

# CHAPTER XVII.—INTERNAL TRADE.

## CONSPECTUS.

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Internal trade is broad and complicated: it encompasses all values added to commodities traded in provincially and interprovincially by agencies and services connected with the storage, distribution, and sale of goods, such as railways, steamships, warehouses, wholesale and retail stores, financial institutions, etc. It even embraces such services as those directed to the amusement of the people, such as theatres, sports, etc.

The diverse resources of the various parts of the country have led to a vast exchange of products and the task of providing goods and services where they are required for consumption or use by a population of 11,315,000 accounts for a greater expenditure of economic activity than that required for the prosecution of Canada's great volume of external trade, high though the Dominion ranks among the countries of the world in this field.

### 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 International 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, Mining, 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 traders who visit the region. In recent years mining activity has been developing in this region, especially along its southern fringe and in the basin of the Mackenzie River. In the east, a well-equipped port is located at Churchill. The Hudson Bay Railway and

\*Revised by G. S. Wrong, B.Sc., Chief of the Transportation and Public Utilities Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.