

take up and investigate the movement of the population from the land; industrial efficiency in its relation to service and production; adulteration and inspection of staple commodities; waste and extravagance; uneconomical household expenditures; rents, houses, town planning, public utilities, land speculation, land tax; monopolies, industrial combinations, mergers and trusts; building materials; leather, rubber, boots and shoes; cereals, flour and bread; fish, live stock, meats, dairy products, markets and marketing; mixed farming — land settlement; agricultural credit in Canada; regulation of industry, bureaus of information, employment; the customs tariff; gold production — supply and demand; practical education.

These and many other matters are discussed, reported on, illustrated by tabular comparisons and diagrams, the information being couched, almost without exception, in plain and understandable language.

One of the most noteworthy features in connection with this report is the fact that it is the work entirely of civil servants. We believe that it is the first inquiry of the status of what is ordinarily denominated "a royal commission" which has been conducted throughout by civil servants. We are not required to endorse the conclusions of the Board of Inquiry, either in whole or in part, to recognize the genuine merit and lasting value of their work. They have submitted conclusions which they arrived at as the result of their labours; had we time and opportunity to read, mark and inwardly digest the contents of the volumes they have compiled, we might reach a different view; so, too, may others who find opportunity to examine the report; but that does not in any degree detract from the value of the great task which the Board has performed.

The Board was composed of the following gentlemen: Messrs. John McDougald, Commissioner of Customs; Charles C. James, Agricultural Commissioner; Robert H. Coats, formerly Chief Statistician of the Department of Labour, now Dominion Statistician; and J. U. Vincent, Deputy Minister of Inland Revenue.

They are to be heartily congratulated on their achievement.

PRAISE FOR FINANCE.

The officials of the Department of Finance are to be congratulated upon the very handsome way in which they were spoken of in the House of Commons by their Minister, Sir Thomas White. In the course of a discussion in Committee of Supply, the question of a better salary for the Auditor General was suggested by Hon. Mr. Graham. Sir Thomas White took occasion to extend the discussion to the work done by his department generally and to praise them for their devotion to duty and their ability as shown in the special work in connection with the war which that department has carried on. He said:

"I doubt very much if there is a financial institution in this country in which there is greater responsibility devolving upon officials than devolves upon the officials of the Department of Finance. During the past year my deputy minister and my assistant deputy minister—and I am quite sure this is not confined to my department but common to many departments,—have had very heavy responsibilities placed upon their shoulders and have had an immense amount of detail work which could not be handed over to others. I make the general statement that the public officials of my department, since this war has broken out, have been engaged almost day and night, and frequently Sunday and Satur-