

ment, in addition to provincial and private individuals, would be involved in its production. An interdepartmental advisory committee was therefore set up under the chairmanship of the Director General of Scientific Services in the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys; other members represented the Departments of Agriculture, Trade and Commerce, Transport, Northern Affairs and National Resources, National Defence, Fisheries, and the Public Archives of Canada. Sub-committees were also organized in every department concerned and through them recommendations on the subject matter to represent their particular disciplines were obtained. By 1954 the planning stages had been completed and the formal committees were disbanded.

The first step of actual production was to prepare suitable base maps. These were constructed according to the Lambert Conformal Conic projection with 77° and 49° as the standard parallels, modified north of 80°N. Maps of the whole country on one sheet of the Atlas were drawn on a scale of 1:10M (approximately 158 miles to one inch); a second scale, 1:20M, enabled several maps of Canada to be shown on a single sheet; a third scale 1:5M was used for maps of the northern, eastern and western sections of the country; and a fourth basic scale, 1:2½M, was used for regional maps of smaller areas. Thus all maps in the Atlas are on scales that bear a simple numerical relationship to one another. While these were being prepared, the material to be printed on the bases was being collected, interpreted and compiled, and in 1955 the first sheet was sent for printing.

The individual sheets of the Atlas have been arranged so that, when read in sequence, the maps characterize and give meaning to the internal development of the country and, to some extent, its international relations. Thus the first three sheets in the Atlas take the reader back to the origins of the country. One shows the routes taken by the principal explorers and the other two show portions of the original early maps which resulted from explorations. From the old maps, the Atlas proceeds to modern mapping, with examples of present-day topographical sheets and aeronautical and hydrographic charts, and thence to maps of the physical aspects of Canada's geography such as relief, geology, climate, soil and vegetation. Plates 46 to 57 are concerned with human resources and show such data as the distribution of population, origins of the people, principal religions, and birth, marriage and death rates. Plates 58 to 91 deal with the ways in which the people have used the physical resources and include maps of fisheries, sawmills, the distribution of farm animals and crops, mining, power and manufacturing as well as the transportation and communication networks which have developed as a result of such activities. The next 17 plates show the way in which institutions—such as hospitals and universities—and towns, cities and rural municipalities have become distributed as a result of physical environment and economic activities. Plate 109 shows the political evolution of Canada from colonial times to the present while Plate 110, the final sheet in the Atlas, shows some of Canada's international political affiliations.

## PART II.—LAND RESOURCES AND PUBLIC LANDS

### Section 1.—Land Resources

Information currently available regarding Canada's vast land resources is shown in Table 1, where the land area is classified as occupied agricultural, forested and 'other' land, the latter including urban land, road allowances, grass and brush land and all waste land such as open muskeg, swamp and rock. Soil surveys now under way by the Department of Agriculture will make it possible in the future to estimate the amount of arable land Canada possesses and, as provincial inventories are completed, more information will be available regarding land now non-forested but not productive in an agricultural sense. The Forestry Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources estimates that about 45 p.c. of the land area of Canada is forested and, according to the Census of 1956, less than 8 p.c. is classed as occupied farm land. A great part of the 1,706,421 sq. miles of 'other' land is located in the Yukon and Northwest Territories which together have a land area of 1,458,784 sq. miles. The occupied farm land in these Territories is practically nil and the forested area is estimated at 275,800 sq. miles.