

the Municipal Improvement League of Canada, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics undertook to collect independently through its Finance Branch the statistics for a fixed group of municipalities of 10,000 population or over, according to schedules and methods of compilation approved by the provinces. The results of the first investigation for the calendar year 1919 were published in summary form on pp. 570-580 of the 1920 Year Book, as well as in greater detail in a special report. Subsequently other reports appeared of the municipal statistics of urban municipalities of between 3,000 and 10,000 population and municipalities of between 1,000 and 3,000 population. The statistics of these later reports were summarized on pp. 802-805 of the 1922-23 Year Book.

**Statistics of Urban Municipalities of 5,000 Population and over.**—In the 1925 edition of the Year Book, summary statistics were presented of 81 urban municipalities of 5,000 population and over reporting to the Bureau for the calendar year 1922 (see pp. 806-808). Details were published in a special report, obtainable on application to the Bureau of Statistics.

**Statistics of Urban Municipalities of 1,000 to 5,000 Population.**—The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has secured in comparable form and published a report on the statistics of 257 urban municipalities of between 1,000 and 5,000 population having an estimated aggregate population of 551,461 in 1922. The figures are for the calendar year 1922, and a summary of the financial statistics was given at pp. 808-812 of the 1925 Year Book. Copies of the report may be obtained from the Bureau.

#### 4.—National Wealth and Income.

##### 1.—National Wealth.

There are several methods of computing national wealth, *i.e.*, the aggregate value of the property within the nation, apart from undeveloped natural resources. Perhaps the most familiar of these methods is that of working back to capital values through income tax returns, but this can be applied only in countries where incomes are thoroughly appraised. A second method is that of estimation from probate returns, the value of the estates of deceased persons being regarded as representative. A third is that of a complete census, based upon a canvass of the individual. In the accompanying tables a fourth method, namely, the so-called "inventory" method, is employed; it consists in totalling the amounts known from various sources to be invested in agriculture, manufactures, dwellings, etc.

It must be understood that statistics of this character are suggestive and indicative rather than strictly accurate. The concept of wealth is distinctly intangible, and there are numerous elements of uncertainty in a calculation of this nature. It should be pointed out that Tables 33 to 35 cover the year 1921 (the latest year for which the statistics are available), and that in 1921 the money values of commodities were still above normal. Estimates for subsequent years will doubtless, on this account, show considerable changes in several of the items. The present survey, which includes the provincial distribution of Canadian wealth, places the estimated aggregate of the tangible wealth of the Dominion in 1921, exclusive of undeveloped natural resources, at \$22,195,000,000.

**Aggregate and per capita Wealth of the Provinces, 1921.**—As regards the provincial distribution of wealth, Ontario ranked first, with estimated aggregate wealth amounting to \$7,353,000,000, or 33.1 p.c. of the total, and Quebec second, with estimated wealth of \$5,542,000,000, or 25 p.c. of the whole. Saskatchewan was third, with estimated wealth of \$2,846,000,000, or 12.8 p.c. of the total for the Dominion.