

CHAPTER XXVIII.—SOURCES OF OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MISCELLANEOUS DATA

CONSPECTUS

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PART I.—SOURCES OF OFFICIAL INFORMATION

Section 1.—Federal Government Information Services

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 Department concerned with the particular subject should be contacted as indicated in the Directory at pp. 1214-1238. 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 originating abroad for information on Canada and Canadian affairs; the Information Branch, Department of Trade and Commerce; the Information Services Division, Department of National Health and Welfare; the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; and the National Film Board. (*See Index.*) 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, though several of them have publicity branches or public relations divisions.

Government Departments, with few exceptions, issue their own lists of reports and publications. Departments are required by statute to publish annual reports, which are tabled each year in the House of Commons by their respective Ministers. However, for the purpose of this Section, only the services of the six information agencies mentioned above are described.

Section 2 has been prepared for the purpose of presenting to the reader a directory of all sources of information, federal and provincial, thereby directing him to the proper channels from which he may 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). In 1948, this statute, which had been consolidated as the Statistics Act (R.S.C. 1927, c. 190), was repealed and replaced by the Statistics Act (R.S.C. 1952, c. 257), subsequently amended in March, 1953 by 1-2 Eliz. II, c. 18.