

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. 39 of this volume.

This chapter of the present volume contains a statement of current governmental activities in connection with agriculture, including those of the Dominion and Provincial Experimental Stations. Ordinarily this has been followed by 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, miscellaneous, and, since Canadian exports of agricultural commodities are sold in the world market, a review of world statistics of agriculture, compiled from the publications of the International Institute of Agriculture. In the present edition, however, since many of the figures contained in the statistics of agriculture are either compiled or modified from information obtained at the decennial censuses, and since this information from the census of 1931 was not available at the time this part of the volume was going to press, all the statistics of agriculture have been transferred to Appendix III at the end of the book.

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 follows.

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.