

PREFACE

The Canada Year Book, the official annual compendium of information on the institutions and the economic and social development of the nation, may be said to have had its origin in the "Year-Book and Almanac of British North America for 1867", although this and succeeding volumes down to 1879 were published privately but with official blessing. Upon the passage of a general Statistics Act in 1886, an official reference volume was instituted under the title "Statistical Abstract and Record of Canada" and produced by the General Statistics Office of the Department of Agriculture. With the amalgamation of the General Statistics Office and the Census Office, the Year Book was remodelled in 1905 and issued under the title "The Canada Year Book, Second Series", embracing short notes on the events of the year, tables compiled from Census and Departmental reports and a historical listing of the Ministries and other Executive Officers of the Dominion since Confederation.

The half century since the new series of Year Books was launched has witnessed manifold developments in centralized statistical organization in Canada under the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, established in 1918. As the Bureau expanded its program of statistical compilation and analysis in keeping with the nation's remarkable economic growth, each annual edition of the Canada Year Book has endeavoured to present this challenging story through special articles, extensive statistical tables and analytical commentary designed to reveal the interrelationship of the various sectors of the economy and portray within a single volume the essential economic and social elements in the progress of Canada.

Apart from the regular annual revision of textual and statistical material, chapter by chapter, a number of special feature articles of current interest have been incorporated in the 1955 edition—the fiftieth anniversary number—of the Canada Year Book. These include: "The Northland—Canada's Challenge" (pp. 22-32); "Migratory Bird Legislation" (pp. 41-45); "Post-War Immigration" (pp. 164-166); "The Forest Products Laboratories of Canada" (pp. 455-461); "Developments in Canada's Mineral Industry—The Metals, Industrial Minerals, Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Coal" (pp. 473-497); "The St. Lawrence Power Project" (pp. 549-553); "Canada's Commercial Fisheries Resources" (pp. 578-590); "The History of the Canadian National Railways" (pp. 840-851); and "The St. Lawrence Seaway" (pp. 885-888).

The extended analysis of the 1951 Census of Canada, presented in the 1952-53 and the 1954 editions of the Canada Year Book, is concluded in the current edition with a survey of the nation's Merchandising and Service Establishments.

In addition to the above-mentioned special articles, other features have been introduced and revisions made in the various chapters. Among these are a detailed treatment of Canadian physiography, an up-to-date digest of the administrative functions of the Federal Government with accompanying chart, a new survey of Federal Government employment, a brief outline of Canada's international activities during 1953-54, preliminary results of the first nation-wide Sickness Survey, short analyses of the new Canadian Criminal Code and of the decennial revision of the Bank Act, sketches of educational and cultural activities of the National Gallery,