

19.—(1). For the purpose of making any inquiries or observations necessary for the proper carrying out of this Act, the Statistician or any officer authorised in writing by him may, at any time during working hours, enter any factory, mine, work-shop, or place where persons are employed, and may inspect any part of it, and all plant and machinery used in connection with it, and may make such inquiries as are prescribed or allowed by the regulation.

(2). No person shall hinder or obstruct the Statistician or any officer authorised in writing by him in the execution of any power conferred by this section. Penalty, £10.

20.—(1). The Statistician shall compile and tabulate the statistics collected pursuant to this Act and shall publish such statistics or abstracts thereof, as the Minister directs, with observations thereon.

(2). All statistics or abstracts prepared for publication and the Statistician's observations thereon (if any) shall be laid before both Houses of the Parliament.

PART V.—MISCELLANEOUS.

21. No person shall be liable to any penalty for omitting or refusing to state the religious denomination or sect to which he belongs or adheres.

22. No officer, after having taken the prescribed declaration, shall desert from his duty, or shall refuse or wilfully neglect, without just excuse, to perform the duties of his office. Penalty, £20.

23. No officer shall wilfully or without lawful authority alter any document or form under this Act or shall wilfully sign any untrue document or form. Penalty, £50.

24. No officer shall, except as allowed by this Act or the regulations, divulge the contents of any form filled up in pursuance of this Act, or any information furnished in pursuance of this Act. Penalty, £50.

25. Any person who forges, or utters knowing it to be forged, any form or document under this Act, shall be guilty of an indictable offence, and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years.

26. No person shall knowingly make in any form or document filled up or supplied in pursuance of this Act or in answer to any question asked him under the authority of this Act any statement which is untrue in any material particular. Penalty, £50.

27. The Governor-General may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, prescribing all matters and things which, by this Act, are required or permitted to be prescribed, or which are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.

§ 7. Creation of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.

1. **Appointment of Commonwealth Statistician and Staff.**—On 18th June, 1906, the first Statistician for the Commonwealth of Australia was appointed. Before creating the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, the statistical work being done in the several States was examined. This work was carried out partly by the Commonwealth departments of Trade and Customs and that of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones, and partly by the State Statisticians. The principal professional officers of the Commonwealth Bureau had also to be selected.

The professional officers appointed to the command of the various greater divisions of statistic in this Bureau were:—

JOHN STONHAM, M.A., Sydney University (Chief Compiler).

HENRY SPONDLY, Zurich University.

CHARLES HENRY WICKENS, Associate of the Institute of Actuaries.

FREDERICK DALGLISH ROSSITER, M.A., Melbourne University.

EDWARD TANNOCH MCPHEE, Tasmanian Statistical Bureau.

Each of these officers had had long experience in the practical work of compiling, each possessed the requisite mathematical and linguistic attainments for the branches of

statistic with which he was called upon to deal, and each had special qualifications in particular branches of statistic.

2. Organisation of the Bureau.—Through the Foreign Office of the British Government the Commonwealth Statistician was placed in direct communication with the chiefs of statistical and similar departments throughout the world, and foreign Governments were asked—(a) to furnish their statistical publications, including such back numbers as could be spared; and (b) to enter into a general arrangement for exchange of publications. It would be impossible to speak too highly of the generous response which has been made to this request, a request to which a young country like Australia can make adequate return only in the somewhat distant future. Owing to this generous response the Library of the Bureau is now excellently furnished in respect of foreign publications: it possesses those of almost every country in the world. The necessary professional library and material equipment was also obtained, and the professional activity of the Bureau commenced by endeavouring to secure a higher degree of uniformity and accuracy in Australasian Statistic. This will again be referred to hereinafter.

3. The Technical Library of the Bureau.—Although the more purely technical portion of the Library of the Bureau has not reached normal requirements, the Commonwealth Government has made it possible to create a well-selected nucleus of works of reference, treatises on the technique of statistics in the several leading languages, dictionaries of languages, works on special branches of statistic, economics, finance and statecraft, actuarial and similar matters. The library has also been equipped with tolerably complete sets of the leading British and foreign journals of Statistical and Actuarial Science, and with necessary works on higher mathematics.

§ 8. The Statistical Conference of 1906.

1. Personnel, etc., of Conference.—A Conference of Statisticians was convened for the end of November, and actually met on the 30th of that month and the succeeding days till 8th December, inclusive. All the States were represented, as also New Zealand. The following was the personnel of the Conference:—

<i>Commonwealth of Australia</i>	...	G. H. KNIBBS, F.S.S., F.R.A.S., etc., Commonwealth Statistician, President of the Conference.
<i>New South Wales</i>	...	H. C. L. ANDERSON, M.A., Director of Intelligence Department and Bureau of Statistics.
<i>Victoria</i>	...	E. T. DRAKE, Government Statist.
<i>Queensland</i>	...	THORNHILL WEEDON, F.S.S., Government Statistician and Registrar-General.
<i>South Australia</i>	...	L. H. SHOLL, I.S.O., Chief Under-Secretary and Government Statistician.
<i>Western Australia</i>	...	C. H. WICKENS, A.I.A., late Actuary and Compiler, Government Statistician's Office, Perth, W.A.
<i>Tasmania</i>	...	R. M. JOHNSTON, F.S.S., I.S.O., etc., Government Statistician and Registrar-General.
<i>New Zealand</i>	...	E. J. VON DADELSZEN, Registrar-General and Government Statistician.

Before the Conference actually met, however, an exhaustive but rapid examination of the whole range of Australian Statistic was made by the Commonwealth Statistician, and over 150 forms for unifying statistical returns were prepared. On opening, an address was given pointing out the main object of the Conference, and in what way the Statistics of Australia could be fundamentally improved. Uniformity as regards method, matter, and time of collection was essential. The desirableness of giving some indication of the address is obvious, and, as it discloses the policy of the Bureau, necessary for public information in the wider sense.