

## II.—AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture, taken as including stock raising and horticulture, is the chief industry of the Canadian people, employing in 1911 34·3 p.c. of the total gainfully occupied population. In addition it provides the raw material for many Canadian manufactures, and its products constitute a very large percentage of Canadian exports. It is therefore treated here in considerable detail.

The sub-section begins with an account of the "Development of Agriculture in Canada." Thereafter is found a statement of current Government activities in connection with the promotion of agriculture, including those of the Dominion and Provincial Experimental Stations. Then come statistics of agriculture, including agricultural revenue and wealth, field crops, farm live stock and poultry, fur farming, dairying, fruit, special crops, farm labour and wages, prices and miscellaneous, and since Canadian exports of agricultural commodities are sold in the world market, the sub-section closes with a review of the world's statistics of agriculture, compiled from the publications of the International Institute of Agriculture.

### 1.—Development of Agriculture in Canada<sup>1</sup>.

In the whole area now constituting Canada, the first settlement, and at the same time the first effort at agricultural production made by white men, was most probably that begun at Port Royal, now Annapolis, Nova Scotia, by the French under de Monts in 1605. Here some of the settlers cultivated patches of land and grew maize, pumpkins and beans, while cows were brought here by Poutrincourt in 1606. The Indians also grew maize to a small extent to supplement food obtained by hunting. According to the census of 1671, the Acadians, then numbering 441, had 429 arpents<sup>2</sup> under cultivation, together with 866 cattle, 407 sheep and 36 goats. Afterwards the settlers continued to clear the lands and reclaim the fertile marshes from the sea, chiefly along the Basin of Minas, on which hay grew abundantly.

In the valley of the St. Lawrence, farming on a small scale appears to have been carried on by Champlain, the founder of Quebec, as early as 1608, when cattle were imported and hay and fodder grown, together with wheat and other grains. In 1626 Champlain established a farm at Cap Tourmente for cattle which he sent from Quebec.

The first real farmer, however, was Louis Hébert, who landed in Quebec in 1617, and immediately began to clear and cultivate the soil on what is now part of Upper Town, Quebec. His only tool was a spade, but he worked away till the soil was ready to receive the seed, and also planted some apple trees. Hébert was followed by other farmers, among them Guillaume Couillard, Abraham Martin and Robert Giffard, the last of whom was said to have had in 1635 large crops of wheat, peas and Indian corn. In the district of Three Rivers, Pierre Boucher had large crops of grains and vegetables, and in 1648 Pierre Gadbois and others commenced farming on land where now stands the city of Montreal.

The land was held under seigneurial or feudal tenure, similar to that prevailing in old France, a system which seems to have promoted the development of agriculture. Many former hunters and traders settled down as cultivators of the soil, and came to be known as "habitants."

<sup>1</sup> Abridgment and revision of the article by Dr. Gridale, published in the Year Book for 1921, p. 202.

<sup>2</sup> Arpent, the ancient French square measure for land, is equal to 0·845 of the English standard acre as used in Canada