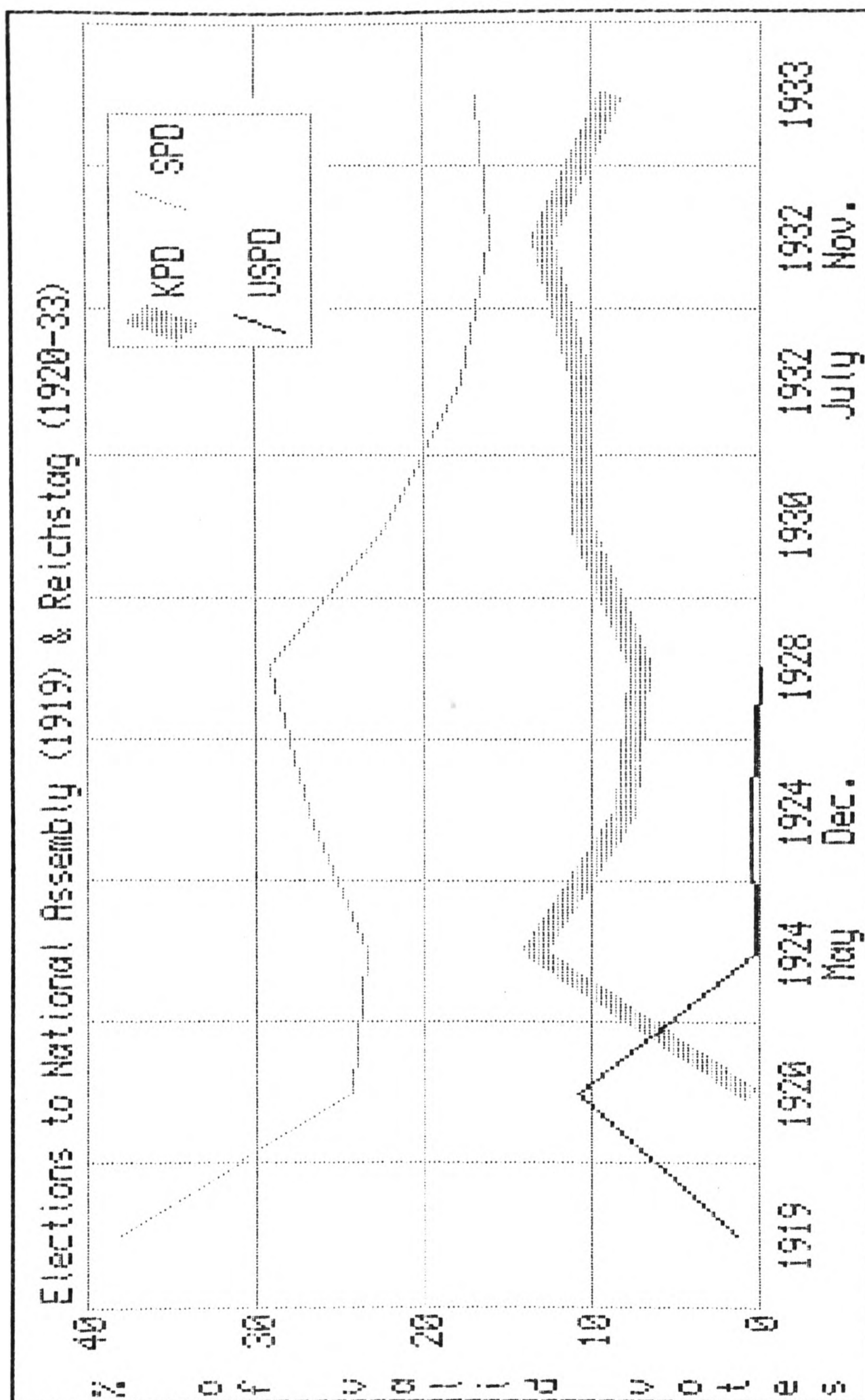
Elections 1919-33: The bourgeois parties and the NSDAP¹



1 See Appendix IIa, p. 424, note 1.

Figure 24:

