

INTRODUCTION.

The Year-Book for 1903 consists of two parts, 1st, the 'Record,' and 2nd, the 'Abstract.'

Every effort has been made to secure accuracy and to introduce new features as the development of the country supplies additional material.

The estimate of the population in the middle of each year is based upon the assumption that the rate of increase which prevailed in the intercensal period immediately preceding has since been maintained. Since the census of 1901 afforded the needed data to make corrections, the estimates of the Decade 1891-1901 have been revised, just as the estimates for the several years of the decennial period 1881-1891 were revised after the taking of the Census of 1891. The per capita calculations have been revised in accordance with the usual custom.

Several new features have been introduced, among them the results of the Census of 1901 in connection with manufactures, education and other matters illustrative of the growth of the country. One highly important fact cannot be too strongly emphasized, viz. : that in all Canada in 1901 there were 2,463 persons of all ages per 10,000 of the population unable to read, while in 1891 there were 2,999 such persons. Taking out all under five years old the illiterates were : in 1901, 1,266 per 10,000, and in 1891, 1,750. All of the provinces show a great reduction in the proportion of persons unable to read, the greatest reduction being in the North-west Territories and in the Province of Quebec ; the former showing a decrease of 1,754 in the number of illiterates per 10,000 of all ages, and the latter a decrease of 1,196—showing in the case of Quebec a decrease of over 29 per cent in the number of illiterates.

Owing to the early publication of the Blue Books of the several Departments of the Federal Government and the kindly co-operation of the Provincial Governments, the Year-Book for 1903 is published about the same date as last year's issue, which was two months in advance of previous issues.

I have pleasure in recording the good work done by Messrs. J. Wilkins and J. Skead in connection with the compilation.

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May, 1904.