

in this Section (see pp. 1078-1083 of the 1939 edition of the Year Book) has been omitted. A description of Canada's war effort will be found in the Introduction to this volume.

### Section 3.—Department of Public Works

The constructing department of the Dominion Government, since before Confederation, has been known as the Department of Public Works. The work of the Department is divided into three principal branches, viz., the Engineering Branch, the Architect's Branch and the Telegraph Branch. An account of the work of each of these branches is given at pp. 949-950 of the 1941 Year Book, and a description of the five dry docks constructed by the Department is given at p. 617 of this volume.

### Section 4.—The Indians and Eskimos of Canada

#### Subsection 1.—The Indians of Canada

The Indians of Canada, whose affairs are administered by the Indian Affairs Branch, Department of Mines and Resources, number 118,378 (according to a departmental census taken in 1939). The popular notion that the race is disappearing is not in accordance with fact. Before the advent of the European, the number of the Indians was undoubtedly larger, but little reliable information as to the aboriginal population, during either the French or the early British regimes, is available. The best estimate, however, of the aboriginal or Indian population of what is now Canada was slightly in excess of 200,000 or about double the present figure. During this twentieth century the trend has been upward with a gradual but fairly steady increase.

**Administration.**—\*Reserves have been set aside for the various bands of Indians throughout the Dominion and the Indians located thereon are under the supervision of the local agents of the Department. The activities of the Department, as administrator of the affairs of the Indians, include the control of Indian education and health, the development of agriculture and other pursuits among them, the administration of their lands, community funds, estates and the general supervision of their welfare.

The local administration of the Indian bands on the reserves scattered throughout the Dominion is conducted through the Department's agencies, of which there are in all 115. The number of bands contained in an agency varies from one to more than 30. The staff of an agency usually includes, in addition to the agent, various officials such as medical officer, clerk, farm instructor, field matron, constable, stockman, etc., according to the special requirements of the agency in question. The work of the agencies is supervised from headquarters at Ottawa and, in the field, by the Department's inspectors, each inspector having charge of a certain number of agencies; in British Columbia the supervision of the Indian agencies is under the direction of the Indian Commissioner for British Columbia. Expenditures for the assistance of destitute Indians on reserves are made by the Dominion Government, either from public funds or from tribal funds of the Indians.

The Government has undertaken a number of special projects for the various sections of the Indian population in accordance with their needs, including fur development enterprises in selected areas; the promotion of Indian handicraft; and planned agricultural operations.

\* Revised by T. R. L. MacInnes, Secretary, Indian Affairs Branch, Department of Mines and Resources. For an outline of the early administration, see p. 937 of the 1932 Year Book.