

## PREFACE.

The Canada Year Book had its beginning 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 progress has been continued down to the present time.

A prominent feature in past editions of the Year Book has been the inclusion from time to time of special articles dealing with some important phase of Canadian social, economic, intellectual or artistic life in considerable detail, but the pressure on the space of the present volume owing to the necessity of covering two years has prevented the inclusion of any special articles in this edition, although a list of special articles appearing in past editions is given on page vi of this Introduction immediately preceding the map.

Attention may be called to certain novel features of the present volume. There is included in Chapter I a brief description of Standard Time and Time Zones in Canada, which is of special interest to those who travel either in the flesh or by radio. There will also be found in Chapter III a discussion of the Representation Act of 1933 and a special table at page 82 showing the population of each of the new electoral districts which will return representatives to Parliament at the approaching general election. Probably the most extended presentation of the results of the Census of 1931 that will appear in the Year Book is to be found in Chapter IV, where Religions (Section 6) are cross-analysed by racial origin for the first time, and several new classifications are added to Section 7 dealing with Birth-places; the chapter closes with statistics of the areas and populations of countries of the British Empire for the years 1911, 1921 and 1931 and of the countries of the world for 1931. The Mines and Minerals Chapter, together with the discussion of the new discoveries in economic geology in Chapter I, will be of interest to those who are concerned with this rapidly-growing branch of our economic life. Again, attention may be directed to the improvement of the introduction to the External