

PREFACE.

The Canada Year Book had its origin in the first year of the Dominion, when the "Year Book and Almanac of British North America"—being (to quote its sub-title) "an Annual Register of political, vital and trade statistics, customs tariffs, excise and stamp duties, and all public events of interest in Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and West Indies"—was founded. Subsequently the title was altered to "The Year Book and Almanac of Canada,—an annual statistical abstract of the Dominion and a register of legislation and of public men in British North America" It was published annually from 1867 to 1879.

In 1886, after the passing of a general Statistics Act, the "Statistical Abstract and Record of Canada" was instituted as an official book of reference respecting the institutions, population, finance, trade and general conditions of the Dominion, "with comparative data for the United Kingdom, British Possessions and foreign countries". The work was prepared in the General Statistical Office of the Department of Agriculture, and was continued annually until 1904, under the direction of Dr. George Johnson, F.S.S. In 1905 the General Statistical Office was amalgamated with the Census Office (which was at the same time made a permanent organization), and the Year Book was remodelled by Dr. Archibald Blue, Chief Officer, and continued under the title "The Canada Year Book, Second Series".

In the reorganization and centralization of statistics which followed the report of the Royal Commission on Statistics of 1912, and the establishment of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in 1918, the improvement of the Year Book, both in content and method of presentation, was made a primary object, and this improvement has been continued down to the present time.

A feature of the Year Book has been the inclusion of special articles from time to time dealing, more fully than is possible in the regular material, with some phase of science or art or of the social or economic development of Canada. This feature has been dropped in the present edition owing to a desire to economize space and to the necessity of devoting much additional space to extensions of subject matter. In the chapter on Transportation and Communications, the development of Radio has received more attention in view of its present importance. Foreign Exchange has become a matter of such general interest that a section on this subject has been added to the chapter on Currency and Banking. The statistics on Education have been reconstructed and the Public Lands section of Chapter XXVIII has been rewritten entirely. Judicial and Penitentiary statistics have now assumed sufficient importance to warrant a separate chapter and have therefore been taken from Miscellaneous Administration where they have formerly appeared.

As the statistics on Public Health and Benevolence (Chapter XXVI) were correlated on a Dominion-wide basis for the first time at the census of 1931, this chapter has been entirely re-organized.

In order to include the latest results of the 1931 census in the chapters on Population and Agriculture, much of the material ordinarily included therein has been transferred to Appendices II and III, respectively.

The present volume has been edited by S. A. Cudmore, B.A. (Tor.), M.A. (Oxon.), F.S.S., F. R. Econ. Soc., assisted by A. E. Millward, B.A., B. Com., W. H. Lanceley, and R. F. Clarke, M.C., D.L.S., of the editorial staff of the General Statistics Branch of the Bureau. Grateful acknowledgments are hereby tendered to the numerous officials of the Dominion and Provincial Governments who have assisted in the collection of information. An effort has been made to apportion due credit to the various individuals and services concerned by means of footnotes to those chapters and sections which have been contributed, or in the compilation of which co-operation has been received.

While the greatest care has been taken in the preparation of the volume, there are doubtless imperfections and, with a view to the improvement of future editions, the Editor will be glad to hear of any errors which may have escaped his notice, and to receive any suggestions with regard to omissions or to method of treatment.

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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS,
OTTAWA, June 1, 1932.