

### **The Working Constitution of the Bureau.**

The Act makes the Bureau responsible for the statistics "relative to the commercial, industrial, social, economic and general activities and conditions of the people,"—a universal mandate. Certain statistics, however, originate as by-products in particular departments, or can best be collected through the field staffs or other machinery of such departments. These should not only meet the requirements of the departments in question, but should constitute an integral part of the general system. The Act accordingly assigns to the Bureau the further task of "collaborating with all other departments of the Government in the compilation and publication of statistical records of administration." The machinery for this collaboration is provided by a Regulation dated October 12, 1918, which gives the Dominion Statistician direct access to heads of departments for conference purposes, with an instruction after such conference to prepare a recommendation for Council, such recommendation on approval to constitute a permanent arrangement governing the particular subject dealt with. A further Regulation provides for central machine compilation as an adjunct to the system. In this way the Bureau is constituted as a comprehensive central statistical office, working for the most part under the Governor in Council, all purely statistical work having been brought by transfer under its immediate direction, whilst remaining departmental statistics are indirectly controlled.

Control over Provincial statistics (which, under the B.N.A. Act, include some most important subjects) is secured through a clause permitting Provincial officers to serve as agents under the Statistics Act. A further clause gives the Bureau right of access to all Provincial, municipal or corporation records.

### **The Purpose of Statistical Centralization.**

The purpose of statistical centralization includes, of course, the numerous economies in "overhead" which concentration promotes, as in staff, equipment, elimination of duplication, etc. For example, two pronounced characteristics of statistical work are (a) the large proportion of routine, and (b) its ebb and flow; a "floating" staff is accordingly a feature of a central bureau. The use of electrical tabulating machinery, again, has revolutionized statistical work, but it effects an economy only on large-scale (i.e., centralized) operations. (The Bureau has an investment of over \$125,000 in machinery.) Central library, record, and administration systems are further examples. Still another economy, from a different angle, flows from the concentration of statistical experience, as a result of the bringing together of the higher statistical officers of the government. The convenience of the public is also promoted by having statistics all in one place.

But the fundamental purpose of statistical centralization lies in the fact that its great subjects, such as production, trade, finance, population, etc., are not separate and distinct, but are closely inter-related. The state, in other words, is not a series of heterogeneous