

## CHAPTER XXIX.—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 chapter.

The second section of the chapter contains a list of the Acts of Parliament administered by the several Departments of the Dominion Government, and the third section a bibliography of the publications of these Departments. This is followed, in Section 4, by a bibliography of the publications of Provincial Governments.

### Section 1.—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.

As first established‡ the Bureau included, by transfer or absorption, the following divisions: (1) the Census and Statistics Office (covering the census, and also agriculture, general manufactures, and judicial 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 created, dealing respectively with Public Finance, Internal Trade, Vital Statistics, and Education.

Since its organization in 1918, the Bureau has created out of these many heterogeneous units a unified, nation-wide, statistical system in which the correlation of the several subjects and their interpretation from a comprehensive national viewpoint has been the primary objective. By means of Dominion-Provincial statistical conferences held from time to time, a useful degree of co-operation and uniformity of statistical classification and method has been achieved and progress along these lines continues. These main advantages of statistical centralization have not only been substantially attained, but the treatment of statistics, not merely as aggregations of figures, but as primary data from which complex social and economic phenomena may be interpreted, has been emphasized. This view of a true national statistic as revealing the controlling economic forces which operate and their inter-

\* A more complete account of the formation and activities of the Bureau of Statistics will be found on pp. 961-964 of the 1922-23 Year Book.

† Consolidated as the Statistics Act (c. 190, R.S.C., 1927).

‡ See the first Annual Report of the Dominion Statistician, for the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1919.