

CHAPTER XI.—AGRICULTURE

CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

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 Canada's exports. The present and potential agricultural land is shown by provinces at pp. 27-28 of this volume.

Section 1.—Federal Government in Relation to Agriculture†

The creation of the Department of Agriculture is provided for in Sect. 95 of the British North America Act (1867), which says in part that "in each province, the legislature may make laws in relation to agriculture in the province" and that "the Parliament of Canada may from time to time make laws in relation to agriculture in all or any of the provinces; and any law of the legislature of a province relative to agriculture, shall have effect in and for the province as long and as far as it is not repugnant to any Act of the Parliament of Canada". As a result of this provision, there exists at the present time a Department of Agriculture, with a Minister of Agriculture at its head, in the Federal Government and in each of the provinces, except Newfoundland where agricultural affairs are dealt with by the Agricultural Division of the Department of Natural Resources. The Federal Department was established in 1868.

At present there are four main fields of activity: (1) general policy, including security and price stability; (2) research and experimentation; (3) maintenance of standards and protection of products; and (4) reclamation and development.

* Including persons on Active Service normally employed in agriculture.

† Except as otherwise indicated, this material was prepared under the direction of J. G. Taggart, C.B.E., D.Sc., Deputy Minister of Agriculture.