

PART VI.— LANDS, SCENIC AND GAME RESOURCES OF CANADA.

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.

Numerous surveys and investigations of the extent and value of the resources have been made and broad outlines of the resources of the provinces supplement the information on physical geography given on pp. 1 to 15. Detailed information regarding individual natural resources will be found in the later chapters—Agriculture, Furs, Fisheries, Forestry, Minerals, Water Powers—of this volume.

The treatment of resources considered below is concerned only with those phases of the subject which can be properly regarded as falling under the definition of physiography used in its wider interpretation, and which, do not specifically relate to individual subjects treated elsewhere in this volume. A classification of lands resources (where there is naturally overlapping since much land suitable for agriculture remains under forest cover), information on the National Parks and resources in game and scenery properly fall under this head.

Lands Resources.—Table 1 presents a broad classification of the potential land resources of Canada, by provinces. The figures are in the main based on estimates prepared by the Dominion Forest Service, Lands, Parks and Forests Branch, and by the Surveyor General and Chief, Hydrographic and Map Service of the Surveys and Engineering Branch, Department of Mines and Resources; they show how the total land area of Canada is made up as between existing and potential agricultural lands, existing and potential forest lands, and lands which are unproductive as regards surface resources. Between the totals of existing and potential agricultural lands and the totals of existing and potential forest lands there is, of course, duplication to the extent of the agricultural lands under forest.

National Parks of Canada.*—The Dominion Government maintains, as the medium through which some of the most outstanding natural beauties of the country may be preserved and popularized, the National Parks Bureau, Lands, Parks and Forests Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources, which administers the scenic and recreational parks set aside for this purpose. Under the supervision of this same body are the national wild animal preserves—large fenced areas established for the protection and propagation of species in danger of extinction—the national historic parks, and the historic sites of great national interest which have been acquired throughout the country.

The mountain parks include regions of unsurpassed grandeur in the Rocky and Selkirk mountains of Western Canada. Among these are the Banff, Jasper, and Waterton Lakes national parks in Alberta, located on the eastern slopes of the Rockies; the Kootenay and Yoho parks in British Columbia on the western slopes of the Rockies; and the Glacier and Mount Revelstoke parks, also in British Columbia, located in the Selkirks. While these parks have a general resemblance to each other, each possesses individual characteristics, varying flora and fauna, and different types of scenery.

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