

CHAPTER XVII.—INTERNAL TRADE.

This treatment of trade within the Dominion commences with a general statement on interprovincial trade, followed by sections dealing with the statistics of the grain trade and of the marketing of live stock and animal products. Statistics of cold storage facilities and of commodities in cold storage are next in order. Following these will be found sections relating to various administrative services connected with trade, including: the payment of bounties; the granting of patents, copyrights and trade marks; and weights and measures, electricity and gas inspection. The concluding section of the chapter deals with the statistics of wholesale and retail merchandising collected at the Census of Merchandising and Service Establishments, 1931, and estimates made subsequently.

Section 1.—Interprovincial Trade.*

Canada may be divided into the following five economic regions, each deriving its specific character from the predominant occupations of its people:—

1. *The Eastern Fishing, Lumbering and Mining Region*, comprising the river valley and gulf of the St. Lawrence, together with the Atlantic coast; in other words, the greater part of the Maritime Provinces, the northern part of the province of Quebec (excluding the former district of Ungava), and a portion of northern Ontario.

2. *The Eastern Agricultural and Industrial Region*, comprising the cultivated portions of the Maritime Provinces and of the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. In the latter provinces the cultivated areas extend along the banks of the St. Lawrence and its tributaries.

3. *The Central Agricultural Region*, extending from the Red River valley to the Rocky mountains and from the Canada-United States boundary to about 56° N. lat.

4. *The Western Fishing, Mining and Lumbering Region*, comprising the western portion of the province of Alberta, the whole of British Columbia and the southern portion of Yukon.

5. *The Northern Fishing and Hunting Region*, extending from the regions of permanent settlement northwards, and from the boundary of Labrador to the Pacific and to the Alaskan Boundary. This vast region is sparsely inhabited by indigenous nomadic tribes engaged in fishing and hunting for their own support or for exchange with the fur-trading companies, and with individual whalers and traders who visit the region.

Great differences exist between the products of these various regions; even the fisheries and lumber products of the east are quite distinct from those of British Columbia. The needs of the people throughout the country are met to a great extent by the exchange of the products of one region for those of another.

Interprovincial trade in what is now Canada had its beginning, many years before Confederation, in the exchange of the furs and lumber products of Upper and Lower Canada for the fisheries and mineral products of the Maritimes. Indeed, it was thought at the time of Confederation that the coal-fields of Nova Scotia would furnish sufficient fuel for the needs of all the eastern part of the Dominion. Later,

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