

FIFTY YEARS OF CANADIAN PROGRESS AS ILLUSTRATED BY
OFFICIAL STATISTICS, 1867 TO 1917.

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In this Paper I propose to submit a statistical description of the progress of Canada during fifty years of existence as a federal union. No comprehensive review of Canadian progress has been laid before the Royal Statistical Society within recent years. In 1888 Mr. J. G. Colmer, C.M.G., then Secretary to the High Commissioner's Office, reviewed certain aspects of Canadian progress in a Paper entitled "Some Canadian Railway and Commercial Statistics,"¹ and in 1884 Mr. Cornelius Walford presented "A Statistical Review of Canada, including its Confederated Provinces"²; but the latter Paper was read before the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1886, and both Papers were read before the organization of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1905 and twelve and sixteen years, respectively, before the opening of the present century, when began in Canada a progress which proved to be phenomenally rapid and comprehensive.

My subject will cover in greater or less detail, according to the data available, the main departments of Canadian national activity, including especially the acquisition of territory and growth of population, the utilization of natural resources in respect of agriculture, live stock, dairying, forestry, fisheries, minerals and manufactures, the trade movements as represented by exports and

¹ *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, vol. li, part i, p. 74.

² *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, vol. xlvii, part ii, p. 312.