

administered by the Provincial Governments since Confederation. Since the transfer by the Dominion Government of the natural resources of the Prairie Provinces and of sections of British Columbia (see also p. 1019 of the 1931 Year Book), public lands in all provinces have been under provincial administration. In Prince Edward Island, all of the land is alienated and there are no provincial public lands.

Information regarding provincial public lands may be obtained from the following officials of the respective provinces: Minister of Lands and Forests, Halifax, N.S.; Deputy Minister of Lands and Mines, Fredericton, N.B.; Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests, Quebec, Que.; Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests, Toronto, Ont.; Director of Lands, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Winnipeg, Man.; Director of Lands, Department of Natural Resources, Regina, Sask.; Director of Lands, Department of Lands and Mines, Edmonton, Alta.; Deputy Minister of Lands, Victoria, B.C.

Section 2.—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. 618 of the 1942 edition. The Department of Public Works submits details of all proposed construction works to the Department of Reconstruction and Supply (see pp. 454-455), in categories as to urgency and usefulness, and the latter Department, after listing the works to be proceeded with immediately, advises when the postponable works should be undertaken.

Section 3.—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 125,686 (according to a departmental census taken in 1944). The popular opinion that the race is disappearing is not in accordance with fact. Before the advent of the European, the number of 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.

* Revised under the direction of R. A. Hoey, Acting Director, Indian Affairs Branch, Department of Mines and Resources. For an outline of the early administration, see p. 937 of the 1932 Year Book.

† Indian Health Services were transferred to the Department of National Health and Welfare as from Nov. 1, 1945.