

PREFACE.

The Canada Year Book had its beginning in the first year of the Dominion when the semi-official "Year Book and Almanac of British North America"—being (to quote its sub-title) "an Annual Register of political, vital, and trade statistics, customs tariffs, excise and stamp duties, and all public events of interest in Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and West Indies"—was founded. Subsequently the title was changed to "The Year Book and Almanac of Canada,—an annual statistical abstract of the Dominion and a register of legislation and of public men in British North America" It was published annually from 1867 to 1879.

In 1886, after the passing of a general Statistics Act, the "Statistical Abstract and Record of Canada" was instituted as an official book of reference respecting the institutions, population, finance, trade, and general conditions of the Dominion. The work was prepared in the General Statistical Office of the Department of Agriculture and was continued annually until 1904. In 1905, the General Statistical Office was amalgamated with the Census Office, and the Year Book was remodelled as "The Canada Year Book, Second Series" by Dr. Archibald Blue, Chief Officer.

In the re-organization of statistics which followed the report of the Royal Commission on Statistics of 1912, and the establishment of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in 1918, the improvement of the Year Book was made a primary object and this progress has been continued down to the present time.

In a publication so broad in scope as the Year Book, under conditions where the content and variety of statistical data are continually changing and expanding, the editorial task of keeping the size of each edition within convenient limits is becoming more difficult year by year. But while it is no longer possible to cover adequately the entire field of information in a single edition, every effort is made when planning the publication to keep the framework intact and well-balanced, and to make reference to previously published material as easy as possible for the reader.

In the present edition, a complete list of special articles and of significant historical or descriptive text that has not been subject to wide change and is therefore not repeated, is given following the Table of Contents. This list links the 1939 Year Book with its predecessors and indicates the extent to which the 'Year Book' must now be regarded as a series of publications rather than as a single volume.

Among the more important of the new features incorporated in the present edition are the following: In Chapter II, an article on the Relationship of the Department of Public Archives to the Historical Records of Canada, followed by a Bibliography of Canadian History, contributed by Dr. Gustave Lanctot, LL.M., D.Litt., LL.D., K.C., F.R.S.C., Deputy Minister and Dominion Archivist, appears at pp. 34-40. In the introduction to Chapter VIII—Agriculture—an article on the Historical Background of Canadian Agriculture, by G. S. H. Barton, C.M.G., B.S.A., D.Sc.A., Deputy Minister, Department of Agriculture, appears at pp. 187-190. A special article on Noxious Forest Insects and Their Control, prepared by J. J. de Gryse, Ph. Cand. (Lov.), Chief, Forest Insect Investigations, Department of Agriculture, pp. 254-263, is an added feature of Chapter IX—Forestry. T. W. Grindley, Ph.D., Secretary, the Canadian Wheat Board, Winnipeg, has contributed an article on the Origin, Development, and Operations of the Canadian Wheat Board, which appears at pp. 569-580. An extended article on the Development of the Press in Canada, together with statistics for all the daily and the principal weekly newspapers and magazines, supplements Chapter XVIII where it appears at pp. 737-