

them follows. Fuller information will be found in the introductions to the later sections—Agriculture, Furs, Fisheries, Forestry, Minerals, Water Powers—of this volume.

**Agricultural Lands.**—Of the total land area of the nine provinces (1,401,316,413 acres) it is estimated that approximately 440,951,000 acres are available for use in agricultural production. The area now under cultivation is but a fraction of this total, that under field crops in 1921 being 59,635,346 acres. The area under pasture in the same year in all the provinces except Manitoba and Alberta was 9,977,204 acres. These figures are exclusive of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, where certain of the more hardy crops have been grown and where stock raising is possible. Farm lands of almost unlimited extent are to be had in all parts of the Dominion, and are among the most productive in the world. In 1923 Canada was the world's leading exporter of wheat, while in the export of other grains she also occupied a prominent place. Fruit culture is carried on in the Maritime Provinces, in southern Ontario and in British Columbia, under favourable conditions of soil and climate. Stock raising is a flourishing pursuit on the prairies, while mixed and dairy farming proves profitable throughout the whole country.

**Furs.**—Canada is one of the world's greatest fur producers. As early as 1676, Canadian furs sold in England were valued at £19,500. Since that time vast areas of our northern territory have been exploited by hunter and trapper, the vast expanses of northern Quebec and Ontario and the Northwest Territories furnishing subsistence for many of the most highly prized fur-bearing animals, among the most important of which are the beaver, fisher, various varieties of foxes, marten, otter and many others of less commercial value. The successful breeding of the fox on fur farms came in the period of rising prices after 1890. Other animals also have been domesticated, though less successfully than the fox—raccoon, mink, marten, otter, skunk, muskrat and beaver. During the year 1921-22 the value of pelts purchased by traders from trappers in Canada amounted to \$17,438,867. Pelts sold from fur farms in the calendar year 1921 were valued at \$626,900, and animals sold at \$690,566.

**Forests.**—Among the most notable of all Canadian natural resources are those of the forests. From the days when early French settlers established ship-building yards along the St. Lawrence up to the present, when our forests supply millions of tons of pulp, paper, and other wood products yearly, these resources have been of immense value, not only to Canada but to the Empire. Canada's forest areas may be stated as follows:—(1) the great fir forest of the Rocky mountains and Pacific coast, (2) the northern coniferous forest stretching in a wide curve from the Yukon, north of the Great Lakes to Labrador, and (3) the deciduous hardwood forest, extending from lake Huron through southern Ontario and Quebec to New Brunswick and the Atlantic coast. Estimates have placed the extent of timber lands in the Dominion at 932,416 square miles, of which 390,625 are covered with saw timber of commercial size, and the remainder with pulpwood. Next to Russia and the United States our resources are the most important in the world, in quality as well as in extent. The strength and durability of many of the woods of British Columbia place them amongst the most valuable in commercial use, while pulp woods from limits in eastern Canada are of equally high grade. Statistics of the total value of forest production in 1920 place it at \$315,902,193. The value of pulp and paper products alone in 1922 was \$155,785,388 (\$236,420,176 in 1920).