

CHAPTER VIII.—AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture, including stock raising and horticulture, is the chief single industry of the Canadian people, employing, in 1931, 28·7 p.c. of the total gainfully occupied population and 33·9 p.c. or over one-third 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 of 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. This is followed by statistics of agriculture, including agricultural revenue and wealth, field crops, farm live stock and poultry, dairying, fur farming, 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.

The Canada Year Book, 1924, contained, on pp. 186–191, 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 two 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.

*This section, with the exception of Subsection 2, has been revised by the Dominion Department of Agriculture. The information in Subsection 2 was checked by the various provincial authorities.