

Section 2.—Department of Public Works*

Since Confederation and before, the constructing department of the Federal Government has been known as the Department of Public Works. In 1879 the railways and canals were placed under the control of a new department, the building and maintenance of penitentiaries were transferred to the Department of Justice, the maintenance and construction of lighthouses to the Marine and Fisheries Department, and the smaller drill halls and armouries to the Department of National Defence. The work of the Department of Public Works is now divided into three principal branches, viz., the Engineering Branch, the Architect's Branch, and the Telegraph Branch.

Engineering.—The Engineering Branch conducts the construction and repair of wharves, piers, breakwaters, dams, weirs, bank and beach protection works; the improvement of harbours and rivers by dredging; the construction, operation, and maintenance of dredging plant and the construction, operation, and maintenance of graving or dry docks. The construction and maintenance of interprovincial bridges and approaches thereto, also the construction, operation, and maintenance of bridges with movable spans on certain highways; hydrographical and topographical surveys which are required for the preparation of plans, reports, and estimates; test borings for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of foundations; the testing of cements and materials of construction; the licensing of international and interprovincial ferries, and the control of works constructed in or over navigable waters by authority of the Navigable Waters Protection Act (R.S.C., 1927, c. 140).

Architecture.—The Architect's Branch constructs and maintains Government buildings, post offices, customs houses, examining warehouses, quarantine stations, immigration and experimental farm buildings, military hospitals, and telegraph offices. It also constructs armouries and drill halls and leases office accommodation as required for the various Departments.

Telegraphs.—The Telegraph Branch has control of the construction, operation, and maintenance of all Government-owned telegraph lines and cables. These lines are located in the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon (see also p. 726).

Graving Docks.—The Department constructed five dry docks and is responsible for subsidies under the Dry Dock Subsidies Act, 1910 (9-10 Edw. VII, c. 17). A description of these docks is given in the Transportation Chapter, p. 693.

* Revised by J. M. Somerville, Secretary, Department of Public Works, Ottawa.

Section 3.—The Indians and Eskimos of Canada

2.—Indian Population of Canada at the Decennial Censuses of 1871-1941

Province or Territory	1871 ¹	1881 ¹	1891 ²	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941
Prince Edward Island.....	323	281	314	258	248	235	233	258
Nova Scotia.....	1,666	2,125	2,076	1,629	1,915	2,048	2,191	2,063
New Brunswick.....	1,403	1,401	1,521	1,465	1,541	1,331	1,685	1,939
Quebec.....	6,988	7,515	13,361	10,142	9,993	11,566	12,312	11,863
Ontario.....	12,978	15,325	17,915	24,674	23,044	26,436	30,368	30,336
British Columbia.....	23,000	25,661	34,202	28,949	20,134	22,377	24,599	24,875
Manitoba.....				16,277	7,876	13,869	15,417	15,473
Saskatchewan.....				26,304	11,718	12,914	15,268	13,384
Alberta.....	56,000	56,239	51,249	3,322	11,630	14,557	15,258	12,565
Yukon.....				3,322	1,489	1,390	1,543	1,508
Northwest Territories.....				14,921	15,904	3,873 ³	4,046	4,052
Canada.....	102,358	108,547	120,638	127,941⁴	105,492	110,596	122,920	118,316

¹ Census figures in the organized provinces and estimates for the rest of Canada. ² Racial origin not taken in 1891; the figures have been taken from the report of the Department of Indian Affairs of that year. ³ The decrease in the Indian population of the Northwest Territories is due to the extension of the boundaries of Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba in 1912. This also accounts for the increase in the 1921 Indian population of these provinces. ⁴ Includes 34,481 'half-breeds'