

PREFACE

The Canada Year Book has interpreted for Canadians and the world at large the resources, institutions, and social and economic conditions of the nation since Confederation, but it is during relatively recent times that this publication has developed into the broad medium of information it has now become.

This development had its roots in the reorganization of statistics that resulted from the Report of the Commission on Statistics in 1912 and the consequent establishment of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, under the Statistics Act of 1918, to carry out the recommendations of the Commission. It was from this time that a really co-ordinated national system of statistics began to take shape.

The high place that the Canada Year Book has won for itself among official statistical reference works hinges largely on the developments that have taken place since 1918. As improved and more complete statistics have become available with the growth of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the editorial policy of the Year Book has been to keep pace by presenting the salient statistics of the country against a background of textual analysis intended to bring out their relationships and significance.

Each year special feature material is introduced that is of current interest. Such feature articles are made available in 'reprinted' form (see p. xiii) and constitute a valuable backlog of reference material on most phases of national development. With the entry of Newfoundland into the Canadian Confederation it appears desirable that special articles of a general nature, such as those dealing with physiography, resources, wildlife, etc., should be brought up to date as early as possible and this edition of the Year Book carries topical articles on: Geology (pp. 14 to 26); Migratory Bird Protection (pp. 38 to 43); Soil Zones, Agricultural Irrigation and Land Conservation (pp. 352 to 356 and 367 to 379); and the Forest Economy (pp. 425 to 437). The Terms of Union under which Newfoundland became a Province of Canada are given at pp. 56 to 57. A special article on the Frequency Standardization Program now being undertaken by the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission appears at pp. 540 to 548. The article has been prepared under the direction of the Chairman of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission. A special article dealing with the Indians of Canada—describing the history of this people, their administration, and the welfare work being carried on among them—will be found at pp. 1125 to 1133.

Statistics for Newfoundland are gradually taking their place in the regular chapter material, although it is still necessary to present them separately from those of other provinces in several chapters because of existing lack of comparability. The Census of 1951 will do much to establish the ten provinces on a uniform basis, statistically.

The regular chapter material has been kept up to date. The reorganization of the Department of Mines and Resources during 1950 and the transfer of its administrative functions to three new departments, viz., the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, the Department of Resources and Development and the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, has necessitated revised treatments of the corresponding sections of the Year Book. Thus, because of present close administrative relationship between immigration and citizenship, the Immigration