

CHAPTER VIII.—AGRICULTURE

CONSPECTUS

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Agriculture, including stock raising and horticulture, is the most important single industry of the Canadian people, employing, according to the Census of 1941, 25·2* p.c. of the total gainfully occupied population and 30·5* p.c. 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 pp. 10-11 of this volume.

An introductory outline of the historical background of Canadian agriculture is given at pp. 187-190 of the 1939 Year Book. As now presented 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 authoritative articles prepared in the Department of Agriculture but not repeated from year to year unless changes warrant, 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 values of agricultural production and farm capital, field crops, farm live stock and poultry, dairying, fruit, special crops, prices and miscellaneous statistics. The review of world statistics, compiled from the publications of the International Institute of Agriculture, has not been included in the three latest editions of the Year Book; these statistics are not now available because of war conditions.

THE WAR AND CANADIAN AGRICULTURE†

After four years of war, Canadian agriculture is definitely on an all-out production basis. Notwithstanding the record production of 1942 in practically all lines of agriculture, the program for 1943 called for even greater output in order to meet the needs for home consumption, for export to Britain and others of the United Nations, and to provide something additional for the relief of countries freed from enemy occupation. Important adjustments have been made necessary in the pro-

* Excluding persons on Active Service who are normally employed in Agriculture.

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