

PREFACE.

The edition for 1918 of the Canada Year Book opens with an article on the Story of Confederation and a frontispiece illustration representing the Fathers of Confederation in 1864. A revised Chronological History of Canada, giving dates of leading events since 1497, comes next, and is followed by a statistical article, entitled "Fifty Years of Canadian Progress, 1867 to 1917".

Section IV (Physical Characteristics) includes an article on the Economic Geology of Canada in 1917. In Section V (Area and Population) are given the principal results of the Census of the Prairie Provinces, taken in 1916. In Section VII (Climate and Meteorology), the climate of Canada since Confederation is described by the Director of the Dominion Meteorological Service. Section VIII (Production), in addition to the usual agricultural features, gives the areas of field crops and the numbers of farm live stock for 1918, as collected by new methods applied throughout Canada for the first time last June. A description of the water-powers of Canada, with reference to those of other countries, also forms part of this section. The comparative tables in Section XII (Finance) have been re-arranged to allow of a continuous five-year record without duplication of figures over long periods as heretofore; and new tables, with letter-press explanations, have been devoted to the subjects of currency, banking and commercial failures. The section includes also a chapter on rural credit which, during 1917, was the subject of provincial legislation in several of the provinces. A description of the work of the Honorary Advisory Council of Scientific and Industrial Research forms part of Section XIII (Administration), and Section XIV contains a concise record of recent Dominion and Provincial legislation and of the principal events of the year.

In all sections is given the latest information available up to the time of printing, and all the tables include, wherever possible, the figures of 1918. Articles and tables not requiring alteration or bringing up to date have not been repeated, but are noted for purposes of reference on page 672.

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Editor.