

PART V.—FAUNAS OF CANADA.

The Canada Year Book, 1922-23, contained an article under the above heading by P. A. Taverner of the Department of Mines, Ottawa. See p. 32 of the 1922-23 edition or p. 82 of the 1921 edition.

PART VI.—THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF CANADA.

The economic life of new countries must at first depend entirely, and later, mainly upon their natural resources. Older countries, after exhausting their most easily obtained resources, turn for a livelihood to manufacturing and similar pursuits, conserving their own resources and utilizing those of less developed areas. Canada is distinctly a new country, the resources of which are but now commencing to be appreciated; in recent years numerous surveys and investigations as to their extent and value have been made. A short summary of important details regarding them follows. Fuller information will be found in the introductions to later chapters—Agriculture, Furs, Fisheries, Forestry, Minerals, Water Powers—of this volume.

Agricultural Lands.—Of the total land area of the nine provinces (1,306,320,000 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 1928 being 59,351,811 acres, while the total area under pasture in the same year was 9,528,043 acres. Statistics of farm lands at the census of 1921 place the area then occupied at 140,887,903 acres; the area of what may be considered as agricultural land still available for occupation was, therefore, 217,274,287 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, 1929.
	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	13,275,520
New Brunswick.....	4,269,560	6,448,440	10,718,000	17,734,400
Quebec.....	17,257,012	26,487,988	43,745,000	365,442,560
Ontario.....	22,628,901	33,821,099	56,450,000	229,095,680
Manitoba.....	14,615,844	10,084,156	24,700,000	143,857,280
Saskatchewan.....	44,022,907	49,435,093	93,458,000	152,304,000
Alberta.....	29,293,053	67,829,947	97,123,000	159,232,000
British Columbia.....	2,860,593	19,757,407	22,618,000	223,980,800
Total.....	140,887,903	217,274,287	358,162,190	1,306,320,000

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.