

country of the world in which there is an enemy interest and with which it is forbidden to transact business. In these matters the Custodian also consults with a specially constituted inter-departmental committee.

There have also been two important committees appointed to investigate and report to the Government on specific or general economic questions from time to time: the Advisory Committee on Economic Policy established in September, 1939, and made up of senior Government officials and advisors; and the Wartime Requirements Board, established in November, 1940; to secure information and to "formulate such plan or plans as may be necessary to ensure that war needs in the order of their importance shall have priority over all other needs" and to report upon other matters referred to it by the War Committee of the Cabinet.

Section 2.—Statistical and Economic Review

Subsection 1.—War Activities of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics dates from the years immediately following the first World War, when the amateurishness and the piecemeal character of the statistics then available had hampered the work of war-time administration. One of the first duties of the new organization set up under the Statistics Act of 1918 was the compilation of the data obtained at the first National Registration of June 22, 1918, when some 5,044,000 Canadians of both sexes were registered for public service. The facilities of the Bureau were again utilized for the compilation of the results of the second National Registration of August, 1940, when 7,863,000 persons were registered in various categories, of which the most important were age and occupation. With the object of keeping this second National Registration up to date, a considerable staff is continuously employed in recording those who have attained the age of sixteen since the original date of registration, recording changes of name on marriage, changes of address, and deleting the names of the dead. As a result of the registration, long lists of persons skilled in various occupations have been compiled and transmitted to the authorities who are concerned with the maintenance of the supply of labour in war industries.

"Statistics", said the Dominion Statistician in his first Annual Report for 1919, "are not merely a record of what has been, but are of use in planning what shall be". The great and many-sided expansion of Canadian statistics in numerous fields during the past twenty years has enormously increased official and public knowledge of the facts of the Canadian situation, and has thus facilitated the conversion of our peace economy into a war economy. Far more is known about production, internal trade, prices, the balance of international payments, etc., than during the last war, and this knowledge has been extensively used by the Government in the work of war-time administration.

Finally, the Census of 1941, which is being taken at the time of writing, will provide an enormous amount of up-to-date information on the composition of the population, on its occupations and earnings, on agriculture and horticulture in Canada, and on the housing of the people. These data, considered in the light of the international situation existing after the close of the war, will furnish a factual basis for the work of post-war reconstruction.