

CHAPTER VI.

Census history.—Population of Canada.—Population by electoral divisions.—Urban population.—Population by sexes.—Ages.—Religions.—Education.—Industrial establishments.—Grouping of industrial establishments.—Capital and labour in Canada.—Industries in Canada and the United States.

225. Few countries have had their population counted so many times and during so long a series of years as Canada. The first official census was taken in 1665, a little more than half a century after Champlain laid the foundations of Quebec.

The population of New France was found to be 538 families, comprising 3,215 souls. Montreal and its environs had a population of 625 persons, being the largest aggregation of people in New France; Quebec came next with 547 persons, and Three Rivers third with 455. In and around Quebec, however, was the largest centre of population, Beaupré having 533, Beauport 185, and the Isle of Orleans 452.

The Royal troops, consisting of from 1,000 to 1,200 men in 24 companies, were not included.

Of the total of 3,215 there were found in professions and trades 747, of whom 401 were servants.

The clergy comprised one bishop, 18 priests and ecclesiastics and 31 Jesuit priests and brethren. There were 18 Ursuline nuns, 23 nuns of the Hospitalier order and four Filles Pieuses of the Congregation.

There were 1,019 married people, 42 widowed, 1,252 children under 15 years old and 902 unmarried persons, of whom 218 were under 21 years of age. There were 853 more males than females in the colony.

At that time the population of Acadia and Cape Breton was small, probably not more than 100 whites.

The Indian population in New France, in 1665, counted 2,340 warriors or 11,700 souls, divided as follows: Mohawks 400 warriors, Oneidas 140, Onandagas 300 warriors, Cayugas 300, Senecas 1,200 warriors.

The Micmacs of Acadia and Cape Breton numbered about 2,500 persons. The total population in 1665 was, therefore, about 17,500.

During the remainder of the 17th century eight censuses of New France and four of Acadia were taken.

Twelve censuses were taken in the 18th century. In the first quarter of the 19th century there was but one census taken, that of 1817, which was of Nova Scotia.

In 1824 a census of Upper Canada and one of New Brunswick was taken.

Beginning with 1824, a yearly census of Upper Canada was taken to 1842, a period of 19 years.

In the same period censuses were taken twice for Lower Canada, twice for Nova Scotia, thrice for New Brunswick, once for Prince Edward Island, and four times for Assiniboia.

There was a census of Lower Canada in 1844 and of Upper Canada in 1848.