

XIV.—SOURCES OF OFFICIAL 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 third part a bibliography of the publications of these Departments. This is followed by a bibliography of the publications of Provincial Governments.

I.—THE DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS.¹

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 statistics); (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 *re* franking privileges were also made, with a view to facilitating the collection of statistics.

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 country as a "going concern". In addition, there has been created what is frequently called a central "thinking office" in statistics, continuously in touch with general conditions and the line of probable developments.

The final concept in the organization of the Bureau of Statistics is that of a national laboratory for social and economic research. Statistics are not merely a record of what has been, but are for use in planning what shall be; it is the duty of

¹A fuller account of the formation and activities of the Bureau of Statistics will be found on pages 961 to 964 of the 1922-23 Year Book.