

Without a subject cross-index, it was very difficult for the reader, unless he worked carefully through the individual lists (which required much time and labour), to know just where to go for information he desired under a particular subject heading. Again, the space that could be spared for individual lists did not admit of setting out the material in easily readable form. The size of type as set up in earlier editions was much too small for convenient reading and revisions could be made only once a year at best although, as a rule, such lists were subject to very frequent change.

The King's Printer, Ottawa, now publishes an Official List of all Government publications printed from type. This list, which may be obtained free of charge, is revised at regular intervals and is classified on a subject basis, as well as being adequately cross-referenced. Moreover, most Federal and Provincial Departments that put out near-print publications (either in mimeographed or rotaprinted form) issue lists of these free to the public and very often such lists include the printed publications published by the same Departments, and available through the King's Printer. Such individual lists are far more up to date and are listed and classified for more convenient reference than space in the Year Book will allow.

Apart from the question of publications, however, there is a growing volume of inquiries received from the public relative to all manner of subjects. This also made it desirable to devise some means of guiding the public to the source of information on specific matters. Very few people are acquainted with internal government organization and it is not surprising that inquiries have very often to be routed and rerouted several times before they get to their intended destination.

For these reasons, this Chapter of the Year Book was reconstructed to serve as a Directory by means of which the reader would be led to the basic sources of information in a particular field. Since the organization of government departments is never static, the following subject analysis of federal and provincial sources of information has been brought up to date.

To make best use of this Directory, it is necessary that the reader understand broadly the differences in function between Federal and Provincial Departments and their separate fields of work. For instance, the inquirer who seeks information on forestry may direct his correspondence to either the Dominion Forest Service or the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on the one hand, or to one or all of the Provincial Departments administering the forest resources of the provinces on the other.

Certain fields of effort, such as Trade and Commerce, Customs and Excise, Currency and Banking, Navigation, Transportation, Radio, Census of Population, National Defence etc., are constitutionally federal matters and in such fields the respective Departments at Ottawa are the proper sources with which to communicate. While other fields of effort such as the administration of lands and natural resources, education, roads and highways, and health and hospitals are the responsibility of the provinces under the British North America Act, certain Federal Departments are also concerned with specific aspects of these subjects and, as is the case with the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, in co-ordinating and presenting the picture for Canada as a whole.