

CHAPTER VIII.—AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture, including stock raising and horticulture, is the chief single industry of the Canadian people, employing, in 1921, 32·8 p.c. of the total gainfully occupied population and 38·16 p.c. or nearly two-fifths of the gainfully occupied males. In addition, it provides the raw material for many Canadian manufactures, and its products in raw or manufactured form constitute a very large percentage of Canadian exports. For a statement on the occupied and the available agricultural lands in Canada, see p. 35 of this volume.

This chapter of the present volume begins with a statement of current governmental activities in connection with 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. Since Canadian exports of agricultural commodities are sold in the world market, the chapter closes with a review of the world's statistics of agriculture, compiled from the publications of the International Institute of Agriculture.

The Canada Year Book, 1924, contained on pages 186 to 191 an article on the "Development of Agriculture in Canada", by Dr. J. H. Grisdale, Deputy Minister, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. To this the interested reader is referred.

Section 1.—The Government in Relation to Agriculture.

It is provided in section 95 of the British North America Act that "in each province the Legislature may make laws in relation to agriculture in the province"; it is also "declared that the Parliament of Canada may from time to time make laws in relation to agriculture in all or any of the provinces; and any law of the Legislature of a province relative to agriculture . . . shall have effect in and for the province as long and as far only as it is not repugnant to any Act of the Parliament of Canada".

As a result of this provision, there exist at the present time Departments of Agriculture with Ministers of Agriculture at their heads, both in the Dominion and in each of the nine provinces, though in most provinces the portfolio of Agriculture is combined with one or more other portfolios in the hands of a single Minister. A short sketch of the functions of the various Departments is appended.

Subsection 1.—The Dominion Department of Agriculture.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture was constituted in 1868 under authority of 31 Vict., c. 53, with numerous functions that were by no means purely agricultural, including (1) agriculture; (2) immigration and emigration; (3) public health and quarantine; (4) the marine and immigrant hospital at Quebec; (5) arts and manufactures; (6) the census, statistics and the registration of statistics; (7) patents of invention; (8) copyright; (9) industrial designs and trade marks.

In the course of time the purely agricultural work of the Department came to demand greater attention; the non-agricultural functions were one by one entrusted to other Departments of the Government, while specialization became the order of the day within the Department itself. At the present time it includes the following branches:—(1) Experimental Farms; (2) Dairy and Cold Storage; (3) Health of Animals; (4) Live Stock; (5) Seed; (6) Entomological; (7) Fruit; (8) Publications.