

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. The linking up of 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 Provincial, municipal or corporation records.

**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 interrelated. The state, in other words, is not a series of heterogeneous 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 so far as possible a single conspectus.

The Bureau has completed the plans for a unified, nation-wide statistical system, covering every important phase of social and economic activity, and has carried them out to a considerable degree.

The main achievement of the Bureau has been in the organization of the several subjects in correlation with each other in accordance with this general plan, and the consequent establishment of a comprehensive viewpoint of the