

INTRODUCTION.

Many improvements and additions have been made in this, the seventh, issue of the Statistical Year Book, while all the principal tables of former issues have been continued and brought down to the latest available date. Chapters IV and VI have, in particular, been considerably enlarged, several new tables have been added, as well as much useful information, bearing especially upon the important trade questions of the day.

Owing to the very late period at which the Railway Statistics for the year ended 30th June, 1891 were published, viz., 30th June, 1892, it was impossible to give that time and attention to the preparation of the chapter on railways that the importance of the subject properly demands.

The Appendix contains a copy of the Tariff, as it is at present in force, including the changes made during the last session of Parliament. It is arranged in alphabetical order, thus doing away with the necessity of an index.

Notices of the principal events, including parliamentary changes both Dominion and Provincial, that have occurred since going to press, will be found under the heading of "Addenda" at the commencement of the work.

The book is, as usual, published some months later than it properly should be, and the causes of delay are the same as in previous years partly the difficulty of getting any other than parliamentary work attended to by the Printing Bureau while the House of Commons is in session; but principally the late period at which many of the departmental reports are published, without making reference to which, the Year Book would be incomplete. As already stated, it took twelve months to prepare the Railway Statistics, when the work should fairly be done in from four to five months. The Mineral Statistics for 1890 were not published until May, 1892. Neither the Fishery nor the