

The first official estimate of national wealth issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was for 1921, being based on the census data of that year and is given at pp. 778-781 of the 1924 Year Book. The national wealth was then placed at \$22,195,000,000. Later estimates are \$25,673,000,000 for 1925, given at pp. 849-852 of the 1927-28 Year Book, and \$27,668,000,000 for 1927 at pp. 827-831 of the 1930 Year Book. The estimates for 1921, 1925 and 1927 are not exactly comparable with those for 1929 and 1933 given at pp. 876-878 of the 1940 Year Book, but are sufficiently so for most purposes. The 1929 estimate of \$31,276,000,000 presents a picture at the peak of prosperity, whereas that of 1933 at \$25,768,000,000 reflects the writing down of values resulting from the depression.

The actual wealth consists of the goods on hand together with the facilities in use, i.e., the dwellings, plant and machinery, railways, roads, equipment and improvements of every description, but the value of all these things must be expressed in the common denominator of the national currency which has been subject to considerable variation in purchasing power. It is most probable that in 1933 the Canadian people had more houses, more machinery and more roads—in short, more goods and facilities than they possessed in 1929—but, owing to marked changes in price levels and earning power, their value in 1933 was placed at a lower level than in 1929.

The disturbed economic conditions prevailing during the 1930's affected the useful comparability of estimates of national wealth during the period. Furthermore, recent more detailed studies made of the national income may suggest new aspects of the companion subject of national wealth and result in revisions of the methods of estimation. Under these circumstances details of the former estimates are omitted. The 1933 estimate is the latest that has been published.

### Subsection 2.—National Income

The subject of national income is dealt with in several earlier editions of the Year Book, the latest treatment being that at pp. 889-896 of the 1938 edition, which outlines the method of double approach to the question. The 1937 edition, at pp. 864-866, gives statistics for 1933 and 1934; this was the last year for which figures were computed on the basis of the survey of production. This system was discontinued because it was felt to be based on too restricted a foundation. The statistics given here are the result of an extensive survey and are based upon much more comprehensive data than were available when the former estimates of national income were made.

An estimate of Canada's national income has many important uses. As the best measure of economic activity, it is valuable as illustrating long-term progress and cyclical fluctuations. By adjusting for price changes, the volume of goods and services provided by the economic system is recorded from year to year. National income also provides a gauge for the study of public debt, taxation, external and