

CHAPTER XXXII.—SOURCES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICAL AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATIVE TO CANADA

CONSPECTUS

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Section 1.—Sources of Dominion General Information

The chief source of statistical information on all phases of the economy of Canada is the Dominion Bureau of Statistics where the decennial and quinquennial censuses are planned and statistical information of all kinds—Dominion and Provincial—is centralized. In regard to information that is not mainly statistical the individual Departments concerned with the particular subject, as indicated in the Directory, Section 2 of this Chapter, should be approached. Certain Government bodies and National Agencies, because of the nature of their work and the appeal it has to broad sections of the population, are organized primarily as information or publicity agencies. Among these are the Information Division of the Department of External Affairs (formerly known as the Canadian Information Service), the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and the National Film Board. The Departments of Agriculture and Mines and Resources, while not thus classed, are interested in the dissemination of information to a greater extent than most other Government Departments, and several other Departments have Publicity Branches or Public Relations Divisions.

All Government Departments, with few exceptions, issue their own lists of reports and publications. They must, according to statute, publish Annual Reports each year which are tabled in the House of Commons by their respective Ministers. However, for the purpose of this Section, the descriptions given below are limited to the four special publicity services specified in the first paragraph above. Section 2, on the other hand, has been prepared with the purpose of presenting to the reader a Directory of all sources of information, Dominion and Provincial. This, it is hoped, will direct the reader who is not in touch with governmental organization to the proper channels from which he can draw material relating to any particular subject.

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

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