

XIV.—SOURCES OF STATISTICAL AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATIVE TO CANADA.

The chief source of information on the current state of the country is the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, organized as the central statistical bureau for Canada, and described in the first part of this section; a list of its publications, which cover almost the whole field of the national statistics, is appended.

The second part of the section contains a list of the Acts of Parliament administered by the several Departments of the Dominion Government, and the the third part a bibliography of the publications of these Departments. This is followed by a bibliography of the publications of Provincial Government Departments, and the section closes with a select bibliography of the most valuable general works relating to the history of Canada.

I.—THE DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics was set up by statute in 1918 as a central statistical department for Canada: (8-9 Geo. V, c. 43). The Act was a consolidation of all previous statistical legislation and was based on the report of a Commission on Statistics, appointed in 1912, which recommended (a) a series of specific reforms and enlargements in Canadian statistics, and (b) a policy of statistical co-ordination for the Dominion under central direction. In 1915, following the recommendations in this report, the office of Dominion Statistician was created.

The Bureau has been constituted by the transfer or absorption, by Orders in Council, of the following work and branches: (1) the Census and Statistics Office (covering the census, and also agriculture, general manufactures and criminal justice); (2) Fisheries Statistics; (3) Mining Statistics; (4) Forestry Statistics; (5) Dairying and Fruit Statistics; (6) Water and Electric Power Statistics; (7) the Railways and Canals Statistical Branch of the Department of Railways and Canals; (8) the Trade Statistical Branch (exports and imports); (9) Grain Trade Statistics; (10) Live Stock Statistics; (11) Prices Statistics; and (12) Employment Statistics. In addition four new branches were erected, dealing respectively with Public Finance, Internal Trade, Vital Statistics and Education. Subsequently the statistical activities of the Fuel Controller and of the Board of Commerce were absorbed. Modifications of the Bankruptcy, Public Health, and Railway Acts and of the Regulation on franking privileges were also made, with a view to facilitating the collection of statistics.

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