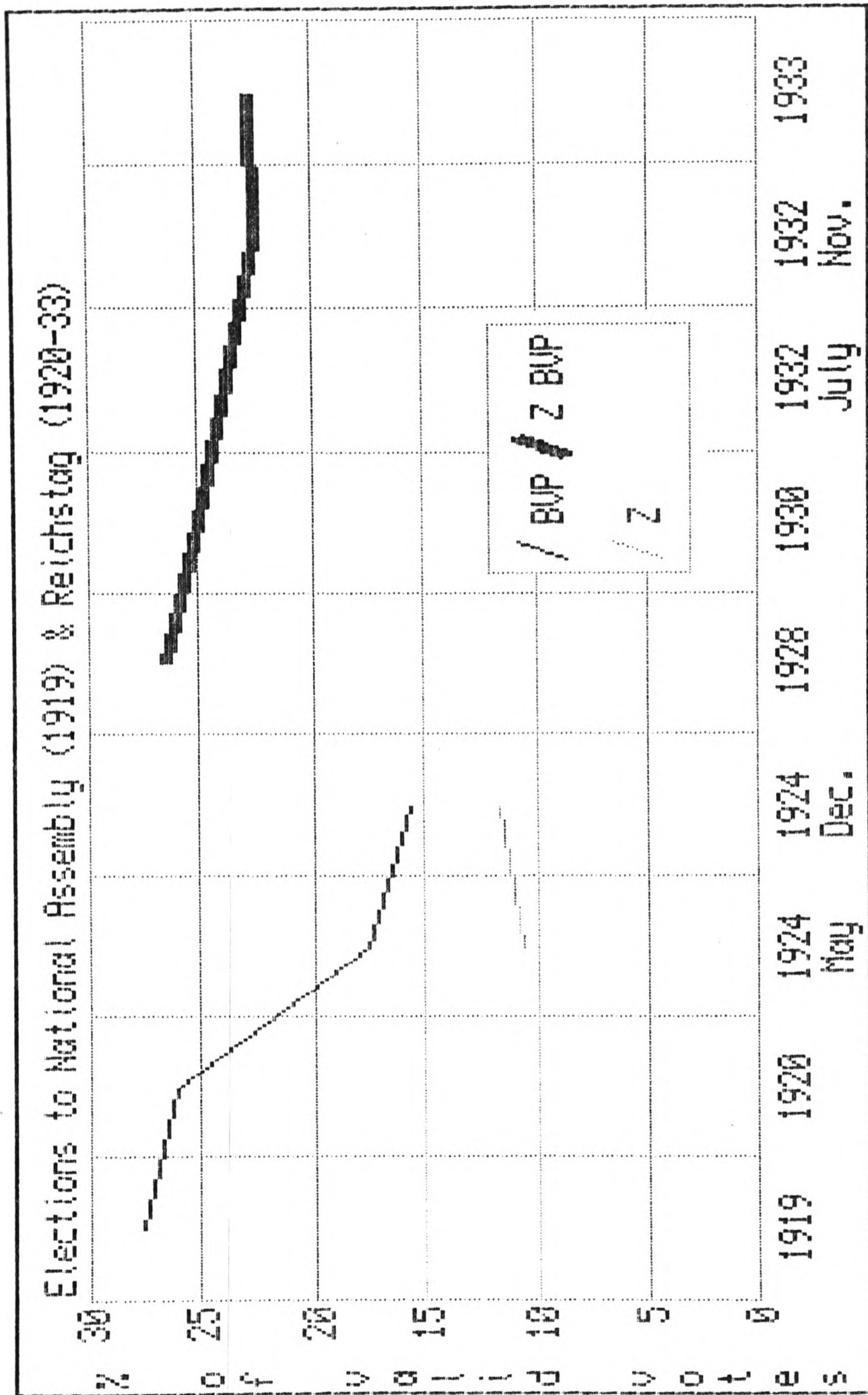
Elections 1919-33: The parties of the left¹



1 See Appendix IIa, p. 424, note 1.

Figure 25:

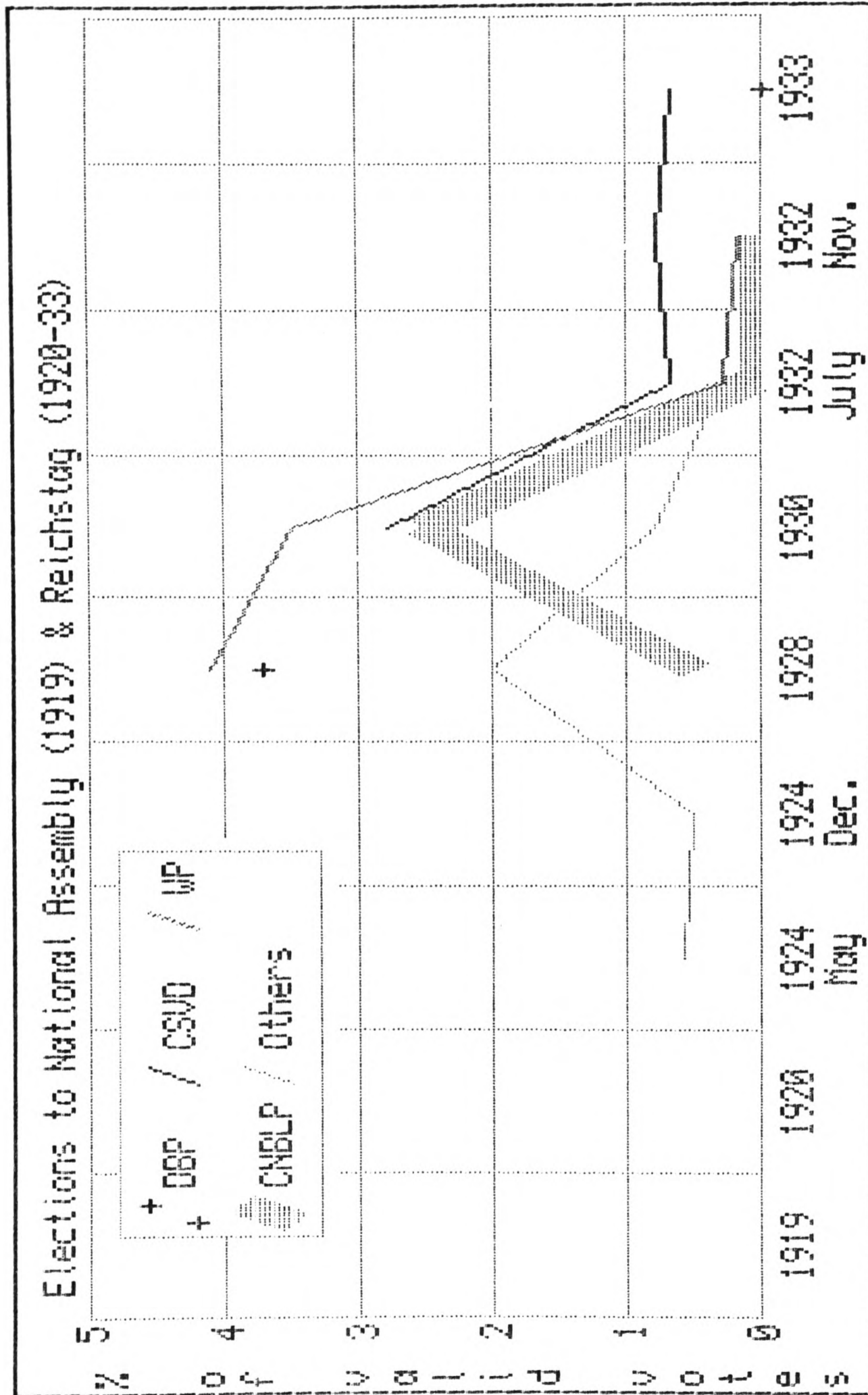
Elections 1919-33: The Catholic parties¹



¹ See Appendix IIa, p. 424, note 1.

Figure 26:

Elections 1919-33: The agrarian and other splinter parties¹



¹ See Appendix IIa, p. 424, note 1.

III Photographs¹



Hamm



Wiggers



Heinz



Gebhart



Gandorfer



Heim



Hoffmann



v. Chlingensperg



Mathéus



Pfülf



v. Winterstein

¹ Sources: Herr Rudolf Hamm; Dändliker, 'Gründung der "Freien Bauernschaft"', p. 111; Gedye, *Revolver Republic*, facing p. 222; Heilfron, *Deutsche Nationalversammlung*, Vol. I, Tables 6, 22 & 48; Schineller, *Regierungspräsidenten*, pp. 100-1.

