

not my purpose to burden this address with statistics, but to place before you some facts in confirmation of my contention, I have asked Mr. Ernest H. Godfrey of the Dominion Census and Statistics Office for certain data bearing on my subject. He has very kindly responded and I shall now read the paragraphs that he has prepared.

"Number of Persons dependent upon Agriculture. The total population of Canada, as returned at the Census of 1911, was 7,206,643. Of this total 3,925,679, or about fifty-four per cent, was classified as rural. The number of persons engaged in or dependent upon agriculture in Canada may safely be placed at about fifty-five per cent of the total.

"Land in Canada capable of devotion to Agriculture. Varying estimates have been made from time to time as to the extent of land in Canada that can be devoted to agriculture out of the total land area of Canada, which is placed at 2,306,502,400 acres. Without including the areas outside of the nine provinces as at present constituted, a moderate estimate, based upon census data, is that 440,951,000 acres is possible of cultivation as farm land. (See Year Book, 1914, p. 208). The total area of land now within the boundaries of the nine provinces is 1,401,316,413 acres. Of this area 109,948,988 acres, or less than eight per cent, were returned at the Census of 1911 as in occupation as farm land.

"If, however, we confine attention to land within the provinces that is more immediately available for settlement, we find that altogether there are just under sixty million acres, consisting of about twenty-eight million acres of the Dominion Public Lands open to homestead entry, and about 31,800,000 acres of the Provincial Public Lands available for agricultural settlement.

"The occupied farm lands referred to, viz., 109,948,988 acres are divisible into improved lands, 48,733,823 acres and unimproved land 61,215,165 acres; so that adding this latter total to the 59,800,000 acres of public lands awaiting settlement, we get a total of about 120,000,000 acres of land capable of almost immediate application to agriculture.

"Value of Agricultural Production. In 1915 the field crops of Canada were valued at about \$800,000,000, but this was an exceptional year as regards yield, and the average annual value is more nearly \$650,000,000. If we add to this figure the estimated value of farm live stock, say \$750,000,000, we get a total of \$1,400,000,000 as the total value of the annual agricultural production of Canada. This figure does not include dairying products. In 1910 the total value of the butter and cheese production of Canada was returned as about \$69,500,000. The value of agricultural production,