

CHAPTER XII.—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, 25·3* p.c. of the total gainfully occupied population and 30·6* p.c. of the gainfully occupied males. In addition, agriculture 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. 32-33 of this volume.

An introductory outline of the historical background of Canadian agriculture is given at pp. 187-190 of the 1939 Year Book. The present Chapter treats of current governmental activities in an article prepared in the Department of Agriculture and includes comprehensive statistics of agriculture, collected and compiled by the Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. These data cover farm income, values of agricultural production and farm capital, field crops, farm live stock and poultry, dairying, fruit, special crops, prices and miscellaneous statistics. World statistics of agriculture, formerly compiled from the publications of the International Institute of Agriculture, have not been available for recent editions of the Year Book because of war conditions though a United States Government estimate of world wheat production is given at pp. 382-383.

THE 1946-47 NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM AND POLICY†

Canadian agriculture began the year 1947 in a strong financial position. Farm debt had been reduced, cash income and net income increased and large quantities of new equipment had been acquired. Moreover, Parliament had enacted legislation that was designed to give farmers greater economic stability.

Production Programs

During the war years, production programs were formulated annually at conferences between Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, along with representatives of organized farmers. These conferences are being continued in the post-war period and plans were laid for 1947 production at a conference held in December, 1946, at which it was recommended that, in general, production

* Including persons on Active Service normally employed in agriculture.

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