

PREFACE

The Canada Year Book traces its beginning to 1867—the first year of the nation's history. However, it did not become the broad medium it is to-day for interpreting the development of the resources, institutions and social and economic conditions of the country until after the reorganization that followed the Report of the Departmental Commission on Statistics in 1912, and the consequent establishment of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in 1918.

The rapid social and economic strides that Canada has made, especially during these past three decades, are reflected in the expansion and growing prestige of the Canada Year Book, which has now come to be regarded, both at home and abroad, as the indispensable reference work on Canada.

The present edition continues the policy of assigning such space as can be spared to feature articles of special importance. Such articles give additional meaning and substance to the purely statistical and analytical material that constitutes the basic chapter material. In a very real sense, as a perusal of the list of Special Articles that have appeared in former editions (pp. viii to xii) will show, they give to the Year Book Series an encyclopædic value apart from its function as a statistical abstract.

Among the special articles appearing in the present edition are: The Physical Geography of the Canadian Eastern Arctic, at pp. 12-19; Canada's Growth in External Status and Canada's Part in the Relief and Rehabilitation of the Occupied Territories, at pp. 74-85; Canadian Oil Production, at pp. 321-325; Changes in Canadian Manufacturing Production from Peace to War, at pp. 364-381; International Air Conferences, at pp. 642-644; The Wartime Role of the Steam Railways in Canada, at pp. 648-651; Canada's Northern Airfields, at pp. 705-712; the Democratic Functioning of the Press, at pp. 744-748; and the Activities of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board in Controlling Prices, Rents and Supplies, at pp. 885-893.

All these articles are sponsored by responsible authorities of the Dominion or Provincial Government Services with the exception of the article on the Press, for which material was supplied by the Hon. W. A. Buchanan, President of the Canadian Press.

Because of public interest in the articles published in former editions of the Canada Year Book, the policy of reprinting such articles as are of continuing value has been approved, and in future a number of these will be made available each year. Information regarding those that can be obtained will hereafter be indicated in the list appearing at the opening pages of each edition of the Year Book.

In addition to the Special Articles, the regular chapter material has undergone thorough-going revision and reflects latest developments.

The Canadian economy has, with the recent cessation of hostilities with Japan, definitely entered the transition period from war to peace. The necessarily rigid controls that have marked the past few years already show some relaxation and, in respect of Social Welfare and Reconstruction, definite plans have now been projected and in some cases are in actual operation. Although the statistical lag is necessarily such that for most chapters the record still lies in the period before V-E Day, yet the reader is kept abreast of developments by up-to-date textual analyses and discussions. This is more particularly the case in the Chapters on Social Welfare and Reconstruction, where developments such as Family Allowances,