

Division IX. Editorial Branch. The Year Book and the Statistical Monthly.

The editorial study of administrative statistics in Departmental hands and the abstracting, condensing and re-arranging of general statistics (including those of other agencies and of the Central Office itself) should be regarded as a distinct feature. To this branch would fall the compilation of the Year Book, which is an annual digest of all the statistics of the country. Added to this should be a "Census and Statistics Monthly" containing the latest official statistics highly summarized and co-ordinated for the guidance of trade and industry, constituting a comprehensive barometer of economic change from month to month in every section of the field, and combining all into a definite analysis of the current trend as a whole. As previously pointed out, the present Census and Statistics Monthly is virtually a "crop reporter." The reconstituted Monthly would go far towards meeting the demand for such agencies as those of Brookmire and Babson in the United States.

ACTION NOW SUGGESTED.

It may be repeated that the above suggestions have been made both as statements of principle and after careful examination of the situation and of what is practicable in each case, including the formulation of details. The steps now to be taken to set the plan in motion are two:

(1) The adoption by the Government of statistical centralization as a policy, and the passing of certain amendments of the Census and Statistics Act. Apart from details, the chief addition to the act required is a clause enabling the central office to confer its inquisitorial powers, by arrangement, upon officials of other Departments. The Office could achieve a measure of centralization by carrying out the work assigned by the act as at present, (some of which is being done by other Departments without legal powers), but it would be better to do so in accordance with a general plan and a definitely conceived and concerted policy.

(2) The holding of a series of conferences between the central office and the several Departments for the ratification of arrangements incidental to centralization. A programme showing the order in which the interdepartmental arrangements might proceed so as to effect the reorganization in the best possible manner has been drawn up.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

Statistical centralization is not a counsel of perfection or an impractical ideal. It has been adopted by several countries; in large part though not with absolute comprehensiveness by others; and the tendency towards it may be said to be general. The countries whose action is of special significance to Canada may be arranged in four groups:

(1) The smaller countries of Europe whose administrative operations are comparable in scale with those of Canada have (from motives purely of efficiency and economy) established central statistical offices. Those of Sweden, Norway, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland and Hungary are highly developed; those of Portugal, Bulgaria and Rumania only less so.

(2) Germany admittedly stands very high among nations for thoroughness of administrative organization. The Imperial Statistical Office of Berlin is perhaps the

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