

ORGANIZATION OF CANADIAN OFFICIAL STATISTICS.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics was established under the Statistics Act, 1918, (8-9 George V, c. 43). The Act requires the Dominion Statistician to present an annual Report on the work of the Bureau during the preceding year. The first annual Report, covering the fiscal year ended March 31, 1919, has accordingly been issued, and from it are derived the following particulars respecting the present organization of the Bureau. The report takes occasion to sketch the history of statistical progress in Canada, and more particularly the conditions of the past decade which led to the passing of the Act. This Act was designed to give practical effect to the suggestions made by the Departmental Commission on the Official Statistics of Canada, which was appointed on May 12, 1912, and which presented its report on November 30 of the same year. Structurally it is a consolidation of previous statistical legislation of the Dominion Government, including the Census, General Statistics, Railway Statistics, and Criminal Statistics Acts, with additions to render the scheme comprehensive. At the close of its initial year on March 31, 1919, the Bureau was organized in eleven main Divisions as follows: I, Administration; II, Population and the Census; III, Agriculture; IV, Industrial Census, comprising fisheries, furs, forestry, dairy factories, mines, central power stations, general manufactures and construction; V, External Trade (Exports and Imports); VI, Transportation; VII, Internal Trade, including prices, etc.; VIII, Finance, including public and private finance, wealth, debt and taxation; IX, Administration of Justice; X, Education; and XI, General Statistics and the Canada Year Book.

Considerable progress has already been made in various directions since the appointment of the Dominion Statistician in 1915 and the establishment of the Bureau under the Act of 1918. The annual Report, already referred to, describes these in detail; but mention may be made specifically of the establishment throughout Canada of an uniform system of annual vital statistics and of the inauguration of annual statistics of the areas under field crops and of the numbers of farm live stock. Other important work completed or in progress comprises a revision of the trade classification of exports and imports, the organization of statistics of education, the reorganization of statistics of transportation, the collection of statistics of internal trade and the co-ordination and enlargement of statistics of finance, including the public accounts of the Dominion and Provincial Governments, municipal statistics, and statistics of currency, banking, loan and trust companies, insurance and studies relating to national wealth, income, debt and taxation.

The following concluding observations are reproduced from the Report:

As will be evident at many points, the organization of the Bureau is still in process, though the outline has been traced and certain sections filled in. Especially will it have been remarked that the Bureau has been concerned thus far rather with the scope of the statistics to be secured and the means of securing them, than with the methods of presentation and publication. Prominently in mind also has been the point of view so strongly emphasized during the war that statistics are not merely a record of what has been, but are for use in planning what shall be—that it is the duty of a statistical organization to assist