

The census of 1665 (the results of which occupy 154 pages in manuscript, still to be seen in the Archives at Paris, with a transcript at Ottawa) showed some 3,215 souls. It was repeated at intervals more or less regularly for a hundred years. By 1685 the total had risen to 12,263, including 1,538 Indians collected in villages. By the end of the century it had passed 15,000, and this was doubled in the next twenty-five years. Not to present further details, it may be said that at the time of the cession (1763) the population of New France was about 70,000, whilst another 10,000 French (thinned to these proportions by the expulsion of the Acadians) were scattered through what is now Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The British population of Nova Scotia was at this time about 9,000.

After the cession, our chief sources of statistics for half a century and more are the reports of colonial governors—more or less sporadic—though censuses of the different sections under British rule were taken at irregular intervals. British settlement on a substantial scale in the Gulf Provinces and in Ontario dates only from the Loyalist movement which followed the American Revolution, at the end of which, *i.e.*, about the year of the Constitutional Act (1791), the population of Lower Canada was approximately 163,000, whilst the newly constituted province of Upper Canada under Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe numbered perhaps 15,000, and the addition of the Maritime colonies brought the total to well over 200,000. A decade later Canada began the nineteenth century with a population of probably not less than 250,000 or 260,000. Subsequent censuses gave the population of the different colonies as follows:—Upper Canada (1824) 150,069, (1840) 432,159; Lower Canada (1822) 427,465, (1844) 697,084; New Brunswick (1824) 74,176, (1840) 156,162; Nova Scotia (1817) 81,351, (1838) 202,575; Prince Edward Island (1822) 24,600, (1841) 47,042.

The policy of desultory census-taking was ended in 1847 by an Act of the Canadian Legislature creating a "Board of Registration and Statistics," with instructions "to collect statistics and adopt measures for disseminating or publishing the same," and providing also for a decennial census. The first census thereunder was taken in 1851, and as similar censuses were taken by New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in the same year, we have a regular measure of population growth in Canada over the past seventy years. The fifties saw a very rapid development, especially in Ontario, whilst the sixties showed only less substantial gains. In the years following Confederation, again, there was a spurt, the increase between 1871 and 1881 (which included several lean years towards the end) being 635,553, or 17·23 p.c. In neither of the last two decades of the nineteenth century, however, was this record equalled, either absolutely or relatively, the gains in each being under 550,000, or 12 p.c. With the end of the century the population of Canada had reached approximately five and a quarter millions, or twenty times that of 1800.

Twentieth Century Expansion.—It is within the confines of the present century that the most spectacular expansion of the Canadian population has taken place. The outstanding feature was, of course, the opening to settlement of the "last best West." The unorganized territories of British North America had been ceded to the Dominion soon after Confederation, and the West had been tapped and traversed by the Canadian Pacific Railway in the eighties and nineties. But though western population doubled with each of these decades, it was only with the launching of a large-scale immigration movement after 1900 that western settlement and production became a first-rate economic factor. Simultaneously an almost equally striking development occurred in the industrial centres of Eastern Canada, which formed the immediate basis for the move upon the West. At the back, of course,