

PREFACE.

The Canada Year Book had its origin in the first year of the Dominion, when the "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 altered 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, "with comparative data for the United Kingdom, British Possessions and foreign countries". The work was prepared in the General Statistical Office of the Department of Agriculture, and was continued annually until 1904, under the direction of Dr. George Johnson, F.S.S. In 1905 the General Statistical Office was amalgamated with the Census Office (which was at the same time made a permanent organization), the Year Book being remodelled by Dr. Archibald Blue, Chief Officer, and continued under the title "The Canada Year Book, Second Series".

In the reorganization and centralization of statistics which followed the report of the Commission on Statistics of 1912, and the establishment of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in 1918, the improvement of the Year Book, both in content and method of presentation, was made a primary object, and this improvement has been continued down to the present time.

Among the more important special features incorporated in the present edition are the following: an article on the temperature and precipitation of Northern Canada (p. 41); improved statistics of the operations of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission (p. 368); an improved treatment of radiotelegraphy and radiotelephony (p. 688); important new material on retail prices (p. 770); an enlargement of the banking chapter to include statistics of the profits and dividends of the banks (p. 859); an enlarged treatment of government and other savings banks (p. 865); an extension of the statistics of commercial failures (p. 905). The appendix contains preliminary figures on immigration and trade for the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1930.

Throughout the volume the latest available information is included in each section, tables generally including figures for the fiscal year 1928-29 and the letter-press supplying supplementary figures extending in some cases to the end of the calendar year 1929.

The present volume has been edited by Mr. S. A. Cudmore, B.A. (Tor.), M.A. (Oxon.), F.S.S., F. R. Econ. Soc., who has been assisted by Messrs. R. F. Clarke, W. H. Lanceley as in past years and by Mr. A. E. Millward. Mr. Joseph Wilkins, who had assisted in the work of preparing the Canada Year Book ever since the first "Statistical Abstract and Record of Canada" appeared in 1886, retired to a well-deserved rest in 1929.

Grateful acknowledgments are hereby tendered to the numerous officials of the Dominion and Provincial Governments who have assisted in the collection of information, especially to the Natural Resources Intelligence Service of the Department of the Interior for certain of the maps included in the volume. While the greatest care has been taken in the preparation of the volume, there are doubtless imperfections, and with a view to the improvement of future editions, the Editor will be glad to hear of any errors which may have escaped his notice, and to receive any suggestions with regard to omissions or to method of treatment.

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Dominion Bureau of Statistics,
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