

Agricultural Lands.—Of the total land area of the nine provinces (1,329,539,200 acres), it is estimated that approximately 358,162,190 acres are available for use in agricultural production. This figure is of course an estimate and is taken to include lands now occupied by agriculturists, including grazing lands, and all lands possible of devotion to similar purposes. The area at present under cultivation is but a fraction of this total; the extent under field crops in 1927 being 56,172,310 acres, while the total area under pasture in the same year was 9,390,294 acres. Statistics of farm lands at the census of 1921 place the area then occupied at 140,887,903 acres; the area, therefore, of what may be considered as agricultural land still available for occupation was 217,174,287 acres. Details are given by provinces in Table 6.

6.—Area of Occupied and Estimated Available Farm Lands in the Nine Provinces of Canada, 1921.

Provinces.	Area Occupied.	Area Available.	Total Agricultural Land.	Total Land Area, 1928.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
Prince Edward Island.....	1,216,483	41,707	1,258,190	1,397,760
Nova Scotia.....	4,723,550	3,368,450	8,092,000	13,483,520
New Brunswick.....	4,269,560	6,448,440	10,718,000	17,863,040
Quebec.....	17,257,012	26,487,988	43,745,000	373,692,800 ¹
Ontario.....	22,628,901	33,821,099	56,450,000	234,163,200
Manitoba.....	14,615,844	10,084,158	24,700,000	148,432,640
Saskatchewan.....	44,022,907	49,435,093	93,458,000	153,728,000 ²
Alberta.....	29,293,053	67,829,947	97,123,000	160,592,000 ²
British Columbia.....	2,860,593	19,767,407	22,618,000	236,186,240
Total.....	140,887,903	217,174,287	358,162,190	1,329,539,200¹

¹ As per Labrador Boundary Award of Mar. 1, 1927. ² Revised.

Thus, in all the provinces but Prince Edward Island, large areas are still available for settlement, and while the nature of the soil and of the climate may in some cases restrict the variety of crops, in general the grain, root and fodder crops can be profitably grown in all the provinces, while stock raising is carried on successfully both in the more densely settled areas and on their frontiers.

The Maritime Provinces are noted for their fruit and vegetable crops, perhaps particularly for the oat and potato crops of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick and the apples of the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia. Quebec and Ontario are pre-eminently mixed farming communities, various districts specializing in dairying, tobacco, sheep, etc., while the Niagara peninsula in Ontario has long been famous for its fruit crops of both large and small varieties. In Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta the production of grains is still of primary importance but is giving way to more diversified types of agriculture, while the stock raising industry, once so typical of the prairies, is regaining much of its former importance. In British Columbia the fertile valleys are devoted principally to apple and other fruit crops, and numerous districts along the coast and on Vancouver island are given over to general farming and market gardening.

Of the larger areas of land still available for settlement, the clay belt of northern Ontario and Quebec, in which splendid crops are grown, is to a large extent undeveloped, and even larger areas in northern Saskatchewan and Alberta await cultivation.