

Naturalization by Year of Immigration.—Comparative details as to the year of immigration and as to the naturalization of the foreign-born residents of Canada in 1921 were given by countries of birth in a table on pp. 117-118 of the 1925 Year Book, roughly indicating the respective willingness of our immigrants born in different foreign countries to assume the duties of Canadian citizenship and therefore showing their comparative rate of assimilation. Those born in Iceland had the highest percentage, 86.36 p.c. of them being Canadian citizens at the date of the census. Hungarian-born came next with 72.32 p.c. and Norwegian-born third with 71.65 p.c. The numerically largest group, the United States-born, showed a percentage of naturalization of 63.63.

The above method of ascertaining the assimilability of the foreign-born is, however, a rather crude one, inasmuch as it takes no account of the relative length of residence of those born in the various countries. Thus, for example, comparatively few Icelanders have come to Canada since 1910, while immigration from Italy was comparatively active between 1919 and 1921—such immigrants having no opportunity of changing their allegiance on account of the five years' residence required. If then we consider the large group of immigrants who arrived in Canada between 1900 and 1910 as supplying the means of a better test, we find that out of the 356,030 immigrants of this period who were in Canada at the date of the census, 257,767 or 72.40 p.c. were naturalized. Icelanders led with 86.86 p.c. naturalized, followed by Norwegians with 84.82, Hungarians with 83.94, United States-born with 80.85, Danes with 79.80 and Swedes with 79.00.

It may be added that the percentage of naturalization of U.S.-born is higher than that of "all foreign-born" and of European foreign-born in each of the groupings by years of immigration. The explanation of this is doubtless to be found in the fact that among the 374,024 U.S.-born persons resident in Canada at the date of the census, no fewer than 205,189 were of British stock; detailed statistics as to the racial origin of the United States-born population of Canada will be found in Table 71 on p. 474 of Vol. II of the Census of 1921.

10.—Rural and Urban Population.¹

In Table 29 are given statistics showing the growth of rural and urban population respectively since 1891. For the purposes of the census, the population residing in cities, towns and incorporated villages has been defined as urban, and that outside of such localities as rural. Thus the distinction here made between "rural" and "urban" population is a distinction of provincial legal status rather than of size of aggregations of population within limited areas. Since the laws of the various provinces differ in regard to the population necessary before a municipality may be incorporated as urban (the laws of Saskatchewan, for example, making provision that 50 people actually resident on an area not greater than 640 acres may claim incorporation as a village, while the Ontario law now requires that villages asking for incorporation shall have a population of 750 on an area not exceeding 500 acres), the line of demarcation between rural and urban population is not uniformly drawn throughout the Dominion, as far as comparable aggregations of population are concerned. To a limited extent, however, Table 31

¹ See also pp. 343-349 of Vol. I of the Census of 1931, published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.