

CHAPTER XVII.—INTERNAL TRADE.

This treatment of trade within the Dominion commences with a general statement on interprovincial trade. This is followed by statistics of the grain trade and of the marketing of live stock and animal products. Statistics of cold storage facilities and of commodities in cold storage are next in order. In the latter part of the chapter will be found statistics relating to various administrative services connected with trade, including the payment of bounties, patents, copyrights and trade marks, weights and measures, electricity and gas inspection. The treatment of internal trade has been somewhat curtailed in the present edition of the Year Book in order to find room at the end of the chapter for important special statistics in the shape of a *résumé* of the results of the Census of Wholesale and Retail Trading Establishments of 1924—the first endeavour to secure such statistics in Canada and one of the first in the world.

Section 1.—Interprovincial Trade.

Canada may be divided into the following five economic regions, each deriving its specific character from the predominant occupations of its people:—

1. *The Eastern Fishing, Lumbering and Mining Region*, comprising the river valley and the gulf of the St. Lawrence, together with the Atlantic coast; in other words, the Maritime Provinces almost as a whole, the northern part of the province of Quebec (excluding the former district of Ungava), and a portion of northern Ontario.

2. *The Eastern Agricultural and Industrial Region*, comprising the cultivated portions of the Maritime Provinces and of the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. In the latter provinces the cultivated areas extend along the north bank of the St. Lawrence, and along the valleys of its tributaries within the Canadian borders.

3. *The Central Agricultural Region*, extending from the Red River valley to the Rocky mountains and from the Canadian-United States boundary to about 56° N. lat.

4. *The Western Fishing, Mining and Lumbering Region*, comprising the western portion of the province of Alberta, the whole of British Columbia and the southern portion of the Yukon Territory.

5. *The Northern Fishing and Hunting Region*, extending from the regions of permanent settlement northwards to the Arctic Circle and from the coast of Labrador to the Pacific and to the Alaskan boundary. This vast region is sparsely inhabited by indigenous nomadic tribes engaged in fishing and hunting for their own support, for exchange with the fur-trading companies and with individual whalers and traders who visit some parts of the region.

Great differences are apparent between the products of these various regions; even the fisheries and lumber products of the east are quite distinct from those of British Columbia. The needs of the people throughout the country are met to a great extent by the exchange of the products of one region for those of another.