

printers, we realize under what a debt of gratitude we stand to the several Compilers of Statistics and other information, to the Writers of the Essays, to the Conveners of Sectional Committees, to the Revising Committee, and last, but most of all, to the two ladies on whom the main burden of all the labour has fallen, Mrs. G. A. Drummond, Convener of the Committee of Arrangements, and Miss Teresa F. Wilson, the Corresponding Secretary of the National Council of Women of Canada. These ladies, in their turn, desire me to say that they could never have accomplished the task we laid upon them, had it not been for the great courtesy and consideration shown them by all the Government officials, both Dominion and Provincial, from the Hon. Sydney Fisher, the Parliamentary Librarian, the Dominion Statistician and the Queen's Printer, downwards, who, as well as many others throughout the country, have one and all responded to the repeated demands for more and yet more information and assistance with unfailing kindness and patience. We would fain personally make our acknowledgments to this host of collaborators with us whom we have plied with questions concerning matters past, present and future.

The Compilers of this volume now desire to submit the results of their work and of their enquiries to the Canadian Government and to the public, with the authority and approval of our Hon. President, Her Excellency the Countess of Minto, and of our President, Lady Taylor, but they do so with many misgivings. They wish that its contents could have been more worthy of its subject and of the efforts which have been made, but they are only too conscious of the many omissions and imperfections with which they can be charged. They would, however, ask their critics to bear in mind the obstacles which they have had necessarily to contend with in their endeavor to take possession of so vast and unexplored a field in the space of one short winter.

They can only hope that these sketches, slight and imperfect as they must necessarily be, will be the means of giving the people of other countries, gathered at the great International Exhibition in beautiful Paris, some idea of the happiness, freedom and richness of opportunity enjoyed by the women living under the beneficent sway of "Our Lady of the Sunshine and of the Snows."

ISHBEL ABERDEEN.