

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 it was not until 1918 that the recommendations of the Commission were embodied in legislation.

The 1941 Year Book, at pp. 968-969, gives salient features of the Statistics Act and outlines the growth, organization and purpose of the Bureau. A fuller account of the formation of the Bureau is given at pp. 961-964 of the 1922-23 Year Book.

Publications.—Items in the vote of the Bureau, passed by Parliament each year, provide limited funds for the printing and processing of reports and bulletins. Reports printed from type are set up by the King's Printer, but the Bureau itself operates its own contact printing presses and all processed reports and bulletins are completely printed as well as published by the Bureau of Statistics.

The present policy with regard to the distribution of publications is based on sales to the public at actual cost of paper and presswork only; compilation, editing and other overhead costs are not included. The object is to extend the service to the public as widely as possible and so spread the compilation and overhead, which are the big items in total costs. A special subscription rate of \$30 per year entitles

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