

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. Upon 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".

The new series of Canada Year Books witnessed the birth of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in 1918 as the centralized statistical organization for Canada and, as the Bureau expanded its program of statistical compilation and analysis in keeping with the nation's development, the Canada Year Book has endeavoured to present the story through feature articles, statistical tables and analytical commentary designed to elucidate statistically and otherwise the essential social and economic elements in the progress of Canada. The present edition of the Canada Year Book has discarded its half-century-old cover for an attractive light blue buckram, bearing the Canadian coat of arms, and has widened its type measure and reduced the leading between the lines in order to accommodate more wordage per printed page, but its objective remains constant—to portray the essential elements of Canada's growth in a dignified, factual style within the covers of a single volume.

A number of special feature articles of current interest have been incorporated in the Canada Year Book 1956. These include "Mapping and Charting in Canada" (pp. 17-22); "The National Capital Plan" (pp. 30-34); "Scientific Management of Game Fish in Canada's National Parks" (pp. 35-39); "Geophysics in Canada" (pp. 43-49); "Astronomy in Canada" (pp. 49-55); "The Privy Council Office and Cabinet Secretariat in its Relation to the Development of Cabinet Government" (pp. 62-70); "Financial Administration of the Government of Canada" (pp. 101-107); "Mental Health" (pp. 248-253); "Tuberculosis" (pp. 254-257); "Poliomyelitis Vaccine" (pp. 258-260); "The Federal-Provincial Forestry Agreements" (pp. 459-466); "Canada's Mineral Industry 1954-55" (pp. 490-511); "Seasonal Unemployment in Canada" (pp. 758-766); "Traffic on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway" (pp. 821-829); and "Marketing Farm-Produced Foods" (pp. 917-922).

In addition to the above-mentioned special articles, other features and revisions have been introduced in various chapters. Among these are a brief historical sketch of the Census with a statistical summary of the principal enumerations; an enlarged survey of scientific, medical and industrial research; line-maps showing concentration of pulp and paper manufacturing in Canada; an analysis of trends and developments in the fisheries industries; line-maps of manufacturing production in western Canada; a progress report on the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway accompanied by a map; a further instalment on oil and gas pipeline developments; a newly-integrated account of broadcasting in Canada, as well as the up-dating of basic material dealing with such subjects as agriculture, vital statistics, public health, forestry, mining, manufactures, domestic and foreign trade, hydro-electric power development, capital expenditure on construction, machinery and equipment, public finance, banking, insurance, labour, national income and expenditure, Canada's balance of international payments, and various aspects of national defence. Numerous charts and maps throughout the volume portray graphically the rapidly developing economy which is outlined in the Introduction (pp. viii-xix).

The concluding chapter presents much handy reference material listing Government information services, special articles published in earlier Year Books, federal legislation of the recent session of Parliament, official appointments, a Canadian chronology of events and a statistical table summarizing the economic progress of Canada since 1871.