

PREFACE.

The Canada Year Book had its beginning in the first year of the Dominion, when the semi-official "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. To use Dr. Johnson's words, the main feature of the Statistical Abstract was "the collection into one book of the information of various kinds scattered through the blue books issued by the several Departments". He goes on to say, "This book has become the *vade mecum* of public men . . . in Canada as well as in all other civilized countries" 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 re-organization 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 and the policy has been adopted of replacing material which is unchanged from year to year by adequate references to earlier editions, but every care is taken to keep the framework intact and well balanced. Some of the space thus saved has been given to necessary revisions, additions, important new material, and special features, among the chief of which are the following: Chapter I, treating of the physiography of the country, has been largely re-written and a special section on Economic Geology, prepared by F. J. Alcock, Ph.D., Mines and Geology Branch, Department of Mines and Resources, is included. The regular section on Geology, which will be revised in the near future, has been omitted this year. A special article, "Faunas of Canada", prepared for the Year Book by R. M. Anderson, Ph.D., Chief of the Division of Biology of the National Museum of Canada, appears at pages 29 to 52. The results of the Quinquennial Census of 1936 are included with the treatment of Population in Chapter V, and a special section on "Occupations of the Canadian People" rounds out the treatment of data from the 1931 Census which appeared mainly in the 1934-35 Year Book but was supplemented by later material in the 1936 Year Book. Agricultural statistics of the Quinquennial Census are given in Chapter VIII—Agriculture—which also includes a short article on "Agricultural Progress in Canada and the Dominion Experimental Farms System".

Re-organization of the work of several Departments of the Dominion Civil Service in 1936, under the new Departments of Transport and of Mines and Resources, has provided an opportunity to revise and recast the statistics concerned