

## 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 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, "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), and the Year Book was 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 Royal 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.

A feature of the Year Book has been the inclusion of special articles from time to time dealing more fully than is possible in the regular material, with some phase of science or art or of the social or economic development of Canada. Thus, in the present edition there appears a special article prepared in the Department of External Affairs dealing with the Imperial Economic Conference of 1932. Attention may also be drawn to the inclusion in Chapter I of a special study on Droughts in Western Canada, contributed by the Climatologist of the Meteorological Service. Additional census analyses becoming available from the census of 1931 have facilitated a more extensive and up-to-date treatment of Population. The chapter on Internal Trade has been extended to present summary statistics of the first comprehensive census of wholesale and retail trade and services to be taken in Canada; this census is also one of the first of its kind in any country. The chapter on Transportation and Communications includes a description of the new Canadian National-Canadian Pacific Act implementing the report of the Duff Commission, together with a description of the aims and objects of the Radio Broadcasting Commission. A special article on the Growth of Life Insurance in Canada, which appeared in the 1925 edition, has been revised in consequence of recent changes in insurance legislation. The Public Health chapter has also been improved by the inclusion of the new annual statistics of institutions. Finally, all parts of the volume have received a careful revision by competent authorities in each branch of the national activities.

A list of the special articles appearing in earlier volumes of the Year Book and not repeated in this edition is presented at page ii of this Introduction, immediately preceding the map. The latest available data on immigration, trade, and from the 1931 Census of Agriculture will be found in the Appendices.

The present volume has been edited by S. A. Cudmore, B.A. (Tor.), M.A. (Oxon.), F.S.S., F.R. Econ. Soc., assisted by A. E. Millward, B.A., B. Com., W. H. Lanceley, and R. F. Clarke, M.C., D.L.S., of the editorial staff of the General Statistics Branch of the Bureau. Grateful acknowledgments are hereby tendered to the numerous officials of the Dominion and Provincial Governments who have assisted in the collection of information. An effort has been made to apportion due credit to the various individuals and services concerned by means of footnotes to those chapters and sections which have been contributed, or in the compilation of which co-operation has been received.

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.

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS,  
OTTAWA, Sept. 1, 1933.

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Dominion Statistician.