

Canada is distinctly a new country, and her resources are for the most part in the early stages of development. The fur, fishery and forest resources have, it is true, been the basis of trade for two or three hundred years, but exploitation on the present commercial scale is of relatively recent growth. A notable feature, especially in so young a country, has been the effort directed to conservation and, in the cases of those resources which admit of such methods, the actual replenishment or augmentation of the sources of supply by the practice of reforestation, silviculture, fur-farming or the establishment of fish hatcheries.

In recent years numerous surveys and investigations of the extent and value of the resources have been made. A short summary of important details regarding them follows. Fuller information will be found in the introductions to later chapters—Agriculture, Furs, Fisheries, Forestry, Minerals, Water Powers—of this volume.

Agricultural Lands.—Of the total land area of the nine provinces (1,281,915,-520 acres), it is estimated that approximately 352,157,190 acres are potential agricultural lands, including grazing lands associated with farm lands. The estimate is based on the best information available, which, for the more northerly parts, is uncertain; the total is made up by adding to the area now occupied by agriculturists all lands considered to be possible of devotion to similar purposes. The area at present under cultivation is but a fraction of this total, the extent under field crops in 1935 being 56,923,960 acres, while the total area under pasture in the same year was 8,341,138 acres. Statistics of farm lands at the Census of 1931 place the area then occupied at 163,114,034 acres; the area of what may be considered as agricultural land still available for occupation was, therefore, 189,043,156 acres. In Yukon and the Northwest Territories there were 5,197 acres in occupied farms in 1931, while it is officially estimated that there are 9,000,000 acres of potential agricultural land. Thus the total area of occupied farms in the Dominion in 1931 was 163,119,231 acres and that of available agricultural land 198,043,156 acres, making a grand total of 361,162,387 acres of agricultural land out of the total land area of 2,218,595,520 acres. Details are given by provinces in Table 7. See also Table 1 of Chapter XXVIII—Character and Disposition of Lands in Canada.

7.—Area of Occupied and Estimated Potential Agricultural Lands in the Nine Provinces and in all Canada, 1931, with Estimated Land Area, 1936.

Province.	Area Occupied.	Area Available for Occupation.	Total Potential Agricultural Land. ¹	Total Land Area, 1936.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
Prince Edward Island.....	1,191,202	66,988	1,258,190	1,397,760
Nova Scotia.....	4,302,031	3,789,969	8,092,000	13,275,520
New Brunswick.....	4,151,596	6,566,404	10,718,000	17,582,720 ³
Quebec.....	17,304,164	26,440,836	43,745,000 ²	335,061,760
Ontario.....	22,840,898	42,996,102	65,837,000	232,500,480
Manitoba.....	15,131,685	17,248,315	32,380,000	140,622,720
Saskatchewan.....	55,673,460	24,400,540	80,074,000	152,304,000
Alberta.....	38,977,457	48,472,543	87,450,000	159,232,000
British Columbia.....	3,541,541	19,061,459	22,603,000 ²	229,938,560
Totals for the Provinces.....	163,114,034	189,043,156	352,157,190	1,281,915,520³
Yukon and N.W.T.....	5,197	9,000,000	9,005,197	936,680,000
Grand Totals for Canada.....	163,119,231	198,043,156	361,162,387	2,218,595,520³

¹These estimates have been made by the Topographical Survey, Department of the Interior.

²Subject to revision.

³Figures have been revised since the publication of the 1934-35 Year Book.