

commissioners were appointed by the government, the chief recommendation, besides their general intelligence, being their knowledge of the census districts over which they were placed.

The interest taken in the census may be gathered from the fact that the present Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, Hon. Mr. Chapleau, was an enumerator in the census of 1871, and the Hon. Mr. Taillon, Premier of the conservative government of Quebec, was a census chief officer in the census of 1891.

The commissioners of each division, on being called together by the census chief officers, were instructed by them just as they themselves were instructed by the permanent staff at Ottawa.

3. The third body of men are the Enumerators. Of these there were 4,366 in the census of 1891. They were instructed by the commissioners and were visited by the census chief officer during instruction, so that an estimate might be formed of the capacity both of the commissioners and enumerators, and changes made if necessary. The enumerators were drilled regularly till the census day came, on the morning of which each enumerator, with a portfolio containing the eight schedules under his arm, started forth for the solemn inquest of the nation. Each enumerator was provided with a manual as well as with specimen schedules. They visited each house and in most cases found a people prepared to receive them, means having been taken to explain through the newspapers (and in some instances through the pulpits) what was wanted from the people, the reason for wanting the information, and the importance of giving accurate information. In many cases the enumerators of 1891 had been enumerators in 1881, thus giving to the new enumerators sources of assistance from day to day. All the officers employed were under oath.

The number of enumerators was one-third greater than in 1881. But the mode of payment was different. The experiment resulted satisfactorily. The returns were made to the department, after examination by the commissioners, earlier than in 1881.

The work was, on the whole, well done, as is evidenced from the fact that in schedule 2 the causes of death were given in 93 cases out of every 100 against only 74 in the hundred in 1881, and against 95 in the 100 in the returns to the Registrar General of England, where the work is carried on continuously from year to year.

249. One of the greatest difficulties encountered in connection with the practical work of the census was the remapping of the electoral districts rendered necessary by the Redistribution Act of 1882.

The changes made, in consequence of the need existing that the several electoral districts shall contain as nearly as possible equal populations, have the effect, to a considerable extent, of preventing exact comparisons of the particulars of one census-taking with those of another except by the experts in the census division of the Department of Agriculture.

250. The largest census district in 1891 was that of New Westminster with an area of 204,050 square miles. When it is recollected that the area of the United Kingdom is 120,849 square miles, or less by nearly the number of square miles in England, Wales and Scotland than this one district, it