

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 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 is given to necessary revisions, additions, important new material, and special features, among the chief of which in the current edition are the following: In Chapter I, which treats of Physiography, a revised article on the Geology of Canada appears at pp. 16-27; Part III—Seismology—last published in the 1931 Year Book is brought up to date this year; and a special article, "The Flora of Canada", prepared by John Adams, M.A. (Cantab.), Division of Botany, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, appears at pp. 30-59 as Part IV. In Part VII, which deals with Climate and Meteorology, a new section and tables on Times of Sunrise and Sunset in Canada are given.

At pp. 78-90, an additional Part on Historic Sites and Monuments in Canada is added to Chapter II. A section on the Government of Canada's Arctic Territory has been added to Chapter III at pp. 92-93, and at pp. 110 to 119 the provincial legislatures from 1924 to the present are tabulated, tying-in with the series from Confederation to 1923 published in the 1924 Year Book.

A special feature of Chapter VIII—Agriculture—this year is the article appearing at pp. 223-230 dealing with the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Program inaugurated