

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 materials 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. 27-28 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, by special authoritative articles prepared in the Department of Agriculture but not repeated from year to year unless changes warrant; and Provincial, by an outline of the work of each provincial department. 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 farm income, 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 recent editions of the Year Book; these statistics are not now available because of war conditions.

THE WAR AND CANADIAN AGRICULTURE†

At the close of 1944, Canadian agriculture was believed to have reached the peak of its wartime production. Encouraged by subsidies and other forms of government assistance, Canadian farmers have succeeded in producing quantities of live stock and live-stock products. At the same time wheat production has been maintained to the point of meeting wartime requirements and reserves. Despite the security of two-year export contracts for many of Canada's agricultural products,

* Including persons on Active Service who are normally employed in agriculture.

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