

merely a record of what has been, but are for use in planning what shall be—that it is the duty of a statistical organization to assist directly in the day to-day problems of administration, as well as to provide their theoretic background. Work of this kind can never achieve finality, for the field is too enormous and the need of adjustment to changing conditions is constant. It is believed, however, that the Bureau now embraces the fundamental subjects of what might be termed a national system of statistics, organized to meet the ordinary requirements of the Government and at the same time permitting—as a matter of logical expansion and with the minimum of derangement—the superimposing of such new approaches or new directions of development as occasion may dictate. This preliminary and foundational organization, it is hoped, will be completed during the year 1919-20, so that the census of 1921 may proceed from a sound basis.

“Perhaps the culminating advantage in a centralized statistical system lies in the related view it permits and encourages of economic and social phenomena. The social and economic body is one, not several—often conditions in a particular field can be illumined best through another field altogether—and its observations should be on that basis. The Government is more than a congeries of departments vested with a series of administrative functions; it is a single agency for the direction of national policy, to fulfil which duty a broad and analytical outlook upon current trends is indispensable. Such outlook a central statistical bureau from the amplification of experience which it promotes is especially adapted to provide. The organization of the “General Economic Department” of the United Kingdom Board of Trade and the activities of certain universities in endowing economic research are suggestive here. There is need for a national “laboratory” for the observation and interpretation of economic and social phenomena on behalf of the Government and the production of monographs on features thrown from time to time into prominence. It is noteworthy that recent tendencies in scientific thought are away from purely deductive reasoning and strongly in the direction of the testing of such reasoning by inductive verificatory data. On no foundation could such a service be better built than on that which is now provided by the Bureau of Statistics.”

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In conclusion, it only remains to be said that the Dominion and Provincial Governments of Canada, and which is even more important, the Canadian people, are, as has been seen more especially in the latter part of this article, girding up their loins as their soldiers did in war, and increasing their efficiency in physique, in intelligence, in production and organization, to meet the difficulties of the period of reconstruction. Though time must pass and much must be done before normal conditions are fully restored, the economic and political future of Canada is assured.