

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.

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 that operate and their interplay, and the value of such a statistic in administrative planning along national lines, involves, of course, an added function of the Bureau, viz., its usefulness as a national laboratory for economic and social research. This is a development that, as yet, is in its infancy but the foundation of such a service, comparable with the increasing importance of Canada in the economic and political world, has already been laid.

As now organized, the Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics are: I. Administration; II. Demography—Census and Vital Statistics; III. Agricultural Statistics; IV. Fisheries and Animal Products; V. Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical; VI. Forestry and Allied Industries; VII. General Manufactures; VIII. External Trade (Imports and Exports); IX. Internal Trade; X. Construction; XI. Transportation and Public Utilities; XII. Financial Statistics; XIII. Judicial Statistics; XIV. Education Statistics; XV. Census of Institutions; XVI. Census Analysis and Social Statistics. An organization chart showing the relationship of the Branches and the divisions of their work is given at pp. 1144-1145 of the 1934-35 Year Book.

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