

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 altered 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), the Year Book being 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 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.

Among the more important special features incorporated in the present edition are the following: a section consisting of meteorological tables and giving monthly average temperatures and precipitation throughout Canada (pp. 47-76); and a special article on "The Development of the Fine Arts in Canada", contributed by Dr. Newton MacTavish (pp. 995-1009). The chapter on Internal Trade has been improved by the revision of Section 7 dealing with wholesale and retail merchandising; this section now gives more comprehensive statistics on retail distribution—an important phase of economic inquiry which, owing to its breadth and ramifications, is full of difficulty, but where the research work of recent years at the Bureau is resulting satisfactorily. An additional section on sales of Canadian bonds has been added to the chapter on Banking and Currency. The Appendix contains preliminary figures on immigration and trade for the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1931.

Throughout the volume the latest available information is included in each section, tables generally including figures for the fiscal year 1929-30 and the letter-press supplying supplementary figures extending in some cases to the end of the calendar year 1930.

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.

R. H. COATS,

Dominion Statistician.

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS,
OTTAWA, June 1, 1931.