

INTRODUCTION.

Considerable alterations and improvements in the Statistical Abstract have been made in this the second annual issue. All the leading tables relating to Canada have been retained and brought down to the close of either the financial or calendar year, 1886, and a large number of new tables added in every chapter.

The whole of the explanatory matter has been carefully revised, rewritten and enlarged. Two new chapters have been added, viz., on Constitution and Government and on Education, while the chapters on Inland Revenue, Militia and Banking, more especially, have been considerably enlarged. Special attention also has been given in chapters IV and IX to the Reciprocity and Washington Treaties, the questions pertaining to them being of particular interest at the present time.

Appendix A will be found to contain the tariff on which the duties for 1886 were collected, and Appendix B the new resolutions as adopted by Parliament during the last Session.

The chapters on Railways and the Fisheries have not been treated as fully as was intended, the fisheries' figures not being available until the 4th of June, and the Railway Statistics not being complete at the time of going to press, owing to the inexcusable delay on the part of some compan-