

CHAPTER XXVIII.—MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATION.

Section 1.—Public Lands.

Table 1, pp. 1032-1033 summarizes the character and disposition of the land area of Canada. Since there are still large areas which have been little explored and a much larger area not surveyed, and therefore not classified with regard to its possibilities, many of the figures given are estimates, although every care has been taken to consult the most competent authorities, Dominion and provincial, in a position to make such estimates. The continued extension of exploration and surveys will enable the governmental authorities to classify more exactly the lands within their jurisdiction.

In this table the areas of occupied and abandoned farms and of farm woodlots are taken from the 1931 census. The totals of the land area of the provinces and territories are the areas as revised by the Topographical Survey, Dominion Department of the Interior, and agree with those appearing in the table on p. 7 of this volume, while the areas of Indian reserves are those reported by the Department of Indian Affairs. For other items, figures supplied by the provinces have been used wherever available; otherwise estimates from Dominion Government sources, chiefly the Forest Service, have been substituted. Between the totals of existing and potential agricultural lands (item 10) and the totals of forest lands (item 18) there is, of course, duplication to the extent of the agricultural lands under forest (item 7). In view of the various sources from which the information is drawn there is satisfactory agreement in the relationship of the items.

Subsection 1.—Dominion Public Lands.

As stated on p. 1019 of the 1931 Year Book, the lands and natural resources lying within the boundaries of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, which had formerly been administered by the Dominion Government, were transferred to the administration of the provinces concerned at various dates in 1930.

Actual Dominion lands, therefore, now comprise the Northwest Territories, including the Arctic islands and the islands in Hudson bay; Yukon; the National Park areas, Indian reserves, and historic sites in the different provinces throughout Canada; certain small and widely scattered parcels of Ordnance and Admiralty lands which have been held by the Dominion Government since Confederation and are rented, disposed of, or otherwise administered with a view to bringing as many properties as possible to a state of revenue production; and, finally, public lands, at one time alienated, but which have been re-vested in the Crown in the right of the Dominion for various reasons, and upon which public monies have been spent.

The great bulk of the land areas under Dominion administration are those of Yukon and the Northwest Territories, amounting to about 936,680,000 acres or 42 p.c. of the land surface of Canada. The southern border of both Yukon and the Northwest Territories is 60° N. latitude. In Europe, Oslo, Stockholm and Leningrad are near this line, while about three-fourths of Norway, two-thirds of Sweden, all of Finland and a large proportion of Russia are north of it. In Table 1 a distinction