

1881 only 3.88 p.c. of the population of the country dwelt west of the lake of the Woods, the percentage in 1891 was 7.24; in 1901, 12.02; in 1911, 24.09; in 1921, 28.37; and in 1931, 29.50.

On the other hand, the Maritime Provinces, which in 1871 contained 20.80 p.c. of the total population of the Dominion, had in 1881 20.14 p.c., in 1891 18.22 p.c., in 1901 16.64 p.c., in 1911 13.01 p.c., in 1921 11.38 p.c., and in 1931 only 9.72 p.c. of the population. Ontario and Quebec—the old pre-Confederation Province of Canada—still remain the chief centre of population. Their proportion of the total was 60.77 p.c. in 1931, as compared with 76.24 p.c. in 1871, 75.98 p.c. in 1881, 74.54 p.c. in 1891, 71.34 p.c. in 1901, 62.90 p.c. in 1911 and 60.25 p.c. in 1921. In other words, the net result of the sixty years has been that in 1931 three-fifths of the population of the Dominion lived in these provinces as compared with more than three-fourths in 1871.

In 1881 the "centre" of population east and west was in the county of Prescott, Ontario, not far from Caledonia village. In 1891 it had moved west to the vicinity of Ottawa, where it remained in 1901. In 1911 the county of Victoria, Ontario, contained the centre, and it was probably in the Parry Sound district of Ontario in 1921 and at the present time is somewhat west of this locality.

**Density of Population.**—The density of population in 1931 (*i.e.*, the number of persons per square mile of the land area as in that year), as compared with 1921 and 1911, is shown by provinces and for the country as a whole in Table 5. Generally speaking the density of population decreases as one travels westward, but the enormous area of the province of Quebec unduly reduces the density of its population, which was 5.49 in 1931. As among the nine provinces, the density of population is greatest in Prince Edward Island and least in British Columbia.

##### 5.—Density of Population in Canada, by Provinces and Territories, 1911, 1921 and 1931.

*Note.*—Densities are for revised land areas as in 1933 (see p. 7).

Province.	1911.	1921.	1931.	Province or Territory.	1911.	1921.	1931.
Prince Edward Island				Saskatchewan	2.07	3.18	3.87
.....	42.92	40.57	40.81	Alberta	1.50	2.37	2.94
Nova Scotia	23.74	25.25	24.72	British Columbia	1.12	1.50	1.98
New Brunswick	12.70	14.00	14.73	<b>Canada, Exclusive</b>	<b>3.61</b>	<b>4.40</b>	<b>5.20</b>
Quebec	3.83	4.51	5.49	of the Territories			
Ontario	6.96	8.08	9.45	Yukon	0.04	0.02	0.02
Manitoba	2.10	2.78	3.19	Northwest Territories	0.005	0.006	0.007
				<b>Canada</b>	<b>2.68</b>	<b>2.54</b>	<b>3.00</b>

**Elements of Growth.**—The former lack of comprehensive and comparable vital statistics for the whole of Canada, together with the lack of statistics of emigration, makes it difficult to determine how far the growth of population since the commencement of the twentieth century is due to natural increase and how far to immigration. The following estimate (Table 6) may, however, be of interest. During the decade 1911-21, in addition to 60,000 Canadians who died overseas and nearly 20,000 who took their discharge in the United Kingdom, there were also great numbers of residents of Canada—most of them recent immigrants—who left Canada to join the forces of the Mother Country and her allies in the Great War and did not return.