

## Section 8.—Racial Origin.<sup>1</sup>

In five out of the six censuses of Canada since Confederation the racial origin of each person has been secured, the exception being in 1891. The object of this question is to ascertain from what basic ethnic stocks the Canadian population, more particularly the recently immigrated population, is derived. The answer "Canadian" is not accepted under this heading, as the purpose of the question is to obtain, in so far as possible, a definition of "Canadian" in terms of racial derivation. Of this procedure of the census, criticism has been received on two main grounds:—(a) that there are Canadians whose family is of several generations' residence in the country who may not know their ultimate racial origin, or who may be of very mixed racial origin; and (b) that the practice tends to perpetuate racial distinctions which it is desirable to obliterate. As against these criticisms respectively, the following must be considered:—(a) that Canadians whose family is of three or more generations' residence are enumerated and differentiated through the census question regarding the birthplace of parents; (b) that notwithstanding the desirability of racial assimilation, there are special features in connection with the process that require appraisal and study; for example, 295 children of Chinese fathers and 618 of Japanese fathers were born in Canada (not including the province of Quebec) in 1921. Again, the fact that the constitution of Canada is based on the presence of two dominant races points to the desirability of a measurement of these factors; only recently it has been widely pointed out that the original French colony, numbering 75,000 at the date of the Conquest, has expanded to over three millions to-day; measurements of this kind would be impossible if the answer "Canadian" instead of "French" were accepted under the heading of racial origin, yet undoubtedly if the descendants of the original French colonists are not "Canadians", no one is; (c) finally, racial origin is an important subject for study in a 'new' country like Canada from a scientific standpoint, i.e., from the standpoint of the student of ethnology, criminology, and the social and "biometric" sciences in general.

To accept the answer "Canadian" to the question on racial origin would confuse the data and defeat the purpose for which the question is asked. However, summary statistics of third-generation Canadians are shown on page 107, and details by provinces and cities will be found at pp. 255-293 of Vol. II of the Census of 1921.

**Racial Distribution, 1871, 1881, 1901-1921.**—The racial origins of the people of Canada as collected at the censuses of 1871, 1881, 1901, 1911 and 1921 are shown in Table 27, while percentage figures are given in Table 28 for the populations of the various racial origins at the above censuses. Details as to the racial origins of the 1921 population were given by provinces on pp. 108-109 of the 1924 Year Book, and the racial origins of the population of the nine largest cities on p. 110 of the same volume.

During the past decade the total increase of population was 1,581,840. The increase in the population of English origin was 722,346, or 45.67 p.c. of the total; of Irish, 57,433, or 3.63 p.c.; of Scottish, 175,757, or 11.11 p.c.; of other British, 16,382, or 1.04 p.c.; of French 397,861, or 25.15 p.c. The British races were responsible for 61.66 p.c. of the total increase in population during the decade, and, together with the French population, which is almost wholly a native-born population, account for 1,369,779, or more than 86.6 p.c. of the total increase for the decade.

<sup>1</sup> For detailed material on racial origins, see pp. 351-565 of Vol. I of the Census of 1921, published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.  
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