

to do. This Bureau could very well be made a central organization for the securing of all kinds of statistical material, and could easily cover a much wider field than is covered by the census returns.

There was never a time in the history of the world when all classes of business men required statistics so much as at the present time. Competition is so keen and the margin between success and failure oftentimes so narrow, that a little additional information is often sufficient to turn the scale. Canada needs to secure statistics in regard to her own commerce, her exports and imports, her manufacturing establishments, the cost of production, the cost of distribution and the thousand and one other things which will prove of value to the banker, the broker, the manufacturer, exporter or importer, the farmer and every other class of citizen. As it is at present, a certain amount of statistical information is secured by the various Provincial Governments. A certain other kind of information is secured by the Dominion Government. Oftentimes there is over-lapping, and in some cases what is everybody's business proves to be nobody's, and certain fields are entirely neglected. What is needed is a Central Bureau in Ottawa, which will gather the statistics of the various Provinces as well as of the Federal Government, correlate these and furnish them to business men. This Bureau could easily go further than is done at the present time, and secure a lot of valuable information in fields which are now neglected. We have found in some cases that it was easier and quicker to get information from the United States in regard to certain things in Canada, than it was to get them in our own country. This is not as it should be. Canada should have a statistical Department of its own, capable of securing and sending out every possible kind of data which might prove of interest or help to the business men of the country.

### SUGAR PROSPECTS

Those who foretold larger sowing of sugar beets in Europe this Spring, owing to expected failures in the winter wheat crop, were mistaken in their prophecies. The well-known European export authority, Mr. Licht, has just estimated that Germany has really sown 3 to 5 per cent less than last year; Austria, 4 to 5 per cent less; France 10 per cent less; Belgium 15 to 20 per cent less; and all Europe 3 to 4 per cent less. Regarding Russia, it is always difficult to obtain definite information, but we do not anticipate any increase in the acreage sown to beets, and believe the results of the last three years will incline growers to decrease it. Mining Lane in its latest estimation considered that the total visible supplies of sugar amounted to 3,945,000 tons, as compared with 2,840,000 tons at the beginning of May last year. No doubt this estimation will furnish another reason for expecting that this year's beet crop will show decrease rather than increase. Following common experience, the cane crop in Louisiana, Porto Rico and Cuba, which was large last harvest, may be expected to show small-

er results this year, but no one depends upon such surmising in making up estimates. Porto Rican shipments are large at present, selling down to 3.33, the lowest price for years past. There is no storage in New York, owing to the free sugar proposals of the new tariff law, but speculators are buying at the low prices now quoted, it is stated. Refiners are producing in the States on a 4.30 base, and at present are deriving their supplies of raw, mainly from Porto Rico. Cuba is shipping at the rate of 100,000 tons a week, Europe, especially Great Britain, and Canada also, dealing with that market. Grinding is not yet finished in the island.

Germany is shipping freely, the exports from that country to Great Britain being exceptionally large. Austria suffered delays some weeks ago, through the calling to the national colours as reservists or otherwise of large numbers of mill workers. Exports from the land of the Dual-Monarchy have been hindered in consequence, but it is certain that a good deal of sugar has still to come out from thence. There is to be no new impost on British sugar this year, which may help to increase consumption by keeping prices down. As a rule consumption is larger in times of prosperity everywhere.

On the whole, it may be expected that the present low rates will continue, though with actual supplies small in the States, and the beet crop somewhat more contracted this season, it is not clear that further declines are probable.

### DIVISION OF WEALTH

Government enquiries in the United States into the actual incomes of the people with a view to adjusting the Income Tax, has elicited a set of facts disturbing to the theorists who believe in the levelling effect of a republican form of government. Instead it is evident that in the States there is a greater inequality in the distribution of money than in other countries. Leading journals have expressed themselves as amazed at the discoveries forced upon them.

"There is something startling," says the American Banker, for instance, "in the announcement that there are only 425,000 persons in the United States whose incomes exceed \$4,000 a year. The average citizen would have estimated the number at four times this total.

Astonishing as is the above tabulation, it is less remarkable than the further fact that of the 425,000 the incomes of 391,500 range between \$25,000 and the low limit of \$4,000 a year. It seems, therefore, that .03 of one per cent of the population enjoy incomes up to \$25,000 while the three-tenths of one per cent have incomes of \$25,000 or over. Adding the two classes of income tax payers makes a total of only one-half of one per cent who will pay the \$70,125,000 of taxes which will be collected under the income tax law.

There could scarcely be a more striking proof of the gross inequalities in the distribution of wealth than is