

CHAPTER X.—AGRICULTURE

CONSPECTUS

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Agriculture, including stock raising and horticulture, is the most important of the primary industries 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, 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. 28-29 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 and includes comprehensive statistics of agriculture, such as: 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, were not available for recent editions of the Year Book because of war conditions but at pp. 400-403 statistics of grain production for world countries are again introduced.

Section 1.—The 1947-48 National Agricultural Program and Policy‡

Canadian agriculture began the year 1948 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.

Production Programs

During the war years, 1939-45, production programs were formulated annually at conferences between Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, along with representatives of organized farmers. These conferences were found to serve such a useful purpose that they are being continued annually. Recommendations

* Including persons on Active Service normally employed in agriculture.

† See list of reprints under "Agriculture", at the front of this edition.

‡ Prepared under the direction of G. S. H. Barton, C.M.G., B.S.A., D.Sc.A., Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa.