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# TYPES OF FARMING IN CANADA

WILLIAM ALLEN

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA

THE Dominion of Canada comprises the whole northern half of the North American continent except the United States territory of Alaska, and Labrador, a part of the colony of Newfoundland. It is bounded on the west by the Pacific ocean and Alaska, on the south by the 49th parallel, the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence river and additional lines set out by the Ashburton Treaty, signed August 9th, 1842, and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, the gulf of St. Lawrence, the territory of the coast of Labrador, as defined by the award of the Privy Council March 1st, 1927, and Davis strait.<sup>1</sup> The Dominion stretches northward to the polar regions. The total area is officially reported as 3,684,723 square miles, approximately the area of the United States and its dependent territories.

There are five major natural divisions of the Dominion territory. The Canadian or Precambrian shield, covering some two and a half million square miles, includes most of the area north of the St. Lawrence, the Great Lakes, and Lake Winnipeg, and northwest to the Mackenzie River. The Appalachian region, south of the St. Lawrence and east of Quebec, continues in Canada the Green Mountains of Vermont, and the highlands of Maine. The Lowlands of the St. Lawrence, which extend from below Quebec to Lake Huron, constitute a third division between these two previous divisions and the Great Lakes, and support a fertile and diversified agriculture. The Great Plains, with their threefold division into prairie steppes, extend from the southwestern edge of the Canadian shield to the Rockies. The Rockies, or Cordilleras, which constitute the western mountain belt, cover some 600,000 square miles.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Five years after Columbus discovered America, John Cabot discovered Labrador and extended his expeditions along the coast to the north. Labrador was visited by Costereal in 1501 after his discovery of Newfoundland. In 1525, Verazzani explored the

<sup>1</sup> Canada Year Book 1929 page 1.

coast of America from Florida to Newfoundland, and gave the name of New France to the country discovered. Jacques Cartier landed at Gaspé Bay in 1534, and took possession of the land in the name of France. After returning to France he came back the following year and explored the St. Lawrence as far as Hochelage (Montreal). In 1541, he made a third trip from France, bringing volunteers to form a colony, which failed disastrously. Little more was heard in Europe of the new country for over half a century. In 1598, attempts at colonization were made at Acadia (Nova Scotia) which were unsuccessful. That year the Matquis de la Roche also landed 60 convicts on Sable Island, a narrow island some 25 miles long about 100 miles southeast of the mainland of Nova Scotia, where they remained prisoners for five years.

A few years earlier (1592); Juan de Fuca discovered the strait which bears his name, which marks the south Pacific limits of the Dominion. This strait separates southern Vancouver Island from the mainland of British Columbia and the State of Washington.

With the beginning of the next century, exploration proceeded apace, and settlements became established at many points. Some of the earliest were at Acadia and Quebec. In 1610-11 Henry Hudson made his famous expedition along the northern coast and explored Hudson Bay and James Bay. British settlement of Nova Scotia began in 1623, very shortly after the arrival of the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock. The charter of the Hudson's Bay Company was granted by Charles II in 1670 and for 200 years all the territory west of the Hudson's Bay was under the control of the company, and operated by Indians and fur traders. As the century progressed, explorations, settlements, and conflicts were numerous. Struggles between French and British continued until 1763, when, by the Treaty of Paris, Canada and its dependencies were ceded to the British.

With the close of the American Revolution in 1775 came a large influx of United Empire loyalists, who settled in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, the eastern townships of Quebec, and also westward along the banks of the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes.

In 1811, Lord Selkirk's Red River settlement was founded on land granted by the Hudson's Bay company near the present site of Winnipeg. This settlement was destroyed by the Northwest Company, an active rival of the Hudson's Bay Company, and after being restored was again destroyed. The antagonism of the rival

companies ended in 1821, when the Northwest Company was absorbed by the Hudson's Bay Company.

Confederation of the scattered provinces came through the British North American Act of 1867. In 1871, British Columbia was brought into the Dominion and the transcontinental railway projected, which was commenced in 1875 by the government and subsequently completed in 1886 by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Outbreaks of Indians were frequent through the early periods but ceased with the subduing of the second Riel rebellion in 1885. With the building of the transcontinental railway came fairly rapid settlement of the open prairies through grants of free homestead land. At the present time, lands suitable for settlement are confined to northern areas, and few extensive tracts remain unappropriated.

#### GENERAL REGIONAL NOTES

For the purposes of this discussion of farm type the provinces have been grouped according to their locations. The eastern group, or the maritime provinces, includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. The central group includes Quebec and Ontario. The prairie group consists of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The Pacific province, British Columbia, is considered alone. At the present time, the agricultural significance of the northwest territories is negligible.

The maritime provinces contain only about 2 per cent of the occupied farm land of the Dominion, but in 1921 had 11.4 per cent of the total Canadian population. Over 50 per cent of the potential farm land has been brought into farms. Of the total land area, 61 per cent is estimated to be of potential farm land calibre. Practically all of Prince Edward Island is under farms. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have considerable lands unfit for farming, and of the potential farm land according to the official estimates, about half is still undeveloped.

The agricultural section of the central provinces are found in the lowlands of the St. Lawrence. These extend from the Gaspé peninsula in narrow belts steadily increasing in width for about 650 miles along the St. Lawrence. Around the Great Lakes the area continues some 300 miles to the Ontario peninsula between Lakes Ontario and Huron, and occupies much of the region south of the Ottawa river. The agricultural lands of the central prov-

inces are practically all within the Lowlands of the St. Lawrence, with the exception of the clay belts to the north. The official estimate of the potential agricultural lands of this section of Canada is 100 million acres (28 per cent of the total of the

Table 1. Estimated Area of Land, Potential Farm Land, and Occupied Farm Land in Canada, by Provinces, 1921\*

Provinces	Total area (millions of acres)	Estimated potential farm land		Occupied as farm land 1921 (millions of acres)	Per cent of potential farm land occupied in 1921
		(millions of acres)	Per cent total		
Maritime:					
Prince Edward Island.....	1.40	1.26	90.0	1.22	96.7
Nova Scotia.....	13.48	8.09	60.0	4.72	58.4
New Brunswick.....	17.86	10.72	60.0	4.27	39.8
Total.....	32.74	20.07		10.21	
Average.....			61.3		50.9
Central:					
Quebec.....	442.16	43.74	9.9	17.26	39.4
Ontario.....	234.16	56.45	24.1	22.63	40.1
Total.....	676.32	100.19		39.89	
Average.....			14.8		39.8
Prairie:					
Manitoba.....	148.43	24.70	16.6	14.62	59.2
Saskatchewan.....	155.77	93.46	60.0	44.02	47.1
Alberta.....	161.87	97.12	60.0	29.29	30.2
Total.....	466.07	215.28		87.93	
Average.....			46.2		40.8
Pacific:					
British Columbia.....	226.19	22.62	10.0	2.86	12.6
Dominion:					
Total.....	1,401.32	358.16		140.89	
Average.....			25.6		39.3

\* Based on data in table 48 of the Canada Year Book, 1929, page 271.

Dominion). Of this area about 40 per cent has already been included in farms.

After leaving the western extremity of the Ontario agricultural region the rough lands of the Precambrian shield occupy some 800 to 1000 miles of Ontario and Manitoba. Beyond this, the Canadian Great Plains stretch some 750 miles, to the foothills of the Rockies, generally increasing in width with the distance

travelled westward. Within the prairie provinces are found some 60 per cent of the potential agricultural land of the Dominion, of which 40.8 per cent had been occupied in 1921.

West of the prairies, in the valleys between the mountain ranges, and on the Pacific coastal plain, British Columbia carries on her diversified agriculture. Official estimates of the agricultural land of this province claim 22.6 million acres, rather more than in the Maritimes, of which some 12.6 per cent had been included in farms in 1921. Official data relating to the total area of land, to the potential farm land, and to the occupied farm land of 1921, by provinces, by regional groups, and for the Dominion, are given in table 1.

#### GROSS AGRICULTURAL REVENUE

To supplement the foregoing information a statement for 1929 of the gross agricultural revenue of the provinces and regions has been presented in table 2. The general sources from which farm receipts have been derived are indicated.

In the Maritimes, which obtained 6.6 per cent of the gross receipts from Dominion farms, the bulk of the revenue comes from field crops, but the agriculture is diversified and receipts from sales of dairy products, animals, poultry and eggs, and fruits and vegetables are considerable.

The farmers of the central provinces obtained 49.8 per cent of the gross receipts from Dominion farms, of which 47 per cent came from crops, 24.7 per cent from dairying, 14.2 per cent from the sales of farm animals, 7.3 per cent from poultry, and 3.3 per cent from fruits and vegetables.

The farmers of the prairies secured 40.3 per cent of the gross receipts from Dominion farm sales, of which about 75 per cent came from field crops, and 24 per cent from sales of animals and of dairy and poultry products.

To British Columbia agriculture went 3.3 per cent of the agricultural revenue of the Dominion. Field crops brought 36.9 per cent, fruits and vegetables, and poultry and eggs brought 16 per cent each, and sales of farm animals and of dairy products about 14 per cent each of the province's receipts from agriculture. The areas of the principal field crops of each province and region are presented in table 3 to supplement the information given in table 2. The total area of the crops of the prairies was equal to about

Table 2. Gross Agricultural Revenue of Canada, 1929\*  
(Millions of dollars)

Provinces	Field crops	Farm animals	Wool	Dairy products	Fruits and vegetables	Poultry and eggs	Fur farming	Other	Total
Maritime:									
Prince Edward Island.....	17.0	2.6	0.1	3.7	0.3	1.5	1.5		26.7
Nova Scotia.....	20.9	4.7	0.4	11.5	3.6	1.9	0.4	0.2	43.6
New Brunswick..	23.8	3.6	0.2	8.0	1.0	1.7	1.4	0.2	39.9
Total.....	61.7	10.9	0.7	23.2	4.9	5.1	3.3	0.4	110.2
Central:									
Quebec.....	153.7	41.8	1.3	90.0	8.0	16.1	3.0	6.5(1)	320.4
Ontario.....	241.8	76.0	1.3	115.3	19.2	44.7	1.0	10.1(2)	509.4
Total.....	395.5	117.8	2.6	205.3	27.2	60.8	4.0	16.6	829.8
Prairie:									
Manitoba.....	88.3	16.5	0.2	17.5	1.5	8.9	0.4	0.8(3)	134.1
Saskatchewan....	247.4	25.1	0.2	21.0	1.8	13.5	0.1	0.2	309.3
Alberta.....	166.5	32.3	0.5	15.0	1.8	11.9	0.4	0.2	228.6
Total.....	502.2	73.9	0.9	53.5	5.1	34.3	0.9	1.2	672.0
Pacific:									
British Columbia..	20.4	7.8	0.3	8.0	9.2	9.1	0.3	0.1	55.2
Dominion									
Total.....	979.8	210.4	4.5	290.0	46.4	109.3	8.5	18.3	1,667.2

\* Based on table 1 in the Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, Ottawa, Canada, March, 1930, pages 71-73.

(1) Maple products.....	4.7	(2) Maple products.....	1.2	(3) Honey.....	0.8
Tobacco.....	1.2	Tobacco.....	5.0		
Honey.....	0.5	Clover grass seed.....	1.7		
		Honey.....	1.7		



Table 3. Areas of the Principal Field Crops of Canada, 1928\*  
(Thousands of Acres)

Provinces	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Buckwheat	Flaxseed	Mixed grasses	Peas and beans	Roots and potatoes	Clovers alfalfa and hay	Corn	Total crop acreage
Maritime:												
Prince Edward Island . . . . .	26.1	164.1	5.2		2.9		23.5	0.2	63.3	254.7	0.6	540.6
Nova Scotia . . . . .	6.0	109.2	9.4	0.1	7.1		4.5	2.6	46.5	527.6	1.0	714.0
New Brunswick . . . . .	8.9	209.1	8.9	0.5	42.6		3.1	3.0	66.1	554.9	3.3	900.4
Total . . . . .	41.0	482.4	23.5	0.6	52.6		31.1	5.8	175.9	1,337.2	4.9	2,155.0
Central:												
Quebec . . . . .	57.0	1,746.0	128.0	12.0	169.0	2.0	119.0	49.0	198.0	4,301.0	112.0	6,893.0
Ontario . . . . .	803.5	2,660.0	615.4	66.3	271.2	8.0	905.7	160.9	333.9	4,123.6	409.5	10,358.0
Total . . . . .	860.5	4,406.0	743.4	78.3	440.2	10.0	1,024.7	209.9	531.9	8,424.6	521.5	17,251.0
Prairie:												
Manitoba . . . . .	2,660.1	1,458.4	1,937.3	120.2	9.9	81.8	10.4	1.3	35.7	410.9	18.5	6,744.5
Saskatchewan . . . . .	13,790.8	4,358.7	1,621.5	471.1		279.4	21.9	2.5	46.0	456.8	15.0	21,063.7
Alberta . . . . .	6,706.5	2,340.3	545.5	162.6		6.2	14.1	1.6	39.6	1,896.9	13.5	11,727.8
Total . . . . .	23,158.4	8,157.4	4,104.3	753.9	9.9	367.4	46.4	5.4	121.3	2,764.6	47.0	39,536.0
Pacific:												
British Columbia . . . . .	59.2	90.8	9.5	6.7		0.7	4.9	3.7	23.7	203.9	67.0	409.8
Dominion Total . . . . .	24,119.1	13,136.6	4,880.7	839.5	502.7	378.1	107.1	224.8	852.8	12,730.3	580.1	59,351.8

\* Based on tables 1 and 3, Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, Ottawa, Canada, January, 1921, pages 4-25.

two-thirds of the area of all crops of the Dominion in 1928. Further statistics of Canadian agriculture by provinces and regions are arranged in table 4. In 1921, in both the maritime and the prairie provinces, over 60 per cent of the total population was rural, and over 50 per cent of that of British Columbia. In the central prov-

Table 4. Statistics of Canadian Agriculture\*  
(Census of 1921)

Provinces	Per cent of population classified as rural	Number of farms (thousand)	Non-owning operators (per cent total)	Capital per farm	Total area per farm (acres)	Improved area per farm (acres)
Maritime:						
Prince Edward Island	78	13.7	2	\$ 4,304	89	56
Nova Scotia	57	47.4	2	2,885	100	21
New Brunswick	68	36.7	2	3,596	116	37
Total		97.8				
Average	62		2	\$ 3,353	104	32
Central:						
Quebec	44	137.6	3	\$ 7,969	125	66
Ontario	42	198.1	10	8,540	114	66
Total		235.7				
Average	43		7	\$ 8,323	119	66
Prairie:						
Manitoba	57	53.3	13	\$12,328	274	151
Saskatchewan	71	119.4	10	13,788	368	209
Alberta	62	83.0	10	11,637	352	141
Total		255.7				
Average	64		10	\$12,843	343	164
Pacific:						
British Columbia	53	22.0	9	\$ 9,164	130	25
Dominion:						
Total		711.1				
Average	50.5		7	\$ 9,262	198	99

(Continued on page 801)

inces, the urban proportion of the total population was 14 per cent greater than the rural.

## GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE AGRICULTURE OF CANADA BY REGIONS

### THE MARITIME PROVINCES

Within the maritime provinces the climate is temperate, with ample precipitation, rather lighter in the summer months than

during the remainder of the year. The growing season is fairly long, starting moderately late in the spring, but usually keeping free from frost until danger of damage to crops from this source is over.

The farms are small averaging about 104 acres per farm, and requiring comparatively little capital. The percentage of tenants

Table 4 (Continued)

Provinces	Pasture and unimproved land per farm (acres)	Crops per farm (acres)	Number of horses per farm	Number of cattle per farm	Number of sheep per farm	Number of hogs per farm
Maritime:						
Prince Edward Island	33	34	2.4	11.0	7	4
Nova Scotia	79	14	1.1	6.0	6	1
New Brunswick	79	34	1.4	5.9	4	2
Average	72	20	1.4	6.7	5	2
Central:						
Quebec	59	43	2.6	14.9	7	6
Ontario	48	41	3.0	13.4	6	8
Average	53	45	2.9	14.1	6	7
Prairie:						
Manitoba	123	110	6.8	12.8	3	6
Saskatchewan	159	149	9.0	9.9	2	5
Alberta	211	103	8.6	16.8	7	10
Average	179	126	8.9	12.2	4	7
Pacific:						
British Columbia	105	16	2.6	1.8	9	3
Dominion						
Average	99	70	4.7	12.6	5	6

\* Numbers of livestock based on 1929 totals divided by numbers of farms in 1921.

is low. There were 20 acres of crops per farm in 1921. At that time there were less than two horses per farm, available for farm work. A few cattle and other stock were kept.

The maritime area favors dairying and the production of potatoes, apples, and other fruits, much of which finds its way to the markets of Great Britain. The Annapolis valley of Nova Scotia is one of the most famous fruit producing areas of Canada.

On Prince Edward Island, over 44 per cent of the occupied farm land was in field crops in 1921. Here a specialised agricultural

industry has developed for the production of certified seed potatoes much of which goes to the United States.

At the present time the value of farm lands, with buildings and other improvements, is about \$35 per acre. A greater percentage of the potential farm lands of the Maritimes is in farms than is found in any other region of Canada.<sup>2</sup>

In much of this area, the provision of field drainage is necessary. The application to crop land of barnyard manures and artificial fertilizers is the common practice, and occasional treatments with limes and soil corrective are considered advisable in many sections.

#### THE CENTRAL PROVINCES

The lowlands of the St. Lawrence, on which are located most of the agricultural areas of the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, are favored with a temperate climate, and generally with abundant precipitation fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. The proximity to large bodies of water retards the opening of spring and the approach of frosts and winter. Being located generally near to the densest centres of population in Canada, local conditions have considerable influence on determining the type of agriculture.

Natural and economic conditions favor dairying in a greater degree in this region than in any other Canadian area. In 1929, over 25 per cent of the farm income of these provinces came from the sales of dairy products.

Many varieties of crops are grown readily in this region. The temperate climate and abundant rainfall of many sections produce good pastures and good hay crops. About one-half of the crop land is usually used for hay, which is left down for several years. Corn, mostly for fodder and silage purposes, and roots, have about equal acreage, and together occupied 6 per cent of the crop land in 1928. These crops are primarily used for feeding dairy cattle.

Small grains are usually included in the rotation, frequently for two or more years. Manures are generally applied on the grass lands before plowing the sod. Purchases of commercial fertilizers are general. Lime applications, and similar soil corrective are used in some areas. The provision of field tile drains is necessary through much of this region.

<sup>2</sup> Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, Ottawa, Canada, February, 1930, page 45.

Around favored areas, specialized fruit growing businesses have been developed. The Niagara district of Ontario produces excellent apples, peaches, grapes, and many other kinds of fruits favored by the temperate conditions of that area.

A very choice flue-cured tobacco is successfully grown in Norfolk county, Ontario. Other tobaccos are grown more generally in many sections of Quebec and Ontario.

As a general rule, the farms of the central provinces are somewhat larger than those of the Maritimes. The average capital per farm on the 1921 basis, was \$8,323, and the crop area per farm, 45 acres. In 1929, the average amount of farm livestock consisted of 3 horses, 14 cattle, 6 sheep and 7 hogs. At that time, the farm lands, with buildings and other improvements, were officially given an average value of \$58 per acre, but the range in land values is very great.<sup>3</sup> The fruit lands of Ontario were valued at \$147 per acre. Approximately 40 per cent of the potential farm lands of Quebec and Ontario were in farms in 1921 (table 1).

#### THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

The farm lands of the prairies are primarily used for grain production, with most of the operations centred on wheat. These areas generally have very fertile soils. The climate is generally more extreme than in the other agricultural areas of Canada. Rainfall is limited, in few areas being as much as 20 inches per year, but the precipitation is usually well distributed during the growing season. Occasionally a crop of wheat may receive no rain from seeding to harvest.

The frost-free period is fairly short. In the summer, days are usually hot, and nights cool, favoring the production of high grade hard spring wheat, the major product of the farms of the area.

About 60 per cent of the area producing field crops in 1928, was used for wheat production. Oats were grown on about 21 per cent of the producing acreage, and barley on about 10 per cent. The percentage of land used for crops for hay is small, the acreage in 1928 being only 6 per cent of the total crop area. About two-thirds of this hay was obtained from grain cut for that purpose, or for weed control. Pastures, natural or planted, are generally poor when contrasted with those of more humid areas.

<sup>3</sup> Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, Ottawa, Canada, February, 1930, page 4.

To grow a crop of wheat successfully on the prairie plains it is necessary to conserve moisture and to control weeds. The system of farming generally followed throughout this region is to leave the land uncropped for a year, and to plow and work the land sufficiently to keep down the weeds and to retain the moisture. This is generally known as the summerfallow system. In most of the great plains areas the rotations provide for a year of summerfallow followed by one or two crops of wheat and one crop of oats or barley. Certain areas have adopted shorter rotations and summerfallow one half of the land each year.

Barn yard manures are seldom used on the crop land. Chemical fertilizers are being experimented with quite widely, but there is little demand for such supplies at this time on the prairies.

Throughout the grain areas, the farms are much larger than in any other region of Canada. Farms are decreasing in number and increasing in size. The use of expensive machinery of large calibre has increased considerably in recent years. Tractor operations of fields have reduced the numbers of work horses and the numbers of farm hands required. In certain sections the use of the combined harvester-thresher has displaced the binder-thresher method at harvesting. Capital requirements are high on these farms because of the large numbers of acres operated and the heavy investments in expensive machinery and implements. Credit transactions are common, extensive, and protracted.

Land values, including buildings and other improvements, were estimated at about \$26 per acre in 1929.<sup>4</sup> The average stock per farm for the prairies consisted of 9 horses, 12 cattle, 4 sheep and 7 hogs. There are many farms on which the animals are limited to the horses required for field work, and the cattle, hogs and poultry for farm family needs. Some farms are operated entirely with mechanical power.

#### THE PACIFIC PROVINCE

The agriculture of British Columbia is generally divided between the mountain valleys and the coastal plains. The climate is particularly mild where influenced by the Pacific breezes. Rainfall is generally abundant, decreasing with the distance from the ocean

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<sup>4</sup> Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, Ottawa, Canada, February, 1929, page 45.

and the proximity to the mountains. The summer months generally have the lightest rainfall.

In certain sections near to the largest cities, as in the Lower Fraser Valley, fairly specialized dairy farming predominates. Other valleys such as the Okanagan, and Kootenay valleys, are favored for the production of many varieties of high grade fruits and vegetables, much of which is marketed on the prairie plains. Fruit growing in these interior valleys is dependent on irrigation from mountain streams.

The poultry industry, for which conditions seem to be particularly favorable, has made much progress in the province. A number of extensive cattle ranches, and sheep ranches are located in the hilly dry areas of the province which effectively utilize some lands not suitable for other types of agriculture. These ranges are leased from the government at a low rate per acre, for comparatively long terms.

The coastal cities have developed into popular residential and holiday centres, and draw largely from the prairies. Many who have the means to do so leave the prairie to reside at the coast during the winter months when prairie farm work is slack.

The average area of the many different types of farms of the Pacific province is about 130 acres, of which only 25 acres are improved, and of which only 16 acres per farm are in field crops. From 2 to 3 horses per farm are kept for field work, and about 2 cattle, 9 sheep and 3 hogs. The lands vary considerably in value, depending on the character of the enterprises favored.<sup>5</sup> The general average value of all British Columbia farm lands with buildings and improvements, was \$90 per acre, in 1929. A similar estimate for fruit lands was \$314 per acre. In this province only about one-eighth of the potential farm land had been brought into farm use in 1921, but there has been considerable development of farms in the lower mainland during recent years.

#### CONCLUSION

With the exception of the maritime and central provinces there is little uniformity or continuity of agricultural areas. In most cases the agriculture of the Canadian area resembles fairly closely that of the areas of the states adjoining them, of which they are

<sup>5</sup> Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, Ottawa, Canada, February, 1930, page 45.

naturally a part. The tremendous geographical obstacles between the areas increases the difficulties of communication, transportation, and distribution. At times the people of the different sections find it difficult to understand each other's problems, both in agriculture and industry generally. Recent depressions have made the problems of each area more acute, and have tended to confine and concentrate the attention of the farmers of each area on their own problems. The barriers between the agricultural and general Canadian economic regions retard the general movement of commodities. Most Canadian agricultural areas produce more than is needed locally, and the surpluses resulting have to be disposed of in outside markets. Recent attempts to distribute farm products have been about as difficult for Canada as for the United States.