

## CHAPTER VIII.

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375. The chief industry of Canada is that of agriculture. In it 45 per cent of the population find their means of subsistence and their opportunities for the accumulation of wealth. Agriculture is, therefore, a branch of industry of paramount importance. Whatever affects it, prejudicially or beneficially, affects directly all other employments. Its products constitute one-fourth of the freightage of our railways and one-third of that of our canals. Our mercantile marine depends largely upon the products of agriculture for freights, more than one-half of which are products of the farm.

376. According to the census of 1891, the area of improved lands in Canada was 28,537,242 acres, of which 19,904,826 acres