

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 section 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 but, as stated, it was not until 1918 that the recommendations of the Commission were embodied in legislation. Among its many provisions the following are indicated:—

3. There shall be a bureau under the Minister of Trade and Commerce, to be called the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the duties of which shall be to collect, abstract, compile and publish statistical information relative to the commercial, industrial, social, economic and general activities and condition of the people, to collaborate with all other departments of the Government in the compilation and publication of statistical records of administration according to the regulations, and to take the Census of the Dominion as hereinafter provided.

9. (1) The Minister may enter into any arrangement with the government of any province providing for any matter necessary or convenient for the purpose of carrying out or giving effect to this Act, and in particular for all or any of the following matters:—

(a) The execution by provincial officers of any power or duty conferred or imposed on any officer under this Act or the regulations;

(b) The collection by any provincial department or officer of any statistical or other information required for the purpose of carrying out this Act; and,

(c) The supplying of statistical information by any provincial department or officer to the Dominion Statistician.

15. (1) No individual return, and no part of an individual return, made, and no answer to any question put, for the purposes of this Act, shall, without the previous consent in writing of the person or of the owner for the time being of the undertaking in relation to which the return or answer was made or given, be published, nor, except for the purposes of a prosecution under this Act, shall any person not engaged in connection with the Census be permitted to see any such individual return or any such part of any individual return.

(2) No report, summary of statistics or other publication under this Act shall contain any of the particulars comprised in any individual return so arranged as to enable any person to identify any particulars so published as being particulars relating to any individual person or business.

33. Subject to the direction of the Minister, the Bureau shall collect, abstract and tabulate annually, statistics in relation to all or any of the following matters; (a) Population; (b) Births, Deaths and Marriages; (c) Immigration and Emigration; (d) Agriculture; (e) Education; (f) Public and Private Finance; (g) any other matters prescribed by the Minister or by the Governor in Council.

* A more complete account of the formation and activities of the Bureau of Statistics will be found on pp. 961-964 of the 1932-33 Year Book.

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