

PART IV.—THE FLORA OF CANADA.

Under the above heading the Canada Year Book, 1922-23, contained an article prepared by the late J. M. Macoun, C.M.G., F.L.S., and M. O. Malte, Ph.D., and revised by the latter. See p. 25 of the 1922-23 edition or p. 73 of the 1921 edition.

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 remaining resources and utilizing those of less developed areas as far as practicable.

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 (1,276,109,440 acres), it is estimated that approximately 352,157,190 acres are potential agricultural lands, including grazing lands associated with farm lands. The estimate is based on the best information available which, for the more northerly parts, is uncertain; the total is made up by adding to the area now occupied by agriculturists all lands considered to be 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 1932 being 59,633,500 acres, while the total area under pasture in the same year was 8,264,700 acres. Statistics of farm lands at the census of 1931 place the area then occupied at 163,254,959 acres; the area of what may be considered as agricultural land still available for occupation was, therefore, 188,902,231 acres. Details are given by provinces in Table 7.