

## PREFACE

The Canada Year Book under this name, or under those of predecessors in which its roots strike deep, has been the standard official compendium of information and resources, institutions, social and economic conditions for almost eighty years.

The position that the Year Book has now won in the field of official reference books is a very important one and widely recognized. It is an encouraging sign, from the standpoint of public education and increased interest in affairs of government in a democracy, that the demand for this publication has grown far more rapidly than the means of meeting it. In recent years supplies have been exhausted within a few months of the appearance of the respective editions. It is of course recognized that a public report such as this should be accessible to every Canadian taxpayer and to that end a free distribution is made to each and every public library in Canada so that the citizen who is not fortunate enough to own a copy may have ready access to one.

But it is not only in Canada that the demand is growing. The Year Book in its English and French editions represents Official Canada all over the world: it serves a very valuable purpose in making known the economic and social development of the Dominion in this 'Atomic Age' when interchange of information, upon which comity and understanding between nations is based, is so essential.

An increasing interest is also evidenced from year to year in the Special Articles printed in the Year Book at intervals because they are not subject to wide change. As indicated in the Preface to the 1945 Year Book, authority to reprint important material of this nature has been granted by the Minister of Trade and Commerce and those reprints now available are given at the end of the List of Special Articles, p. xiii.

This is the first peacetime edition of the Year Book that has been published for a period of six years, and a considerable recasting of material has been considered desirable. During the War much space had to be devoted to tracing and permanently recording changes then taking place in the economy. Reconversion, the term most frequently applied to the processes now operating, must not be taken to mean reconversion to pre-war conditions. It is widely realized that the cataclasm of war will leave its mark permanently on Canada and the world and that there can be no going back. The new post-war economy, now being gradually precipitated from the forces in solution will eventually become crystallized but cannot yet be defined. The developments that will mark the next few years will in any case be far-reaching and it will be the function of future editions of the Year Book to trace them carefully.

Among the special articles appearing in the present edition are two that have reference to wartime accomplishments that could not be given earlier publicity. These are: "The Relation of Hydrography to Navigation and the War Record of the Hydrographic and Map Service" at pp. 14-18; and "The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan—A Summary of the R.C.A.F.'s Major Role in the War of 1939-45" at pp. 1090-1099. "A Review of the Activities of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board" appears at pp. 851-858 and continues the description of this administration as given in earlier Year Books.