

Parliament, creating the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. As since amended, the Statistics Act now reads, in part:—

*There shall be a Bureau under the Minister, to be called the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the duties of which are*

*to collect, compile, analyse, abstract and publish statistical information relative to the commercial, industrial, financial, social, economic and general activities and condition of the people;*

*to collaborate with all other departments of the government in the collection, compilation and publication of statistical records of administration according to any regulations;*

*to take the census of Canada; and*

*generally to organize a scheme of co-ordinated social and economic statistics pertaining to the whole of Canada and to each of the provinces thereof.*

*The Governor in Council may appoint an officer called the Dominion Statistician to hold office during pleasure, whose duties are, under the direction of the Minister, to advise on all matters pertaining to statistical policy and to confer with the several departments of government to that end;*

*to organize and maintain a scheme of co-operation in the collection, classification and publication of statistics as between the several departments of government;*

*to supervise generally the administration of this Act and to control the operations and staff of the Bureau; and*

*to report annually to the Minister with regard to the work of the Bureau during the preceding year.*

The first three years of DBS were highly significant, with the reorganization, co-ordination and unification of a nation-wide system of social and economic statistics and served to emphasize the fundamental purpose, the wide scope, and the significant character of the Bureau's work and, incidentally, provided the backdrop to the following sketch, in briefest form, of developments that highlighted its program and achievements during the next two or three decades.

- Upon the transfer of the Census and Statistics Office from the Department of Agriculture to the Bureau, the Census — both decennial and quinquennial — was reorganized.
- A national scheme of vital statistics was established by encouraging the provinces to enact uniform legislation, adopt uniform administrative procedures, use standard forms issued by the Bureau, and supply the latter with transcripts of original returns.
- The monthly and annual statistics of agriculture were brought under joint operation of the Bureau and the nine provincial governments, improving the data and eliminating much duplication of work. Among the features were the annual census of acreages under field crops and livestock on farms carried out with the co-operation of the rural schools, the pooling of monthly data on crop conditions, etc.
- The statistics of fisheries, mines, forestry, dairying, central water and electric power, and general manufactures were unified and, after consultation with some 35 Canadian trade and industrial associations, placed on an annual "Industrial Census" basis in co-operation with the federal and provincial departments concerned, thereby bringing