

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. 27 of this volume.

Following an introductory outline of the historical background of Canadian agriculture, this chapter treats of current governmental activities—Dominion, in as much detail as space will permit (to utilize such space to the best advantage, the system of special articles not repeated from year to year has been adopted) and Provincial by outlines and references to provincial sources of information. Comprehensive statistics of agriculture, collected and compiled by the Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and covering Canada as a whole, close the chapter. These include data on 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 Historical Background of Canadian Agriculture.*—The actual beginning of agriculture in Canada cannot be stated definitely, as crude attempts at cultivation by the native Indians were reported by the earliest recorded visitors to the country. Jacques Cartier in 1535 reported that the Indians around Hochelaga, at the foot of Mount Royal, where Montreal now stands, were cultivating small patches of land for the production of maize. The Huron Indians, living in the area close to lake Huron and Georgian bay, are also reported to have been growing corn, peas, and beans when first visited by white adventurers.

Since the arrival of the first French colonists to Acadia, Canadian agriculture has gone through several rather distinct stages: the early settlements in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec with comparatively slow development until 1750; from 1750 to 1850 settlement of Upper and Lower Canada was in full swing and agricultural growth was steady if not rapid; after Confederation and the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1886, the development of Western Canada was rapid and agriculture in Eastern Canada went through a period of adjustment in the light of the development in the western provinces.

Historical information dealing with the first period of settlement is found chiefly in the reports of early visitors to the country and early records of settlement schemes. The first recorded white settlement in Canada was at Port Royal, now Annapolis, Nova Scotia, by a group of Frenchmen in 1605. Here the settlers cleared and cultivated small plots of land on which they grew maize, pumpkins, and beans. Cows were brought out by Poutrincourt in 1606. Lescarbot, in a history of New France, makes the following comments on the agriculture of the area: "Yet it is well to say here, that our French domestic animals prosper very well in those parts. We had hogs which multiplied abundantly; . . . we had but one sheep which enjoyed the best possible health, although he was not shut up at night, but was in the midst of our yard in winter time. M. de Poutrincourt had him twice shorn and the wool

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