

Canada is distinctly a new country and her resources are for the most part in the early stages of development. The fur, fishery and forest resources have, it is true, been the basis of trade for two or three hundred years but exploitation on the present commercial scale is of relatively recent growth. A notable feature, especially in so young a country, has been the effort directed to conservation and, in the cases of those resources which admit of such methods, the actual replenishment or augmentation of the sources of supply by the practice of reforestation, silviculture, fur-farming or the establishment of fish hatcheries.

In recent years numerous surveys and investigations of the extent and value of the resources 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 (1,309,724,-800 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 1930 being 62,214,670 acres, while the total area under pasture in the same year was 9,889,513 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, with Estimated Land Area, 1931.

Province.	Area Occupied.	Area Available.	Total Agricultural Land.	Total Land Area, 1931.
	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	232,590,480
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.....	2,860,503	19,757,407	22,618,000	223,980,800
Totals.....	140,887,903	217,274,287	358,162,190	1,309,724,800

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 beyond their frontiers.