

with the subjects embraced in the general plan, and who should also be members of the board. The business of the board, as such, would be almost exclusively deliberative—to decide upon what information should be collected, and to devise the best forms in which it should be submitted, so that the statistics of one branch might harmonize with, and throw light upon, those of another. I may give an example of what I mean: The trade and navigation returns shew the amount of timber and lumber exported, and the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands gives the statistics of the several timber agencies; but from want of concert between the two departments, the forms in which the returns are exhibited make it impossible to connect the two sources of information upon this most vital portion of our industry, so as to trace the article from the various sources from which it was produced, to the quarters in which it found a market. The board would only lay down a general plan; the individual members would each be responsible, as part of the business of his own department, and with his own staff, to collect the information required. The only other thing required, besides the occasional assistance of copyists, would be a thoroughly competent secretary, with perhaps, one clerk, who would collect some of the returns, and superintend and publish the whole.