

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. 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; the Year Book was remodelled by Dr. Archibald Blue, Chief Officer, and continued as "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 was made a primary object, and this progress has been continued down to the present time.

With the growth of the administrative functions of government and the consequent increase in the content and variety of the statistical data made available, it is becoming more and more difficult to keep the size of the Year Book within convenient limits. It is obviously quite impossible to make each edition of the Year Book a complete statistical digest; much space can be and is saved in replacing material which is unchanged from year to year by adequate references to a recent edition. For instance, since the presentation of as complete a picture of the 1931 Census as will appear in the Year Book was given in the 1934-35 edition, Chapter IV has been cut down considerably, and will remain in skeleton form until the next decennial census, although sections on the blind and deaf-mutes and on dwellings and households, not previously published, have been summarized from 1931 census data and included this year. Some of the space saved here and elsewhere has been given to special features and necessary revisions, among the more important of which are the following: A special article, "Canada on Vimy Ridge", prepared by Colonel A. Fortescue Duguid, D.S.O., B.Sc., R.C.A., Director of the Historical Section (G.S.), Department of National Defence, has been included in Chapter II. This is apropos in the light of the pilgrimage to Vimy and the official unveiling of the Vimy Memorial arranged to take place next month. New material on fertility rates and multiple births in Canada has been added to Chapter V. Insofar as statistics are available, the immigration tables of Chapter VI have been placed on a calendar year basis to facilitate international comparison. Statistics covering the construction industry in Canada have been made available in the Bureau recently, and are published for the first time in Chapter XV, amplifying the information on contracts awarded and building permits, statistics of which have appeared regularly in the past. The introduction to the External Trade Chapter (XVI) has been revised by the inclusion of an abstract of the value and quantum of world trade abridged from the League of Nations' "Review of World Trade, 1934".