

## 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. 60 of this volume.

This chapter treats of current governmental activities in connection with agriculture, including those of the Dominion and Provincial Experimental Stations. Statistics of agriculture follow, 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.

### 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 Dominion Department was published at pp. 212-223 of the 1936 Year Book, and an outline of agricultural progress in Canada and the Dominion Experimental Farms System appeared at pp. 221-228 of the 1937 Year Book.

#### Subsection 1.—The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Program.\*

The need for the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Program arose from the severe conditions of drought and soil drifting which have been experienced almost continuously since 1929 in southwestern Manitoba and the southern parts of Saskatchewan and Alberta. These conditions have resulted in serious reductions in crop yields and repeated crop failures. As the type of farming in this area is limited by the semi-arid climate to grain production, principally grain for export, these reduced yields, coupled with the extremely low grain prices which prevailed from 1930 to 1935, have entailed enormous economic losses and considerable hardship to the agricultural population. Very large governmental expenditures have been necessary to relieve actual want, while the disparity between income and capital investment has resulted in drastic debt and tax adjustments and seriously interfered with credit facilities. The nation-wide repercussions of this agricultural

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