

## The Dominion Bureau of Statistics 1918-1968

*Because the Canada Year Book is basically a statistical publication, it is appropriate that the 1968 issue should mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and provide some indication of the significance of statistical development in Canada in the past fifty years. Although the history of Canadian statistics goes back much farther, the year 1918 and the passing of the Statistics Act mark a basic turning point. The Act established the foundation for the co-ordinated and integrated statistical system which exists at present.*

*The statistical antecedents of the Bureau of Statistics extended back to Intendant Jean Talon's 1666-67 enumeration of persons, areas under cultivation, and livestock in the St. Lawrence colony of New France — an enumeration renowned as the first systematic census of modern times and model for thirty-six subsequent censuses during the French régime. Later, partly because the English-speaking colonies that originated in the Loyalist migrations were isolated from one another, census-taking was generally intermittent and lacking in comparability until well into the 19th century. However, by the 1840s the concept of a regular decennial census gained support and the Provinces of United Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island each took censuses in 1851, thereby initiating, even in pre-Confederation times, the first of the long series of decennial enumerations conducted on a broad geographical basis.*

Most of the Bureau's statistical data is now processed on three large computer systems.

