

## Preface.

It has hitherto been a serious handicap to all those who may have found it necessary or desirable to consult the publications of the Canadian Institute that no Index existed to make the contents of these publications easily available. In order to remove this handicap Mr. J. B. Tyrrell, when President of the Institute, took up the question and by his generosity in undertaking to finance the compilation of the index made it possible for the Council to proceed with the work. The present time is especially opportune for issuing the index, as it includes all the volumes published by the Institute before it received the title "Royal". It is suggested that in future an index for every ten volumes should be issued.

The Publications began in 1852 and up to the present 34 volumes have been issued. These volumes contain articles on many branches of pure and applied Science, Economics, Art, Literature, etc., and are representative of the growth and trend of scientific thought in Canada. In the earlier volumes, when magazines dealing with special branches of Science were few, the Canadian Journal formed one of the principal means by which the scientific labours of the Canadians of that day found expression, but with the growth of literature and with the specialization in almost every branch of human learning, the means for publishing papers in Journals dealing directly with the subject involved have greatly increased; as a result the Transactions of the Institute have come to deal more with purely Canadian subjects and general problems.

In compiling the index, in view of the varied character of the articles, it was determined to make a general index of the papers and their contents without any attempt to classify the entries under the various branches of science to which they belong nor to give the subjects and authors in separate parts. A person desiring to look up a particular name simply has to look for that name, or in the case of a subject, the names under which that subject would most likely be given. It is hoped that this method will make it a simple matter to look up any reference that may be given in the Publications.

The work of compiling the index and supervising its publication was entrusted to Mr. J. Patterson, the honorary secretary of the Institute, who with Mrs. Patterson has carried out the work with care and accuracy.

The expense has so far been met by contributions of Members of the Institute. The names of these are as follows: J. B. Tyrrell, Sir Sandford Fleming, Sir Edmund Walker, Alex. Longwell.

To all these Members, and to Mr. and Mrs. Patterson, and to all who have helped in this work, the Council are deeply grateful.

FRANK ARNOLDI,  
*President.*