

activities, but is itself an entity. The statistics of the country must therefore be framed to illustrate these relationships. For example, if the statistics of mines, fisheries, manufactures, and other phases of production are carried out in a series of water-tight compartments, the phenomena common to all, such as labour, capital equipment, etc., will inevitably be handled differently, with non-comparable results. Again, if one system of classifying commodities is employed by the Trade Statistician, another by the Production Statistician, and another by the Prices Statistician, no general study of conditions surrounding a particular group of commodities can be made; similarly, the classification of occupations should be uniform, whether in the Census analysis of population, in the vital statistical record of deaths, in criminal and in labour statistics, and so on. Again, on points of method like the construction of index numbers—clearly such devices should yield results that are comparable from field to field. In brief, a true national statistic is not a mere aggregation of the statistics of different activities, but involves also a purview of the totality of phenomena with the object of revealing their interplay, and, if possible, the controlling forces from time to time. Not only should the State be provided with statistics on the main subjects of national interest, but these statistics should be properly “articulated” with each other, so as to form in as far as possible a single conspectus.

Progress under the Bureau to Date.

The Bureau has completed the plans for a unified, nationwide statistical system, covering every important phase of social and economic activity, and has carried them out to a considerable degree, though part is not yet realized. The First Annual Report of the Dominion Statistician contained a full description of the organization of the Bureau and of its subject-matter. The chart on page 827 is from that report, and shows the eleven main branches under which the work of the Bureau is conducted. A list of the publications is also attached as further indicating its scope.

In briefest form, the chief reorganizations effected to date are as follows (a complete memo as to policies involved in each case being contained in the Report above mentioned):

(1) The Census (decennial and quinquennial) has been reorganized as a stock-taking of the people and their basic industry, and its true place as such in the national statistical system and in relation to other fields of statistics determined; it has been considerably simplified as a result of the Bureau's widened control of allied statistics.

(2) A national scheme of vital statistics, made possible by inducing the provinces to enact uniform legislation drafted by the Bureau, and to accept uniform administration of the same and on standard forms issued by the Bureau, has been established.

(3) The monthly and annual statistics of agriculture (crop reports, live stock, etc.) have been brought under joint operation of the Bureau and the nine Provincial Governments, to the material improvement of these data.