

of the West and farmers of the East tended more and more towards live-stock production with some specialized crops.

The agricultural history of Western Canada dates back to the Selkirk Settlement along the Red river in Manitoba in 1812. These settlers experienced much difficulty, not only with Indians, but also because of the rivalry between the Northwest Company and the Hudson's Bay Company. Population grew only slowly and there was little real agricultural development until after the railway reached St. Boniface, opposite Winnipeg, in 1878. After the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1886, the settlement and consequent agricultural development of all Western Canada was very rapid. Many settlers came from the eastern provinces of Canada as well as from the United States, Great Britain, and European countries. Settlers from Eastern Canada and the United States often took stock and equipment with them and although they found it necessary to change many of their farm practices to meet the new conditions of soil and climate, they soon built up large farms and wheat production for export became increasingly important. In the short history of agriculture on the prairies there have been many important developments in technique with a decided tendency towards mechanization. More recently the type of farming in Manitoba and some sections of the other two provinces has been changing with more stress being placed on live stock and somewhat less on wheat.

Agriculture in British Columbia is reported to have started in the Fraser Lake district about 1810. The cultivated area, however, was small and expansion was hampered by the rugged nature of the country as well as the heavy forest covering. The Hudson's Bay Company maintained a number of farms in and around Fort Vancouver and on Vancouver island in the early days. Agriculture received indirect impetus from the Cariboo gold rush in the 'fifties in supplying produce to the camps. The first fruit-growing in the Okanagan valley was started at Penticton in 1864. It was not until the 'eighties that commercial plantings took place. Since that time this area has built up an enviable reputation for the production of apples and other fruits.

The period of rapid expansion and settlement in Canadian agriculture terminated with the beginning of the depression of the nineteen-thirties. Had not the War intervened, and thus restricted settlement, this period might have arrived somewhat earlier. With the sudden cessation of expansion and the strain imposed on the whole national economy arising out of maladjustments following on the world crisis, Canadian agriculture entered a new historical phase.

### Section 1.—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.