

236. The urban population of Canada in 1871 was 686,019, or 18·8 per cent of the total population ; in 1881 it was 912,934, or 21·1 per cent, and in 1891 it was 1,390,910, or 28·77 per cent. The growth of the urban at the expense of the rural population is one of the features of the present age throughout the world, and it is evident, from the foregoing figures, that the movement prevails in Canada as well as elsewhere. The large increase between 1881 and 1891 is caused to a considerable extent by the growth of a number of small places which had not attained a population of 1,500 in 1881.

237. The proportions of the urban and rural populations respectively to the total population, in each of the census years, 1871, 1881 and 1891, are as follow :—

PROPORTION OF URBAN AND RURAL TO TOTAL POPULATION,
1871, 1881, 1891.

PROVINCES.	1871.		1881.		1891.	
	Urban.	Rural.	Urban.	Rural.	Urban.	Rural.
Ontario	19·4	80·6	22·8	77·2	33·2	66·8
Quebec	19·5	80·5	22·8	77·2	29·2	70·8
Nova Scotia.....	14·0	86·0	13·6	86·4	21·2	78·8
New Brunswick.....	24·3	75·7	22·3	77·7	19·4	80·6
Manitoba	1·2	98·8	12·1	87·9	22·5	77·5
British Columbia.....	8·9	91·1	11·9	88·1	42·5	57·5
Prince Edward Island.....	11·5	88·5	14·1	85·9	13·0	87·0
The Territories.....					5·6	94·4
Canada.....	18·8	81·2	21·1	78·9	28·7	71·3

238. The increase in urban population in Ontario and Quebec must be, to a large extent, attributed to the reason given above ; in Nova Scotia the increase is principally accounted for by the fact that in 1881 several places that really were towns could not be treated as such owing to their limits not having been defined. New Brunswick is remarkable for the steady decline in urban population during the last twenty years. In Manitoba and British Columbia, the increase has, of course, been considerable, especially in the latter province, where the growth of the city of Vancouver has been phenomenal, as it had no existence in 1881 and now forms 14 per cent of the population of the province.

239. The population of Canada in 1881 consisted of 2,188,778 males and 2,136,032 females, and in 1891 of 2,460,471 males and 2,372,768 females, and the following table gives comparative particulars of the proportions of the sexes in each province in 1881 and 1891 :—