

## PREFACE

This edition of the Canada Year Book covers a period of between 16 and 17 months as compared with the normal span of 12 months. The reason for this goes back to circumstances existing during the war years. It was difficult at that time for non-war Departments of Government to maintain printing schedules, due to the pressure brought to bear on the facilities of the Government Printing Bureau by war Departments which, of course, had priority. Thus, during the six years of war there was a steady and cumulative lag in the publication of the Year Book. Planned to appear about mid-year, the situation had become such that the 1946 edition was not available for distribution until early in December, 1946, and the 1947 edition was published on the eve of 1948.

In order to place the current edition back on a normal schedule, it was decided to make this a 1948-49 edition and plan for its completion and distribution about April or May, 1949. There is every reason to feel that such a mid-year schedule can be maintained for future editions.

The 1947 Year Book covered a period when the difficulties of transition from war to peace were still to the forefront. During the War and subsequently all available space was required for detailed treatment of the war effort and the reconstruction program and, during these years, Year Books carried practically no contributions dealing with normal scientific and other civilian services such as usually appear in the Chapters on Physiography, Population, Vital Statistics, Education, Constitution and Government, etc. The period covered by the present volume has been marked by a very definite swing to a more normal peacetime economy and such space as could be released in the current edition has been given to special articles designed to catch up with the accumulation of these important regular subjects. The established Year Book program calls for the revision at five-year intervals of such regular basic articles unless, from their nature, sufficient change has not taken place. In the Chapter on Physiography a new Part on Geophysics which treats of the research work carried on by the Dominion Observatory in the fields of Gravity and Terrestrial Magnetism—directions in which scientific research is playing an important part to-day—appears at pp. 18 to 27. In the same Chapter a special article on the contribution to science made by the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, at Victoria, B.C., is included (pp. 63 to 71), and an extended review of the Climate of Canada appears at pp. 41 to 62. The subject of climate has not been reviewed in the Canada Year Book since the 1929 edition. In the meantime, the science of meteorology has been developed substantially as aviation has advanced and the demand for more precise data on air movements, aviation ceilings and visibilities has increased. To complete this treatment of climate it is planned to carry a series of long-term climatic tables for stations of Eastern and Western Canada in the following two issues of the Year Book. The present Chapter on Physiography also carries an article on Canada's Western Arctic which, with the one on the Eastern Arctic published in the 1945 edition of the Year Book, provides an up-to-date review of those vast areas of Canada north of the provincial boundaries.