

## PREFACE

On July 1st of this year Canada celebrated her eightieth birthday. This event was also a milestone in the history of the Canada Year Book which (although not always under its present name and form) has traced statistically, the economic and social developments of the country year by year over the entire period since Confederation.

During war years the need for a co-ordinated picture of the War Effort to supplement the chapter material gave rise to the inclusion of an Introduction for the first time. This innovation is now continued with the purpose of giving a co-ordinated peacetime economic picture in much the same way. This edition goes to press at a time when it is possible to review the effects of the first full year of peace on the economy and the present Introduction, pp. xxix to xxxv, is written from that standpoint. In editions of the Year Book previous to the Second World War, the same purpose was behind the inclusion of current happenings, under the heading "Principal Events of the Year" in the final Chapter—The Annual Register. From the viewpoint of the average reader it is doubtful whether that material adequately served the desired purpose.

The chapters themselves show the changes that have taken place so far as data were available when the various sections were sent to press. Thus, since the Year Book normally takes nine months to pass through all stages of editing and printing, it is not possible to give a really up-to-date picture in either the earlier chapters or, to a progressively lesser degree, in some of the later ones.

In the editions published between 1939 and 1946 a considerable amount of standard textual analysis was either unduly condensed or eliminated from the chapters in order to provide the necessary space for special material on the War Effort. This condition is now being gradually remedied and the peacetime balance restored.

The chapters in the present volume have been re-arranged: related subjects are now brought together so that the treatment is not only more logical but permits of more convenient cross reference—a very important consideration in a publication of this type. For instance, Physiography, History, Government, Population and Vital Statistics which have always held a prior place in the chapter arrangement are now followed immediately by chapters that measure phenomena associated with Population in its social aspects, such as Public Health, Welfare, Crime and Delinquency, and Education and Research. The general Survey of Production, which appears next, is followed by the individual primary industries, then the secondary industries, then Services, Trade, Prices, Finance and Banking and finally by certain unclassified and miscellaneous material.

The regular statistical and textual data contained in each chapter have been carefully revised or brought up to date to reflect changing conditions. It is possible to mention here only the most outstanding cases.

The relatively new chapter on Welfare Services has required substantial adjustment each year since it was introduced in the 1945 Year Book. This Chapter is being developed gradually to cover operations that were formerly dealt with in less detail in several other chapters and the changes parallel closely the developments of the new Federal Department of National Health and Welfare on the welfare side. As these re-alignments take place the opportunities for presenting better co-ordinated statistics of related activities are considerably improved.