

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

CONSPECTUS

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Section 1.—Sources of Federal Government 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—federal and provincial—is centralized. In regard to information that is not mainly statistical the individual Departments concerned with the¹ particular subject, as indicated in the Directory at pp. 1176-1195, 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, Department of External Affairs, which deals with questions about External Affairs originating in Canada and with general requests for information on Canada and Canadian affairs, originating abroad; the Publicity Division, Department of Trade and Commerce; the Information Services Division, Department of National Health and Welfare; the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; and the National Film Board. The Departments of Agriculture, Resources and Development and Mines and Technical Surveys, 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. These services are described below.

Government Departments, with few exceptions, issue their own lists of reports and publications. They must, according to statute, publish annual reports which are tabled each year in the House of Commons by their respective Ministers. However, for the purpose of this Section, the descriptions given below are limited to the six information 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, federal and provincial, and thereby directing 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

* Revised in the Divisions mentioned in the text of this Section.

† This statute, consolidated as the Statistics Act (R.S.C., 1927, c. 190) was repealed and replaced by the Statistics Act, 11-12 Geo. VI, c. 45.