

# CHAPTER XXVIII.—SOURCES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICAL AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATIVE TO CANADA

## CONSPECTUS

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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 Section 1. Section 2 contains a list of the Acts of Parliament administered by the several Departments of the Dominion Government, and Section 3 a bibliography of the publications of these Departments. This is followed, in Section 4, by a bibliography of the publications of Provincial Governments, and by a list of Royal Commissions appointed by the Dominion or the provinces as well as British Royal Commissions concerned with Canada, given in Section 5.

### 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 (1) a series of specific reforms and enlargements in Canadian statistics, and (2) 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.

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

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