

CHAPTER XVII.—INTERNAL TRADE

CONSPECTUS

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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 11,975,000 (1944 estimate) accounts for a greater expenditure of economic effort 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.

Internal trade is broad and complicated: it encompasses all value 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. Taken in a wide sense, it embraces various professional and personal services including those directed to the amusement of the people, such as theatres, sports, etc. In fact, in a broad interpretation, internal trade covers a large part of those activities of the people that add to the 'form' utilities, dealt with in the various preceding chapters, the utilities of 'place', 'time' and 'possession', and the personal and professional services referred to in the Survey of Production and other chapters. However, the arrangement of material in a volume such as the Year Book is governed by the necessity of interpretation from various angles and cross reference to other chapters is essential. The Index will be found useful in this respect.